

PES General Business Meeting Minutes; 4/13/2008

1. Call to Order – Michael Katz. Meeting began 5:20

2. Approval of minutes of 2007 Business Meeting – Sasha Sidorkin

Mayo Moved, Stengel Seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Announcements— Sasha Sidorkin

- Executive Board and COPA Election Results: Cris Mayo is elected to the Executive Board, Claudia Ruitenberg was elected to COPA, Jeff Milligan appointed new Executive Director.

4. President's Report – Michael Katz

The honor of being President of PES is the highlight of my 34 year career in the society. It gave me the opportunity to be reminded of how PES depends on the heroic efforts of its Executive Director who, as Alan Pearson reminded me, over 20 years ago when I assumed this job, “is PES between annual meetings.” Working with Sasha Sidorkin side by side has been a pure pleasure to me; he has been one of our society’s finest in a long line of Executive Directors. The other honor has been to have witnessed the incredible creativity and diligence of Ron Glass who has put together one of the finest programs in my memory. Ron is incredibly honest, fair-minded, and brilliant and I want to thank him for his extraordinary efforts as program chair.

I think I have been one of the few Presidents who decided to do all of the negotiations in finding us a hotel. I decided to do this because I wanted a great contract in a great city and I also wanted to restore a long forgotten PES tradition—having the Presidential party in the presidential suites so we could save the society’s members the cost of expensive drinks, at least on one evening. So I fought hard to get this feature back into the contract and we shall see how well this tradition can be sustained in coming years—the days of Dick Pratte and Gerry Reagan smuggling the hard liquor into the President’s suite are long gone, but we will have a mini-version of this tradition again this year.

I also constituted a task force to consider changing our yearbook to an online publication and tried to have an online dialogue about the task force’s proposal; the dialogical effort was less than fully successful but the task force has raised three related issues that require continued thought: a) increasing the visibility and accessibility of our conference papers; b) maintaining the credibility of the papers and responses in rank and tenure decisions for junior faculty, in particular; and c) turning out a finished product that preserves the quality and traditions of our annual meeting. These issues have now been extensively discussed and the challenge to the society is not merely to save some money on its publication but to revamp the yearbook so that it fully addresses the three concerns listed above. The executive board decided at its business meeting that more work needs to be done here before a full blown proposal for changing the Yearbook’s format can be voted upon.

In conclusion, I thank all of the hard working committee members and chairs for making this Cambridge PES meeting a very memorable experience for all of us.

5. Executive Director's Report – Sasha Sidorkin

Membership

1989-90—>239	1995-96—>465	2001-02—>459
1990-91—>250	1996-97—>441	2002-03—>445
1991-92—>279	1997-98—>459	2003-04—>477
1992-93—>310	1998-99—>527	2004-05—>447
1993-94—>322	1999-00—>522	2005-06—>465
1994-95—>358	2000-01—>479	2006-07—>412
		2007-08—>491

Conference Registration:

185 people pre-registered. 234 attended the conference, including day passes.

Financial Status

FUNDS	April 30, 2005	April 19, 2006	March 12, 2007	April 9, 2008
OPERATIONAL FUND	53,131.19	48,063.60	53,704	73,903
KNELLER LECTURE	75,550.91	77,353.36	80,811	84,425
LEGACY FUND	20,355.15	21,079.73	21,059	21,614
TOTAL	149,037.25	146,496.69	155,574	179,942

Recent market fluctuations have not affected us significantly.

6. Reports from Committee Chairs

- Educational Theory/Yearbook – Nick Burbules

Ed Theory subscriptions are doubled. Total circulation is 3953. 60,253 downloads in 2006. The Yearbook is subsidized by PES at about \$11,000 a year.

The idea of 5th and 6th issues is being discussed; no final decision has been made. The 5th issue is a response to a call for paper, united by one common theme. The PES program may include these thematic papers, which will then be eligible for the 5th issue publication.

The 6th special issue will be a result of a summer institute organized by UIUC. We will invite proposals from a group of people, bring them to UIUC, and ask to develop a thematic issue. This may eventually result in an edited book.

Discussion ensued:

- Len Waks: How will PES be involved in these two issues?
- Nick Burbules: Closely affiliated, but not exclusively; other people will be invited as well.
- Will the fifth issue be called “PES conference?”
- Nick: No, it will include other publications, because we do not know how many quality papers?
- Will all papers be peer-reviewed?
- Yes, we review all papers, even invited ones. The 6th issue papers might be reviewed at the

summer institute.

- Who will determine the themes?
 - Nick: with 5th issue, collaboration between PES program chair and Ed. Theory editor.
 - Barb Stengel: What about the relationship with AESA?
 - Nick: We have a trial relationship with AESA, subject to review in the next two years. We don't want to exclude AESA, but we have long-standing, close relationship with JDS and PES.
- Hospitality Committee – Kelly Kolodny

Thanks to all members of hospitality committee.

- Program Committee – Ron Glass

Thanks to all members of the program committee. They did enormous amount of work; the reviews were very thoughtful and careful. Thanks to Liz Jackson and Joyce Atkinson for help with

105 submissions, 30 accepted (28 concurrent session papers and 2 general session papers); there were 50 Alt session and works in progress submissions, and 35 were accepted in some form or another. Some changes in the program: Kneller lecture moved to the morning, Monday general session was moved to morning also.

Michael: Thanks to Suzan Verducci for the idea and implementation of the roast, thanks to Sophie for playing at the presidential luncheon.

- COPA: Michael merged the report with the item 8 below.

The first reading of the proposal, **attached**.

Nick Burbules: PES presidents change every year, which prevents continuity and taking on long-term initiatives. The proposal is to change the title of COPA to Commission on Professional Advancement, and make COPA Chair a member of Executive Board.

Al: The term of COPA Chair should also be expanded.

Nick: The status of COPA meetings should also be changed, and made equal with the business meeting.

Audrey Thompson: “Advancement” seems to be about advancing people’s careers. I don’t object the idea, just the word.

Craig Cunningham: It may make sense to make past president to be the chair of COPA.

John Covaleskie: We are looking forward to more engagement with the Executive Board and Presidency.

John: friendly amendment: to extend the term of the Chair to 2 years. I am excited about the change. Agreed to further develop the proposal, and present before the next meeting.

- COSW – Megan Laverty: No report.
- Membership Committee – Paul Smeyers

The differential charge for the conference seems to be working, which explains the increase in membership. However, there are not many benefits to membership. Members of GBPES or Australasian PES will have access to Ed. Theory anyway. We need to pay attention to the

international scene. People need to know well in advance about upcoming conferences. This could attract more people internationally.

- Jobs for Philosophers – Kurt Stemhagen: two ideas:
 - Make the job section of the website more interactive.
 - Solicit more ideas from membership.

7. Old Business

- Yearbook Proposal – Paul Smeyers

Michael: to set the context, we instituted a task force which prepared a proposal, which we expected to decide today. However, Paul pointed out additional complexities. The Executive Board is withdrawing this item from consideration for now, for the reasons Paul will explain.

Paul: First, the cost difference between the current approach and the on-line PDF version is not that great. The third option will damage the credibility of the publication. The three issues are cost, accessibility and credibility of the publication. Perhaps we should deal with these three issues separately. There are more options we need to consider, such as selling e-books, raising prices for hard copies, etc.

Megan Boler: If we are not hurting library subscriptions, I see no reason not to have Yearbook available on-line available immediately.

Nick: We can close the window between the conference and on-line publication immediately.

Chris Higgins: We need to continue to work on the issue that Yearbook is still perceived as proceedings.

Amy: As a pre-tenured faculty, I worry about the lack of hard copy.

Kal: I volunteer to be on the committee considering this issue. We have to protect junior faculty's credibility.

Len Waks: We already have a credibility issue, and perhaps we should rename the Yearbook again.

Nick: The Society is ambivalent about the purpose of the Yearbook.

Deron: rejection rates are more important than the title.

The item is tabled till the next meeting by consensus.

8. New Business: COPA By-law change, first reading—Nick Burbules: moved up in the agenda; merged with COPA report.

9. Resolutions: Chris Higgins

- Be it resolved that, because philosophy requires a time apart and a room of one's own (or in the case of grad students at least one bed for every three students) and the Hyatt has provided that space, we thank our fearless, negotiating, diplomatic president Michael Katz, for his strenuous hotel hunting, his reinstatement of society sponsored heavy drinking, and his all around presidentialness.
- Be it further resolved that we express our gratitude to our program committee for their non-partial, nonpartisan efforts; and that we give special thanks to their fearless leader, the hardest-working man in philosophy of ed, Ron Glass. We thank him for a wonderful program and we thank him in advance for giving up his room for the party tonight. See you at 4AM, Ron. (Ron would also like us to thank Barb Stengel for handing down her formidable lore about how to run a program committee. We have our own reasons for thanking Barb, but we don't want to say what they are.)

- Be it further resolved that Kelly Ann Kolodny should be applauded for making the most of this outpost; and cheers to her hospitable team.
- Because Sasha Sidorkin has taken PES humanly and humorously into the computer-age, streamlining the registration process so that even philosophers of ed can do it, be it resolved that we owe him big time. (Oh, and Sasha stop filming us trying to answer questions that philosophers can't answer. Now. Really.)
- Be it further resolved that we thank the election committee, chaired by Kal Alston, for placing the new officers in the position of us having to thank them. And by the way, whoever put us on the resolutions committee has our deepest, really, no kidding, deepest gratitude. (We'd rather be drinking than writing these, well, actually we were drinking while writing this—beers provided by Barb.)
- Be it further resolved that we also give our thanks to Joe Meinhart and Hugh Galford who did the book display—it was impressive, tempting and beautiful.
- Be it further resolved that the ever resolute COPA, ably chaired by John Covaleski, has held us to professional standards, demanded relevance, and otherwise taken up too much time. The profession is better for it and thanks to our gadfly, Nick Burbules, who continues to see the possibility of human and educational philosophical action. And prods us again. And again.
- Be it further resolved that Suzanne Rosenblith and the COSW has once again done a fabulous job of representing the distaff and disaffected side both through the committee and their panel.
- Be it further resolved that we show our appreciation to Paul Smeyers for his fine work on the yearbook committee, a necessary and daunting challenge, that ended up leaving us pretty much where we were, for which we thank him because we like where we are just fine, thanks.
- Be it further resolved that we slightly resent Paul Smeyers for making us thank him twice since he also deserves our thanks for his work on the Membership committee. We work because you do.
- Be it further resolved that, in similar fashion, we show our appreciation to the Jobs for Philosophers Committee, chaired by Peter Giampietro, for having single-handedly reinvigorated the field and created hundreds of job opening. Just kidding, but thanks for thinking about it.
- Be it further resolved that we notice Nick's name has hardly come up yet and we can't imagine that we don't have SOMETHING more to thank him for, so we thank him. Profusely.
- Be it further resolved that we show our happy joy to the representatives to the editorial board of *Educational Theory*, Ron Glass and Susan Verducci, whose keen grasp of the need to keep a keen grasp has only improved all our lives. And thanks to the ever patient, thank-worthy Joyce Atkinson and Linda Riggs, without whom the magic that is the *Philosophy of Education Society Yearbook* would have stopped long ago.
- Be it further resolved that all who humanned the registration desk-- especially Linda Riggs, Adrienne Pickett and Liz Jackson—deserve our sincere thanks. We all look just smashing in those tags and without you how would we know who we even were?
- Be it further resolved that the work of the hotel staff makes all that we do possible by attending to reproductive labor while we lounge about, spouting this and that. Our rooms are clean, our hearts are relatively pure, and your labor has made that a lived experience of calm.
- Finally, be it resolved that we are very grateful to our benevolent sponsors—the Boston Research Center, CAPE, California State University San Jose, Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, PERC, Brandeis University, Stanford University, The University of California Santa Cruz Division of Social Sciences and Education, and Blackwell Publishing—for giving us money, which is the greatest gift of all, although we really value wisdom a lot, really.

10. Passing of the Gavel - from Michael Katz to David Hansen

David Hansen: It is a great honor to take on the role and responsibility of President of the Philosophy of Education Society. This is an organization I have long esteemed and from whose members I have learned a great deal about scholarship, about teaching, about service, about friendship, about laughter, about seriousness of purpose, and a good deal more.

I will say this gavel feels a little heavy at the moment as I embark on this journey, but at the same time its potential weightiness has been considerably lightened by the terrific collegiality of colleagues. So let me begin simply by expressing my warm thanks to my predecessors in this role, first and foremost Michael – who has been endlessly generous and open with his advice, his perspective, his experience – and also other past Presidents I’ve consulted including Susie Laird, Dwight Boyd, Sharon Bailin, Sophie Haroutunian-Gordon, Nick Burbules, and the list goes on. I have a renewed appreciation for the value of that familiar word “continuity” when it comes to supporting the life of our Society.

I have a number of announcements I’d like to share with you before we close our business meeting and enjoy the remainder of our time together at this year’s conference.

1. First, it’s a genuine delight as my very first act as your President to ask Kal Alston, Chair of this year’s Nominating Committee, to announce our president-elect for 2009-10, who will lead us through the annual meeting in 2010.

Kal Alston: Audrey Thompson is elected President-Elect.

Audrey’s scholarly contributions to philosophy of education, her service in many official capacities to this Society, her intellectual courage and her integrity, and her prowess as a photographer, are well-known to us all – and Audrey, I look forward to interacting with you this year and I will do my best to leave things in as good a shape as possible for when you take up this gavel.

2. Second, I am very happy to introduce our Program Chair for the upcoming 2009 conference, who will not only be chairing the program committee that will vet proposals for the conference but who will be taking the lead in organizing the entire program. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Debby Kerdeman from the University of Washington for her generosity to the Society in taking on this demanding role.....As you all know Debby has made numerous scholarly contributions to the study and practice of philosophy of education, she has served in many important service roles in the Society, and she’s brought imagination and phronesis to all of these endeavors (and we learned earlier today she has a cool singing voice!) – and Debby, I look forward with much anticipation to working with you over this year ahead as we head into the 2009 annual meeting.

3. Speaking of which, I would like to pay my respect to the place where we’ll be meeting next year, to its cultures, people, and history:

Messieurs/mesdames, chers collègues: c’est un grand plaisir pour moi de vous inviter – vous tous et toutes -- à assister au congrès annuel de notre Société en 2009, l’année prochaine. Ca rencontre le 20-23 Mars, 2009, en Montréal, Canada. Montréal: ville ancienne, ville francophone, ville anglophone, ville internationale, ville dans laquelle on peut se promener partout, on peut manger bien (de très bon goût, je vous jure), et surtout dans laquelle nous pouvons discuter, examiner, parler,

et penser des questions et des possibilités concernant la philosophie et l'éducation à notre époque. Tout le monde, vous tous et toutes, il vous faut venir à Montréal en 2009!

Which is to say, Debby and I enthusiastically urge one and all to plan on attending next year's annual meeting in Montreal, which will convene March 20-23, 2009. I have a couple of things to say about the meeting. But first I would like to thank Kevin McDonough, from McGill University, who will be our Hospitality Chair for the conference and who has already secured us a site. Kevin couldn't attend this year's meeting, but he has prepared a comment about the city in which he lives and works to share with us – which will be read by Ryan Bevan, a doctoral student at McGill who works with Kevin:

Ryan Bevan:

”Next year, PES will be held in Montreal for the second time in the Society's history. There is much to look forward to! Montreal, designated in 2006 by UNESCO as a “City of Design”, is characterized by its ethnic and linguistic diversity. And, because Montrealers have a singular commitment to living their daily lives on the street, visitors have immediate access to this cultural and linguistic vitality. Upon landing in Montreal, one is quickly drawn into the streets and neighbourhoods and it is from this vantage point that one can appreciate the way in which the city of Montreal is unique within North America.

It is said that Montreal was built on a human scale, and this seems an especially apt observation. As a result, venturing into and experiencing cultural communities via their cuisine, art, music, politics or theatre is commonplace. Significantly, Montreal is the only completely bilingual city in North America. However, besides the two founding French and English cultural communities, 150 diverse communities make up 34% of Montreal's population. As a result, it is not unusual for conversations in Montreal's urban landscape to be conducted in at least two and very often three languages. Montrealers are accustomed to this, and welcome the way in which multiculturalism and multilingualism afford Montreal a richly textured cosmopolitanism.

From an intellectual and educational perspective, Montreal has the highest concentration of post-secondary students of all major cities in North America, followed by Boston. There are two English-language universities in the city – McGill University, a large research university and Concordia University, a smaller yet highly regarded liberal arts university. There are also two French-language universities in Montreal: The Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), which is the largest French-language university in the world, and the Université de Montréal, another important research institution. Notably, students, researchers, and professors from both the English and French university systems frequently collaborate, which adds an interesting layer to Montreal's academic and intellectual life that, once again, serves to set Montreal apart from many of her sister cities in North America.

Not surprisingly, Montreal nourishes a lively and complex – and bilingual – arts scene. Montrealers express their marked *joie de vivre* through a series of festivals: jazz, dance, film and theatre, not to mention by supporting local theatre, museums, contemporary dance companies, film and world-renowned orchestras. In fact, just across the street from the Hyatt Regency, where PES 2009 will be held, is the heart of Montreal's ‘high-culture’ scene – the Place des Arts. This is the venue for many of Montreal's summer festivals, including its famous Jazz festival, and it also is home to the

Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Opéra de Montreal, and Le Grands Ballet Canadiens. It is also where Montreal's contemporary dance movement, characterized by dance troupes such as La La La Human Steps and O Vertigo, was first conceived and nurtured by an appreciative Montreal audience.

As noted above, a public theatre of sorts takes place every day on Montreal's lively streets. Really, it is the streets and the neighbourhoods of Montreal that have become the city's thriving "sociomatrix". Streets such as Mont-Royal, Saint-Laurent, Saint-Denis, De la Montagne, Sherbrooke and Sainte-Catherine bustle with life. Notably, the Hyatt Regency is situated on Sainte-Catherine, Montreal's main downtown shopping artery, and it is not far from Boulevard Saint-Laurent and Saint-Denis – two primary destinations for one-of-a-kind boutique shopping and people watching. Importantly, the hotel is also situated very close to the cobble-stoned streets of Old Montreal, where Montreal's financial district is located, along with more shopping and sight-seeing along the historic banks of the famed St. Lawrence River. Significantly, both McGill University and Concordia are located in downtown Montreal and are therefore well within walking distance from the hotel.

In addition to being centrally and ideally situated in Montreal, the Hyatt is one of Montreal's most luxurious hotels, offering all the high-end services and amenities one might expect from such an establishment. It is also positioned above one of Montreal's downtown malls, Complexe Desjardins, that serves as a portal to Montreal's "Underground City" where more than 30 kilometers of passageways link the stations of Montreal's subway system and contains (at last count) 1,600 boutiques, 200 restaurants, 34 cinemas and 1,600 apartments. Some 500,000 people use it every day! So, if the weather is chilly, the Underground City – easily accessed from our hotel – allows easy access throughout Montreal's downtown core.

Clearly, we could not be happier that PES 2009 is going to be in Montreal, a city we believe the PES participants will thoroughly enjoy!"

Thank you Kevin and Ryan.

4. We look forward very much to what will be an exciting conference. It will include, as a complement to the ever-present and ever-changing diversity of interests embodied in our Society, an international accent as befits the setting. We hope to build on efforts in recent years by previous presidents and program chairs to encourage colleagues from both sides of the Atlantic, both sides of the Pacific, both sides of the Gulf of Mexico – and both sides of the anglophone/francophone universes of philosophy of education – to submit proposals and otherwise participate in our conference.

I'm happy to say that our George F. Kneller Lecturer will contribute to all these aspects of the meeting. He is Paul Taylor, on the faculty of the department of philosophy at Temple University. Professor Taylor works in the areas of aesthetics, philosophy of culture, Africana philosophy, philosophy of race, social and political philosophy, and pragmatism in the United States. In addition to numerous articles on these topics he has published *Race: A Philosophical Introduction* (Polity, 2004). Among other activities, one of Professor Taylor's current projects connects John Dewey's aesthetic theory to Africana political philosophy.

In sum, we have an excellent conference location in a very special city, a terrific Kneller lecturer,

and an international/trans-national accent to the conference ethos, and all of this as a complement to what resides at the heart of our annual meeting: your work, research, ideas, and philosophizing about education. Do plan on attending and participating.

5. Finally, I close by inviting you to contact over the year ahead various members of our Society if you have questions, concerns, suggestions, and the like. We'll have an updated list of Committee Chairs you can contact regarding matters such as professional affairs, membership, jobs, the status of women in the profession, and the like. You can contact Debby if you have questions and thoughts about the upcoming program in 2009, and please feel free to contact me if you have questions, suggestions, and the like that concern the Society as a whole -- its past, present, and future. For example, I've been urged to constitute a focus group that would help the Society think about "the public face" of PES. The group would examine and articulate specific ideas about such matters as a possible series of publications written for public audiences, a reconstructed web site, and the like. I'm moving forward on this task as we speak in concert with various committees, including COPA, as well as with the Executive Board. I will be back in touch with you, via our newsletters and other periodic announcements, about this and other matters, especially of course issues pertaining to the 2009 conference.

With that, I propose we close this year's business meeting unless there be any further business. Motion to adjourn: Bob Floden. Second: Susan Laird. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58

Attachment:

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT PROPOSAL (Nick Burbules)

Article IV

Section IV. The Executive Director of the Society shall be appointed yearly provided that an incumbent may not hold office more than three years in succession. The duties of the Executive Director shall include (1) maintaining records of the minutes of the annual meeting, of the deliberations of the Executive Board, and of the official correspondence of the Society, (2) collecting dues from the membership and executing the expenditure of funds for the Society, (3) circulating official notices to the members regarding time and place of meetings, new members accepted, and other matters of general concern, (4) conducting the elections of the Election Committee members, the elected members of the Executive Board, and members of the Commission on Professional ~~Affairs~~ Advancement in the manner provided by the Bylaws, and (5) presiding at the annual meeting in the absence of the President and President-Elect.

Section V. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Society, the immediate Past President, the Chair of the Commission on Professional Advancement, and two members elected to staggered terms of two years. The duties of the Executive Board shall include (1) passing upon nominations for membership in the Society, (2) authorizing and approving expenditures of the Society's funds, (3) acting upon any resignation submitted by officers of the Society and in the event of the resignation submitted by officers of the current President, or whenever a majority of the Executive Board votes that the President is unable to perform the duties of the office, the Board shall authorize either the President-Elect or the immediate Past President to assume the presidential duties, (4) deciding upon the time and place of the meeting of the Society, and (5) creating ad hoc committees as it may think appropriate to carry on the work of the Society. Ad hoc committees created by the Board may

continue to stand beyond the end of the fiscal year succeeding the one in which they are formed only on a favorable vote of the membership at the first annual business meeting following their creation.

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Article V

Commission on Professional [AdvancementAffairs](#)

Section I. There shall be a Commission on Professional [AdvancementAffairs](#), the function of which is to examine for the Society all issues related to ~~the conduct of~~ its professional [advancementaffairs \(including but not limited to matters pertaining to the visibility, impact, and reputation of the Society and its work\)](#), and in consultation with the President and Executive Board, to ~~take recommend~~ relevant action, subject to review by the Society.

Section II. Members of the Commission shall be the President of the Society, ex officio, and five members elected to staggered terms of five years from the membership of the Society. No elected member of the Commission may hold another elective office in the Society while a member of the Commission. Members shall be elected in the same manner as provided in the Bylaws for the election of officers of the Society.

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BYLAWS

I. Committees

The Standing Committees of the Society shall be:

5. A Jobs for Philosophers of Education Committee of at least six members appointed by the incoming President to staggered terms of two years. The Chair shall be from among the members of the Committee. The Jobs Committee shall select one of its members to serve as a non-voting liaison on the Commission on Professional [AdvancementAffairs](#). The function of the Committee shall be to promote equal opportunity employment practices by members of the Society and their affiliated institutions. The Committee will take responsibility for regular communication with the members of the society on issues related to the employment of philosophers of education, using such vehicles as newsletters, electronic mail, and scheduled sessions in annual meetings of the Society.

6. A Council of Learned Societies in Education Liaison Committee consisting of at least two members appointed by the incoming President to staggered terms of two years. This Committee shall regularly report to the Commission on Professional [Advancement Affairs](#) and to the President regarding the work and status of the Council of Learned Societies in Education and shall represent the interests of the Society to the CLSE officers and at CLSE business meetings.