

MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
MINUTES FOR FIRST MEETING | BOSTON UNIVERSITY
JUNE 11, 2016 -- A.D. III ID. IUN. A.U.C. MMDCCCLXIX

Board Members Present:

Lauren Mostrom	President	Wellesley College
Edward Wang	Vice President	Harvard College
Dan Sherman	Secretary-Historian	Harvard College
Hanna Seariac	Treasurer	Holy Cross
Michael Gao	Webmaster	Harvard College

Guests/Members-At-Large:

Ted Atkinson	Secondary Member	N/A
Francesca Fontin	Former President	“Old”
William Gao		Harvard College
Andrew Machkasov		Stony Brook University
Gabe Molina	(via Skype)	Harvard Medical School
Dalena Nguyen		Brown University
Linda Qin		Harvard College

Regrets:

Kate Davis	Member-At-Large	Hampshire College
Natalia Saletnik	Member-At-Large	Suffolk University
Ashwin Varghese	Member-At-Large	Northeastern

Highlights:

1. In future years, SCLers will have to be more mobilized, organized, and accountable at States for all event governance. The SCL will compile a list of responsibilities, for which individuals may volunteer to complete.
2. We will try to get all contests, in which students are participating, onto their respective badges so long as all registrations are submitted before a certain time prior to States. All registrations filed after this time will not have said feature on their students’ badges.
3. A new website must be created for the SCL.
4. The Northeastern Elite Invitational Certamen is hereafter known as the Boston Elite Invitational Certamen.
5. All question writing responsibilities have already been allotted.
6. For the Boston Elite Invitational Certamen, only high school seniors are allowed to play in rounds in addition to post-high school people (SCL, teachers, and other adults). Moderators will be hand selected and can include both high school juniors and seniors. Scorekeepers can be of any age.
7. Notes on advertising the competition can be found at 11:06, 11:10, and 11:19.
8. SCL Certamen and Boston Elite are both being booked at Boston University. While discussion of the former is wanting, it has been decided that 1 auditorium and 7 rooms will be booked for the Boston Elite Invitational.
9. The next meeting will precede the end of the calendar year, but an exact date still has yet to be determined.

Minutes:

I. Beginning of Meeting

10:22 A.M.

10:22 – All attendants introduce themselves.

10:25 – Some attendants pay their dues to attain membership. Hanna, as Treasurer, will keep track of who has and who has not paid their dues. The initial SCL entrance due is \$10, and all subsequent annual dues are \$4.

II. States Recapitulation

10:26 A.M.

10:26 – Lauren introduces the meeting with a recapitulation of the successes and failures of States. Francesca states that many people abuse the instructions during registration to report to a chaperone. It would be more prudent to change that instruction to read: “report to the Cave.” Ted notes that regardless of the entries on the web registration this year, Viet ignored them and made the schedule herself. Before we can change the aforementioned instruction, we have to change how we make the schedule as well.

10:30 – Hanna notes that despite the great number of chaperones that we had this year, many of them were not active participants and did little, if anything, to aid in the logistical operations and/or organization of States. And these chaperones are key, as a core group of SCLers cannot be responsible for everything. Francesca recommends that in following years, we charge one SCL member to act as representative for the MassSCL at the Chaperones’ and Sponsors’ Meeting and explain to chaperones the SCL’s functions and purpose.

10:31 – The result of the faulty helping system was that Ms. Bauer and Ms. Fillion were trapped in the cave for a quite a long time grading contests. However, in following years, MassJCL will be adopting the Event Chair system, by which each chair presides over a particular category of events. Similar to this system, it is suggested and approved that each SCLer be responsible for at minimum one event. SCLers need to know ahead of time what they need to be in charge of. An SCLer, who can also act in the process of grading, will be particularly helpful, now that Ms. Fillion both understands how Google Slides work and is willing to use them.

10:33 – Our larger forces will allow us to more easily execute plans.

10:34 – Francesca also mentions Remind as a useful app in which you can send a group text, to which only one person may respond in following up with the request. It’s similar to a walkie-talkie system.

10:37 – It is also asked if students can have ID badges, which say everything that the students are doing. However, in order to accomplish this, we need to have all the sign-ups done far in advance since the badges have to be printed a few days in advance of States. Viet took on more responsibility this year than she was truthfully able to handle. But, if we have people who are willing to handle this in advance, we can put everything on the badges.

10:39 – A part of accomplishing tasks efficiently is initiative. SCLers have to volunteer for more tasks, especially small, clear-cut tasks that are just logistical or clerical tasks with clear deadlines. We should have a sign-up sheet with a list of responsibilities and a parallel column for people to volunteer to complete them.

10:44 – GradeCam is a phone app used to grade Scantrons. It may be useful. With the current system, Scantrons are usually graded by 2 am. Those who write the tests cannot always grade them, because many of these individuals will not be in attendance at States.

- 10:46 – SCL is in charge of skit, That’s Entertainment, Certamen results, and new officers. All officers should introduce themselves at the end of any kind of SCL introductory video/presentation.
- 10:48 – There are emails for each office, but they are currently unknown. On a similar note, Lauren asks how she can get some people off the contact list for members@membersatscl.org. Ted will find out how.
- 10:51 – Daniel, as Secretary-Historian, needs to get Joana to give him the scrapbook.
- 10:52 – Kevin Rutherford did a fine job with the website. However, the Webmaster after him completely overhauled the website and had Google completely wipe all the files. It is not cached anywhere. So, the website needs to be recreated from scratch. It should be aesthetically pleasing and informational. SCL could even have an online Convention Ear.

III. Northeastern Elite (now Boston Elite)

10:57 A.M.

- 10:57 – The name, Northeastern Elite Certamen, must be changed. It is confusing, since Northeastern is a university, yet the competition is held at Boston University. The only reason why it was initially called Northeastern Elite is on account of its location in the Northeast. Thus, the new name is the Boston Elite Invitational Certamen.
- 10:59 – Hanna has already assigned all question writing, except extra questions, to people. Questions should be witty, include throwback bonus questions for teachers, and should make Greek easier and more accessible to the moderator so that the clarity of the question is not compromised (see 11:15). Hanna will send last year’s questions to writers this year as exemplars.
- 11:03 – Registration cannot be used to estimate the number of rooms needed since registration comes after booking happens, so this number must be based on past year’s attendance.
- 11:05 – Francesca will talk with Chris Liao and Mike Howard to see if BU’s Classics Department is willing to provide us the rooms for free. In the past, as long as a BU student was registered for the competition, the rooms have been free. There is also a possibility that BU enters its own team.
- 11:06 – Once we book rooms and we establish a date, we can start advertisement immediately.
- 11:07 – With respect to rules, it is decided that only seniors in high school will be allowed to play in addition to the SCL, teacher, and adult audiences, for whom the competition is intended. This decision is predicated on some complaints from teachers last year, who felt uncomfortable playing against their own students. We are allowing seniors in high school to play based on their generally greater maturity, the fact that senior year may be their last year in Classics, and the generally accepted notion that the teacher-student relationship between teachers and senior students is more of an adult-to-adult interaction than authority-to-child.
- 11:09 – Moderators will be hand selected and can include both high school juniors and seniors. Scorekeepers can be of all ages.
- 11:10 – Gabe notes that the situation is one to be solved by cost-benefit analysis. We gain more numbers by opening moderating and playing to all students, but then we alienate and drive away some teachers. We can, however, alternatively boost numbers by increased advertising to the audience we wish to target, such as World Series players, sponsors, and Classics majors from around the country. Many of these people will be at Nationals, which makes that event a prime time to promote the Boston Elite Invitational.
- 11:15 – Regarding Greek questions, there have been consistent pronunciation problems with them. Lauren recommends a moderator meeting, during which those who know Greek teach

moderators how to pronounce the sentences. However, memory retention is a foreseeable issue with this strategy. Francesca recommends that the Greek questions lean away from strict translation (Greek to English) towards types of questions more usable by Greek-illiterate moderators. English to Greek would still be fine.

- 11:17 – The competition will most likely be held on the last Saturday of September from 10 am to 3 pm. This year, it will fall on September 24. Tentatively, we will book 1 auditorium and 7 rooms (1 for moderator’s HQ and 6 for playing).
- 11:19 – When we get a website up, we can have a page on the website regarding Boston Elite. The competition should also be publicized on Facebook. Harvard SCLers can also advertize at Harvard itself and coerce Harvard Classics majors to come to the tournament.
- 11:21 – A flyer for SCL Certamen, which is a separate tournament held in March, needs to be made for Classics Day. Both, however, take place at BU, the rooms of which should be booked through Melissa Parno, BU Classics Department Administrator.
- 11:23 – Regarding other responsibilities, SCLers are needed at Classics Day to help with judging and any other odd tasks. SCLers are needed at some local school Certamen events for question writing and moderating.
- 11:27 – The next meeting of SCL will be before the end of the calendar year so that we can talk about assigning responsibilities out to people before States, because States registration is going out in February.
- 11:30 – Meeting is adjourned.

IV. Meeting Adjourned

11:30 A.M.

Duration: 1 hour, 8 minutes

Upcoming Events:

- NJCL Convention _____ July 25 – 30, 2016
- Boston Elite Invitation Certamen _____ September 24, 2016

Inspirational Latin Quote: *Inter nos sanctissima divitiarum maiestas.*

Most sacred among us is the majesty of wealth.

— Juvenal, *Saturae* I.113

Minutes by Daniel Sherman