

William Gilmore Simms Simms Society
Society Business Meeting
September 13, 2008
Cobb House, Athens, GA
Approved June 10, 2009

1. Professor Kibler opened the business meeting by thanking all of the society members and guests present for attending the biennial Simms conference. He also asked the society to officially record a word of thanks and appreciation to the Cobb House and to the Watson Brown Foundation for their generous support in hosting the conference in Athens.

2. Professor Kibler then turned the floor over to Nick Meriwether. As a representative from the Caroliniana Library, Meriwether outlined a proposal developed in consultation with Professor Kibler to house the Simms Society at the Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina. The immediate purpose of the proposal is to begin making more long-term plans for where the Simms Review will be housed and published once it leaves the University of Georgia. Other aspects of the proposal included investigating the possibility of creating a Simms curator position at the Caroliniana Library, a position which could include, among other responsibilities, editorial work on the journal and other administrative assistance on behalf of the society. Lively discussion ensued. Some members were concerned that this move would remove the membership of the society from its traditional role in making decisions about the direction the society takes. Others expressed concern about losing control over the society's finances. Meriwether responded that neither would happen, that the society would maintain its own independent status, just as it had with the University of Georgia. Other members supported the proposal, suggesting that it was a way to strengthen and enhance the society. After further discussion, a vote was called and taken with the majority in favor of adopting the proposal.

3. Next, Professor Kibler turned the floor over to Professor David Aiken. Professor Aiken introduced a proposal from the Abbeville Institute. The leadership of the Abbeville Institute was offering to transcribe and place online at their website published editions of the Simms Review. There would be no charge for this work to the Simms Society. The Simms Society and others would be able to link to the Abbeville Institute website to access these online editions. Lively discussion ensued. Several members expressed their opinions that having access online to previously published editions of the Simms Review in some format was a good idea. Professor Aiken and several others present spoke very positively about the work that the Abbeville Institute does. Other members expressed some concern over not knowing what format the online editions would take. Other members expressed reservations about having the official journal of the society at another organization's website. Other members indicated that they were not familiar at all with the Abbeville Institute and felt they needed to learn more about it

and look at its website before considering such a proposal. After further discussion, the membership voted not to adopt the proposal. The membership asked Professor Aiken to solicit more specific information from the Abbeville Institute about the proposed online editions, including a sample of what the online editions would look like. The membership also requested that the society explore other ways that online editions of the Simms Review could be produced.

4. Following these business items, nominations and elections were held for officers for 2008-2010. The results of those elections were as follows:

President: Professor Matthew Brennan

President-Elect: Professor Sean Busick

Secretary-Treasurer: Nicholas Meriwether

Member-at-Large: Professor Kevin Collins

Member-at-Large: Professor James Kibler

5. Upon these elections, Professor Kibler turned the floor over to Professor Brennan as the newly elected President of the Simms Society. Professor Brennan asked for proposals for hosting the 2010 Simms Biennial Conference. Nicholas Meriwether made a proposal for hosting the next conference at the Caroliniana Library (in formal association with Item #1 listed above). Professor David Aiken made a proposal for hosting the conference in Charleston, SC. Discussion ensued about both proposals. Dr. Brennan thanked both Meriwether and Aiken for their proposals and said he would consult with the newly elected executive board about where to hold the next conference.

Having no other business to consider, Professor Brennan adjourned 2008 Simms Society Business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Newton, Recording Scribe