

REPORT OF THE *AD HOC* EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Submitted to the Executive Committee  
of the Evangelical Theological Society  
on December 27, 1974

Having been constituted an *ad hoc* evaluation committee to review the character and concerns of the Evangelical Theological Society and to propose specific recommendations for strengthening the Society, we engaged in three major exchanges of letters. From the interaction of the committee the following proposals are submitted to the Executive Committee:

1. That the quality of the *Journal* be improved:
  - a. by the securing of an editor who will solicit quality material for publication and who has an eye for editorial detail;
  - b. by extending the tenure of the editor to a three-year appointment, with an annual review of the effectiveness of the year's work;
  - c. by providing that an editor may succeed himself for a second term of three years if deemed appropriate;
  - d. by the establishment of a style sheet and a system of transliteration, together with guidelines for acceptable scholarship;
  - e. by the active solicitation from publishers of significant books for review, the inclusion of a list of "books received," the adoption of a format which distinguishes between major and minor reviews, and the extension of the scope of the reviews to include significant foreign language publications.
  - f. by extending the tenure of the Book Review editor to a three-year appointment, with an annual review of the effectiveness of the year's work.
2. That a *News Letter* be established for the Society:
  - a. for the purpose of informing the membership of the Society of current projects and research, significant publications, the presence of visiting scholars in the country, and of other matters relevant to the academic concerns of the Society;
  - b. by the appointment of an editor who will work closely with the national secretary and who will be charged with the solicitation and dissemination of relevant material;
  - c. by stipulating that the tenure of the editor's appointment be for three years, with an annual review of the effectiveness of the News Letter by the Editorial Committee.
3. That the monograph series be revitalized:
  - a. by the appointment of a separate editor to oversee this area;
  - b. by stipulating that the tenure of the editor's appointment be three years, with an annual review of his work by the Editorial Committee;
  - c. by establishing in concert with the Editorial Committee

guidelines for the acceptance of manuscripts for the monograph series.

4. That the quality of the annual meetings be improved:
  - a. by charging the Program Committee with the planning of the annual meetings two or three years in advance. (To facilitate advance planning, we propose the enlargement of the Program Committee from two to six members, holding three year appointments. The members should be arranged in classes, with one class of two being replaced each year, to secure a certain continuity in planning within the committee and the caring for the executive tasks involved.);
  - b. by arranging to have some invited scholars present papers at every regular annual meeting with brief responses by other scholars who have received the papers in advance, the remaining papers being proposed by their respective writers to the Program Committee;
  - c. by the appointment of a special committee charged with the planning for the 30th and 35th anniversary meetings;
  - d. by continuing the format of the 1974 Annual Meeting, in which sections devoted to OT, NT, Church History, and Theology are run concurrently. Only within the framework of an anniversary meeting should the annual meetings reflect a single discipline;
  - e. by giving working task forces the opportunity to meet in executive session during the annual meetings, with opportunity for others to sit in on their proceedings;
  - f. by including up to three plenary sessions in the annual programs, covering topics of cross-disciplinary interest.
5. That the Society become an organ for the collection, classification and publication of evangelical scholarly resources:
  - a. by the appointment of an editor responsible for this task;
  - b. by stipulating that the tenure of this appointment be for three years, with annual review of his work by the Editorial Committee;
  - c. by the publication of this information in the *News Letter*.
6. That the Society assume a greater responsibility for addressing the problem of regional isolation felt by many in the membership:
  - a. through the medium of the *News Letter*;
  - b. by revising the boundaries of existing regional sections when the area embraced in a section is so vast as to make it difficult for evangelical scholars to meet together because of the logistics of distance.  
(We propose a number of smaller regional sections to encourage greater participation by a larger number of the members of the Society.);
7. That the recruitment of membership be more aggressively advanced:
  - a. by charging the members of the Executive Committee with active recruitment of membership;
  - b. by the appointment of a professor on each campus where the

Society is represented to recruit actively new members among his colleagues and graduate students.

4. That the Executive Committee give consideration to the funding of the Society:
  - a. by raising the annual subscription to \$10.00;
  - b. by exploring the interest of foundations in some aspect of the Society's outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., Chairman  
William L. Lane, Secretary  
W. Ward Gasque  
J. Barton Payne

(On behalf also of Burton Goddard and Edwin Yamauchi, who were absent at the time of the drawing up of this report.)