

**Emily Dickinson International Society**  
**Annual Members Meeting**  
**University of Seville, The College of Philology, 201 Aula (Aula Magna)**  
**14 July 2022**  
**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Members present (in-person and remote):

Renée Bergland  
George Boziwick  
Juan Carlos Calvillo Reyes  
Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau  
Paul Crumbley  
Ryan Cull  
Páraic Finnerty  
Li-hsin Hsu  
Dan Manheim  
Cristanne Miller  
Barbara Mossberg  
Adalberto Müller  
Elizabeth Petrino  
Eliza Richards  
Karen Sánchez-Eppler  
Ivy Schweitzer  
Juan Carlos Calvillo Reyes  
Sabine Sielke  
Jefferey Simons  
Martha Nell Smith  
Christa Holm Vogelius  
Jane Wald  
Baihua Wang  
Cheryl Weaver  
Tracey Winkler  
Nan Wolverton

This was both an in-person and a Zoom virtual meeting which was recorded.

1. Welcome Elizabeth Petrino, Eliza Richards  
Elizabeth Petrino, outgoing EDIS President welcomed the membership to the Annual Members Meeting. Petrino opened the meeting by praising the conference venue as “our most spectacular site,” singling out the papers, opportunities for networking, professional development, and the Critical Institute.  
Petrino introduced the membership team: Eliza Richards incoming President, who has

been actively involved in the society's initiatives and activities such as the five-year plan, Awards Committee, and Critical Institute. Petrino also thanked incoming Vice President Páraic Finnerty who with Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau organized the 2020 online conference "Dickinson at a Distance," and the 2021 online conference "'Stratford on Avon' - accept us all!"— Dickinson and Shakespeare. As outgoing president, Petrino noted that the newly implemented EDIS collaborative leadership model provides continuity of leadership in the succession of Officers. On that note, she turned the meeting over to incoming President Eliza Richards.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Members Meeting George Boziwick  
Elizabeth Petrino, as confirmed by Cristanne Miller reminded the membership that the minutes of the 2021 members meeting were circulated to the membership by Johns Hopkins University Press. Eliza Richards called for approval of the 2021 meeting minutes, and asked for any corrections. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
  
3. Treasurer's Report) Jim Fraser, Elizabeth Petrino  
Elizabeth Petrino delivered the Treasurer's report. She noted that outgoing Treasurer Jim Fraser was not able to be present at the meeting. Jim has been treasurer for many years, and Petrino praised his excellent stewardship and cited his activities. These included preparing the annual corporate report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; depositing checks to EDIS from Johns Hopkins; completing the society's annual IRS filing; and coordinating international money transfers for this and previous international conferences. She also noted with thanks, the role of Diana Fraser as Clerk of the Society. Petrino welcomed Renée Bergland who will be taking on the position of Treasurer. According to the Treasurer's report, the current balance as of June 14, 2022 is \$28,850.30. This total reflects a donation of \$1,000 made by Johns Hopkins University Press on June 18 in honor of the EDIS International Conference in Seville. Earlier in the year, a bank account was established by conference organizer Jefferey Simons to be used for board and other activities during the conference. 2,935 euros were transferred into the account. Funds were occasionally transferred into the account as needed with oversight of the Budget and Appropriations Committee.
  
4. Nominations Committee Report Páraic Finnerty  
Páraic Finnerty reported on the departure from the Board of Antoine Cazé and Treasurer Jim Fraser and the appointment of two new members Christa Holm Vogelius who will be filling out Jim Fraser's remaining two years, and Juan Carlos Calvillo Reyes who will assume the seat occupied by Antoine Cazé. He thanked Antoine and Jim for their service to the board. Páraic noted with pleasure that the board membership is reflecting a more international scope.

Elections for a member-at-large position were held. The candidates were Ryan Heryford, Wendy Tronrud, and Cheryl Weaver. When the member-at-large voting period closed, it was determined in a close election, that Cheryl Weaver was voted in as the new Member-at-Large (2022-2025). Páraic thanked all three candidates, offering congratulations to Cheryl Weaver.

Páraic also noted his Board nomination as Vice President, which he was very happy and honored to accept.

He confirmed the slate of officers for 2022-23:

President: Eliza Richards

Past President: Elizabeth Petrino

Vice President: Páraic Finnerty

Secretary: George Boziwick

Treasurer [and Residential Agent]: Renée Bergland

EDIS Clerk: Diana Fraser

Membership Chair: Renée Bergland

Nominations Committee Chair: Li-hsin Hsu

Eliza Richards thanked Páraic and asked the membership to welcome the new Board members.

5. Emily Dickinson Museum Update Jane Wald, Karen Sánchez-Eppler  
Emily Dickinson Museum Board member Karen Sánchez-Eppler noted that when the pandemic caused an extended closing of the museum, the time was utilized to undertake extensive renovations. The Museum had already undergone renovations of the conservatory, Dickinson's bedroom, and the library. The current renovation includes public spaces such as the Dickinson parlor. The renovation was informed by extensive research on carpeting, wallpaper, and other elements to ensure greater historical accuracy. According to Sánchez-Eppler, the results are extraordinary in scope and stunning in their beauty. Another important aspect of the renovation was the donation from the staff of the Apple TV series *Dickinson* of furniture and other materials which were painstakingly recreated for the series.  
Emily Dickinson Museum Executive Director Jane Wald noted with regret that she was not able to attend the conference in person because of the closure of the museum. The museum will re-open later this summer.  
Wald reported on three museum planning initiatives: 1. A new comprehensive interpretive plan, replacing the former plan which was begun in 2003 when the Homestead and Evergreens first merged; 2. Long range plan consisting of visionary concepts that outline a roadmap of what could be achieved over the next decades. Fundamental to this long-range vision is a mission statement taking the museum into the future, and creating an organizing force that would allow the museum to satisfy the

worldwide interest in Emily Dickinson and her poetry. Because of the pandemic, the museum, like so many institutions, was forced to quickly pivot and introduce virtual programming, in the process, discovering an audience that was just out of reach through an inability to make in-person connections. As a result of this online programming, thousands participated from all US states and more than seventy countries around the world. Wald noted that as the museum expects to return to onsite visiting, we continue to nurture and sustain that new found online audience.

Donors to the museum have been strong since admissions revenue, which is 30 percent of the museum's operating budget, evaporated during the pandemic. The museum was buoyed by EDIS and others who have provided dedicated support. The museum's closure during the pandemic created an opportunity to implement two projects: the restoration of the main bloc of the Homestead, including interior architectural features and furnishings. The second project involved the stabilization of the environmental heating, ventilation, and cooling systems.

Wald noted that her next report will contain more details of the ongoing long-term visions and plans for the Emily Dickinson Museum.

Eliza Richards thanked Jane for her report and for creating a vision of what we will experience at the EDIS annual meeting next summer in Amherst.

6. 2023 Annual Meeting in Amherst

Karen Sánchez-Eppler

The Emily Dickinson International Society annual meeting will take place in Amherst, Massachusetts on July 21-23, 2023. We are considering holding a Critical Institute which would take place on July 20. Eliza Richards noted that she will send a follow-up email to the membership regarding a Critical Institute at the Amherst meeting. Karen Sánchez-Eppler asked the membership to please consider ideas for EDIS in Amherst 2023, what you would like to have more of or see represented at the meeting.

7. Current Priorities

Eliza Richards, Elizabeth Petrino

Eliza Richards noted that the society's main physical and financial priority is continued development of the EDIS website. Martha Nell Smith has stepped down as Website Director and Richards offered praise and thanks for her long and hard work. The Website Co-Directors are Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau and Ivy Schweitzer. Richards noted that an equally important priority is to hire a web designer that will assist us in introducing a new interactive global product centered around Emily Dickinson and ideas related to her life and poetry. Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau said that the website Co-Directors will solicit feedback from the membership on making the website more user friendly and how it can be updated to accommodate a new generation of users. Adeline urged the membership to follow the society on social media, singling out Instagram and the Dickinson Youtube

channel. Richards reiterated the need for feedback, re-emphasizing the society's budgetary priority for continued development of the website.

#### 8. Possibilities for Future Annual Meetings and International Conferences

Richards asked the membership to send ideas regarding the 2023 Amherst annual meeting to Karen Sánchez-Eppler.

Richards noted that we will be soliciting ideas for locations, themes, etc., for the 2024 annual meeting.

Regarding the 2025 EDIS international conference, there has been discussion with the Board from Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau and Li-hsin Hsu of the National Chengchi University in Taiwan to host the 2025 international conference in Taiwan. Suggestions for creating a trans cultural and interdisciplinary international conference are requested and welcomed. A conference proposal will be submitted to the Board at the winter meeting.

#### 9. Members' Talk Back & Announcements

Everyone

Cristanne Miller noted that ecology might be a fabulous and appropriate theme for the Taiwan conference, very interdisciplinary and global in scope.

Tracy Winkler asked about the theme for the 2023 annual meeting: Karen Sánchez-Eppler suggested that thought is being given to the interior renovations of the museum and applying those concepts to Dickinson and her own interior spaces. Jane Wald noted that the museum has produced a fifteen-minute video which can be viewed online that describes the renovation. She hopes the video will entice members to attend the annual meeting in Amherst next year.

A question from the membership was raised, asking if future conferences will be offered as hybrid events. Eliza Richards replied that the idea of a hybrid meeting has not yet been addressed. She noted that while a hybrid concept is of course on everyone's mind as a successful tool in creating new opportunities and audiences, particularly international in scope, it might prove difficult next year in Amherst, in conveying the three-dimensional aspects of the physical restoration of the Homestead.

Elizabeth Petrino noted that EDIS membership is increasing via the online conferences. "We should capitalize on that." Some aspects of the meetings could be made virtual, for instance, making the annual members meeting virtual and accessible to everyone. The Board will take up this question of hybrid meetings at its winter meeting.

The same speaker followed up by asking if the conference organizers could balance the ratio of in-person and virtual components for future meetings and conferences. That was

answered in the affirmative and will be under discussion by the Board.

There was a request from the membership for the address of the EDIS Instagram page:  
emily\_dickinson\_society

A comment from the membership requested that future physical conferences consider the ecological components involved in creating sustainable events. Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau noted that efforts will be made to shape the conference, reducing our footprint through various means and considerations.

Tracey Winkler asked if the website could be designed so that members can communicate directly with the Board, particularly the president and perhaps the Program Chair. Eliza Richards agreed that the website needs such an interactive element. She noted that comments will be solicited from the membership regarding the website development, and changes will be considered and implemented based on those comments.

There being no further comments from the floor, Eliza Richards closed the meeting by thanking past President Elizabeth Petrino for making every effort to make the organization vibrant, unified, and congenial. Eliza encouraged the membership to contact her and other members of the Board who are equally open and eager to encourage discussion and feedback.

#### 10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12 :33 pm