



TO:  
Members of COMIUCAP

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# V General Assembly of COMIUCAP

Universidad Santo Tomas, Bogotá, Colombia

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

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The V General Assembly of COMIUCAP took place at the University of Santo Tomas, in Bogotá, Colombia, on July 7, 2017. In this Assembly, the fifth since our foundation in 1999, the following Institutions that are members of the network were represented: Australian Catholic University (Australia); Fundación Universitaria Católica *Lumen Gentium* (Colombia); Institut Catholique de Paris (France); Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Perú); UNISINOS-São Leopoldo (Brasil); Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (Venezuela); Universidad de La Salle-Bogotá (Colombia); Universidad Eclesiástica San Dámaso (Spain); Universidad Javeriana (Colombia); Universidad Santo Tomás (Colombia); Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik (Lebanon); Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego (Poland). The following Members of the Board were also entitled to vote during the Assembly: Vice-President for Asia/Oceania; Vice-President for Latin-America; Vice-President for North-America. The Agenda of the General Assembly (approved as in its point #1) was the following:

1. Opening Prayer and Approval of the Agenda.
2. Report of Activities (2013-2017) by the President.
3. Election of the President of COMIUCAP for 2017-2021.
4. Constitution of the Board: Nomination of the Vice-Presidents for 2017-2021.
5. Next World Congress and General Assembly and Other Events of COMIUCAP.
6. Research and Publication: Presentation of PAROUSIA; Constitution of Research Teams; issues in the life of the Church and in society that are of importance for COMIUCAP.
7. Presentation of the Survey of Members in the network.

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8. Financial Situation of the network; Fundraising for activities such as: Publications; Institution of a Prize for Philosophy in Catholic Context; Promotion of International Exchanges for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Students; promotion of Academic Exchanges among Regions of COMIUCAP for teachers and students; etc.
9. Other issues: Payments to COMIUCAP; Promotion of COMIUCAP worldwide; communication within COMIUCAP, etc.
10. Conclusion.

The Assembly started at around 3:00 PM and finished shortly before 5:00 PM. After the Opening Prayer offered by the Most Reverend Thomas Menampampil, Archbishop-Emeritus de Guwahati, India, the President of COMIUCAP presented his Report of Activities for the time elapsed between the IV General Assembly in Johannesburg (November of 2013) and the present one in Bogotá. The text that served as a basis for the oral version of this Report by the President of COMIUCAP presented in Bogotá is the following:

[2014/01/31-02/02] • Participation in Pune, India, in the International Conference «*Themes and Issues in Eastern and Western Hermeneutical Traditions*» organized by the Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth in commemoration of the outstanding services given to Catholic Philosophy in India by the late Professors De Semet and De Marneffe. The conference aimed at «tracing the ever expanding horizon of human understanding, which includes many of the significant contemporary attempts to cope with and make meaning of the complex and paradoxical human existence». The event brought together scholars from India, Australia and the USA, the Philippines, Venezuela and the Vatican. In the following days, besides a private visit to Ajanta and to Elora, the President of COMIUCAP also joined some of the proceedings that in the same institution, which is an active Member of COMIUCAP, took place on the issues related to the relationship between Science/Technology and Philosophy/Theology.

[2014/03/10-13] • Participation in Madrid, Spain, in the 85th Board of Administration of the *International Federation of Catholic Universities* (IFCU). After the General Assembly of Johannesburg, the President of the network was invited by the then General Secretary of FIUC/IFCU to become a member of the Governing Body of the International Federation of Catholic Universities for a period of three years.

[2014/04/23-25] • Participation in Liverpool, United Kingdom, in the 25th Colloquium of ACISE, the Sectorial Group of IFCU for the Sciences of Education. The theme of this meeting, organized by Hope University, was *Being Open to Others*. The event gathered a good number of Participants from different parts of the world. The occasion was also used for a meeting of the representatives of the Sectorial Groups of IFCU/FIUC present in Liverpool. This was all the more important as COMIUCAP corresponds to the Sectorial Group of IFCU/FIUC for Philosophy.

[2014/05/15-17] • Participation in Lyon, France, in the Meeting of the European Federation of Catholic Universities (FUCE), an event that took place at the Catholic University of Lyon and was dedicated to Ethical Issues present, and determinant to both teaching and research at Catholic Universities in Europe. Special importance was given to the importance of the *Idea of Europe* at least inasmuch as it can be regulative of both goals and methods within the scope of promoting and developing scientific research at Catholic Universities across the continent of Europe. The participation of COMIUCAP in this event was limited to the general Proceedings of the Colloquium since the invitation granted to us was the one of an observer.

[2014/06/14-17] • Participation in Vienna (Austria) in a Meeting organized by Professors George F. McLean OMI and Charles Taylor in preparation of the International Conference *Renewing*

*the Church in the Secular Age* at the time destined to be held in Rome at the beginning of March of 2015. Such efforts were to be undertaken primarily by The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy and the Pontifical Gregorian University, yet also counting with a small contribution on the part of COMIUCAP.

- [2014/07/15-22] • Participation in the Annual Meeting of Latin-American Jesuits in Quito, Ecuador, dedicated to issues in contemporary Phenomenology of Religion. The *Equipo Jesuita de Reflexión Filosófica* is a group created a good number of years ago by Professor Juan Carlos Scannone SJ and other Jesuits, among whom were Fathers Gerardo Remolina SJ, from Colombia, and Ignacio Ellacuria SJ, this one among the martyrs of the massacre that took place at the Universidad Centro Americana «José Simeón Cañas» on November 16, 1989.
- [2014/07/23-27] • Preparatory Meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, at the Universidad Santo Tomas, of the Fifth World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP. This meeting counted with the participation of the Vice-President of COMIUCAP for Latin America as well.
- [2014/08/16-09/20] • Academic moderator of the International Seminar on *Religion and the Hermeneutics of Violence and Peace in Contemporary Times* organized and promoted by The Council for Research in Philosophy and Values at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Professor George McLean, OMI, created this International Seminar more than thirty years ago as an occasion for gathering Scholars from a diversity of cultures and civilizations around the world. On this particular occasion, the RVP-Seminar gathered scholars from the following countries: Nigeria, India, Austria, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Argentina, Vietnam, Iran, Taiwan, Afghanistan, Poland, China, Portugal and United States of America.
- [2014/10/8-9] • Participation in Paris, France, in the International Conference *Nouveaux défis pour l'Ukraine et pour l'Europe: Théologie, Étique, Politique* organized by the Ukrainian Catholic University (Lvyy), a Member of COMIUCAP. The event took place at the «Collège des Bernardins» and counted, among others, with the presence of the following speakers: Mgr. Boris Gudziak, Dr. Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Prof. Peter McCormick, Prof. José Casanova, Prof. Antoine Arjakovsky. The event was particularly relevant as a demonstration of our solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine in a particularly difficult moment of its history. At the time, the Ukrainian Catholic University was a member in good standing and the situation in this beloved country was, as it continues to be, a source of concern for our Catholic world.
- [2014/11/4-7] • Participation in Nairobi (Kenya) in the International Conference on *Impacts of Real Contexts in Doing Theology* organized by The Catholic University of Eastern Africa on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the *Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions* (CICT-COCTI). The event served also as an occasion to present the results from the research promoted by FIUC/IFCU of the values and attitudes of Students at Catholic Institutions of Higher Education worldwide. Most importantly, it was a sign of our manifest interest to promote the best possible relations with other Sectorial Groups of FIUC/IFCU, but most particularly with the group representing the Theologians. Together with ACISE, COCTI is destined, together with ACISE, to be the Sectorial Group of IFCU with which COMIUCAP is called to maintain the best possible relations of recognition and cooperation.
- [2014/11/20] • Organization and promotion of COMIUCAP's celebration of the *World Philosophy Day-2014* at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. The event took the form of an Open-Dialogue among a select number of Italian Professors. A small group of Graduate

Students from the Pontifical Gregorian University also participated actively in the initiative. The event was much appreciated by all that could make themselves present.

[2014/12/17-19] • Co-organization, promotion and participation in the Regional Congress of COMIUCAP for Europe on the topic *Philosophy and the Future of Human Formation in Europe*. The event took place at the *Universidad Pontificia Comillas*, in Madrid (Spain), and included a commemorative session of the 150 anniversary of Miguel de Unamuno, one of the most outstanding thinkers and writers of the Spanish language. Keynote Speakers at this event were the following: Prof. Emmanuel Falque (Institut Catholique de Paris), Prof. Carla Canullo (Università di Macerata), Prof. Markus Enders (Universität Freiburg) and Prof. Miguel Garcia-Baró (Pontificia Universidad Comillas). The event was a success and COMIUCAP is very grateful to the organizing team under the guidance of Professor Miguel Garcia-Baró. A selection of the papers presented was published online in [www.comiucap.net](http://www.comiucap.net) and soon shall appear in the pages of the journal PAROUSIA as well.

[2015/03/4-6] • Co-organization (with Professor George McLean and the Research Council for Values and Philosophy - RVP) of the joint International Conference *Renewing the Church in a Secular Age: Holistic Dialogue and Kenotic Vision* that took place in Rome, at the Pontifical Gregorian University, from March 4-5, 2015. The event was rooted in a partnership between the School of Philosophy of the Pontificia Università Gregoriana and the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy and counted with the High Patronage of the Pontifical Council for Culture of the Holy See. More than 300 Scholars coming from different parts of the world participated actively in the conference and enjoyed an ambiance of dialogue, openness and faithful search for venues leading to the ongoing renewal of the Church. Part of the success had to do with the fact that many of the participants were engaged for years in different research teams promoted by RVP under the leadership of Prof. McLean in both North America and Europe. The plenary lectures were delivered by, at least, the following contributors: Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi (Pontifical Council for Culture), Prof. Charles Taylor (Professor-Emeritus, McGill University), Prof. José Casanova (Georgetown University), Prof. Hans Joas (Humboldt University and University of Chicago), Prof. William Desmond (Catholic University of Leuven and Villanova University), Prof. Tomas Halík (Charles University), Prof. Robert Schreiter (Catholic Theological Union, Chicago), Prof. Adela Cortina (Universidad de Valencia), Prof. Juan Carlos Scannone (Colégio Maximo, Buenos Aires), Prof. Massimo Grilli (Pontificia Università Gregoriana), Prof. Anthony Carrol (Heythrop College), Prof. Adriano Fabris (Università di Pisa), Prof. Peter Jonkers (Tilburg University), Prof. William Barbieri (Catholic University of America), Prof. Louis Caruana (Università Gregoriana), etc. The event at the Pontifical Gregorian University was preceded by a Faculty Seminar led by Professor Charles Taylor and followed by an edition of the «Cortile dei Gentili» promoted by the Pontifical Council for Culture. In the meantime the following book has been published: Vila-Chã, João, ed. *Renewing the Church in a Secular Age: Holistic Dialogue and Kenotic Vision*. Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change. Series VIII, Christian Philosophical Studies, Volume 21. Washington D.C: Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, 2016. [327 p.] [ISBN: 9781565183179].

[2015/07/8-10] • Participation in the Conference *Expanding the Jesuit Higher Education Network: Collaborations for Social Justice* in Melbourne (Australia). Organized by Michael Garanzini SJ, Secretary for Higher Education at the General Curia of the Society of Jesus and Chancellor of the Loyola University Chicago, the event counted with the participation from Jesuits and Lay Collaborators from many countries and was marked by the presentation of the document *The Promotion of Justice in the Universities of the Society* and a video-

documentary that included the participation of the Most Rev. Father Adolfo Nicolás, Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

[2015/07/13-17] • Participation in the General Assembly of the IFCU/FIUC in Melbourne, Australia. Participation in events of the International Federation of Catholic Universities is of great importance to the network for two main reasons: as a Sectorial Group of the FICU/IFCU, COMIUCAP deserves to be part of the life of the Federation; since the delegates to the General Assembly of the Federation are Presidents and Rectors, these meetings represent a great opportunity to make our network of persons and institutions dedicated to teaching and research in the fields of philosophy known to them in a direct and dialogic manner.

[2015/07/20-22] • Participation in the Regional Conference of COMIUCAP for Asia and Oceania in Melbourne, Australia, at the Australian Catholic University (Melbourne). The Conference was on *Civil Society and Human Formation: Philosophy's Role in a Renewed Understanding of the Meaning of Education* (20-22 of July 2015). The conference corresponded to the Regional Congress of COMIUCAP for the Region of Asia-Oceania in the year 2015. The conference was a success and counted with keynote speakers such as Prof. Alfredo Co, of the University Santo Tomas de Manila, Prof. Noel Sheth, of the Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion (Pune, India); Prof. Peter Roberts, of Canterbury University, New Zealand. May this occasion also serve to once again express the gratitude of COMIUCAP to Professor Janis Ozolins and to the Australian Catholic University for making this event possible. The corresponding book has in the meantime been published as well (more details later).

[2015/08/16-09/19] • Participation as Academic Moderator in the International Seminar *Religion, Reconciliation and Peace: Philosophical Perspectives* at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. On this occasion, the International Seminar of RVP counted with participants from the following countries: Philippines, Romania, India, Switzerland, China, Ukraine, Georgia, Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia, United States of America and Portugal.

[2015/09/01-03] • Participation in the International Symposium on *The Culture of Peace in a World immersed in Conflict*, organized by the *Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro*. This event was a cooperative realization of the PUC-Rio and the Pontificia Università Gregoriana, de Roma. The event is here included inasmuch as it served one of the critical causes I believe COMIUCAP is all about, namely, the creation, and the promotion, of a Culture of Peace. At least in terms of research and teaching, COMIUCAP is committed to the promotion of Peace worldwide and the development of a New Humanism capable of indicating new venues for a sustainable development of the human family and so witness the deep care of the Church for the concrete needs of God's People.

[2015/09/24-26] • Participation in the Symposium on the Philosophical Problem of God organized by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Salamanca. This was not an event of COMIUCAP, and yet we mention it here inasmuch as it clearly falls under the goals of the network, namely, the promotion of international cooperation and the effort to assert the basic complementarity of Faith and Reason, of Philosophy and Theology.

[2015/11/16] • Participation in Lima, Perú, at the International Seminar on *Identity and Mission of the Catholic University Today* organized by the Vice-President of COMIUCAP for Latin-America at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. This Seminar was particularly precious inasmuch as it was generated during the previous Board Meeting of COMIUCAP and counted with the extraordinary engagement of Professor Salomón Lerner, the Vice-

President of the network for Latin America. Some of the contributions presented during this event are now part of the book to be mentioned at the end of the following paragraph.

[2015/11/18-19] • Participation in Cuzco, Perú, in the III Regional Congress of COMIUCAP for Latin-America organized by the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú on *Postsecularización: Nuevos escenarios del encuentro entre culturas*. The Congress was extremely well organized and took place in the amazing city of Cusco, one of the pivotal centers of human civilization. The event was an extraordinary success and COMIUCAP remains most grateful to the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, but in particular to Professors Salomón Lerner and Miguel Giusti and their most diligent team of collaborators, among whom there were many students. The days we experienced together in Cusco are unforgettable and remain a good example of how a most successful meeting of COMIUCAP should or can look like. The corresponding book has also been published: Lerner Febres, Salomón, y Miguel Giusti, eds. *Postsecularización: Nuevos escenarios del encuentro entre culturas*. Lima: Fondo Editorial, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, 2017. [402 p.] – We are proud of the fact that during this V World Congress of COMIUCAP in Bogotá an opportunity was created for the public presentation of this valuable volume.

[2016/04/20-22] • Participation in the Conference *Sur l'enracinement* organized by the Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik in Lebanon. This event was not a primary realization of COMIUCAP, but took place at one of the Universities in the Catholic world that has been most faithful and supportive of the goals and tasks of COMIUCAP. The occasion made it possible for us to touch ground with the reality of the Middle East and as a result the event offered us a renewed awareness of how much a network such as COMIUCAP should be able to contribute to the many tasks the world faces today when it comes to such issues as Peace and Reconciliation, Justice and social cooperation.

[2016/05/21-24] • Participation in Bogotá, at the Universidad Santo Tomas in the second organizational meeting of the V World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP in 2017 (with Prof. Salomón Lerner, Vice-President for Latin-America). This visit was of particular importance for two main reasons: to ensure that the preparations for the V World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP would rest on track and proceed without deviation; to assure the new administration of the Universidad Santo Tomas that COMIUCAP was serious about the realization of the event for which the Dominican University in Bogotá had been elected by consensus during the General Assembly of 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The occasion was also one to express anew our common desire and commitment to an organizational arrangement that would include a cooperative partnership among the universities members of the network that have their main campus in the city of Bogotá: the Universidad Javeriana, the Universidad de La Salle and, of course, the Universidad Santo Tomás.

[2016/06/18-22] • Participation in São Leopoldo, Brasil, in the preparation of the International Conference to be held at the UNISINOS in September of 2017 on occasion of the 400th Anniversary of Francisco Suarez' death in 1617. This initiative resulted from a previous conversation with Professor Alfredo Culleton, from the UNISINOS, during the Regional Congress of the network in the city of Cusco. Taken into account the fact that the Colleague is an expert in the Second Scholastic and realizing the fact that the 400th anniversary of the death of Francisco Suarez, of the Society of Jesus (Lisboa, 25 of September of 1617) was approaching and furthermore taken into consideration the need for COMIUCAP to pay attention to the vast country of Brasil, we suggested this particular partnership between COMIUCAP and UNISINOS in continuation with previous initiatives of the network within the

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boundaries of this Portuguese speaking nation. The visit was yet another sign of the potential for philosophical leadership that this University is called to play in the future.

[2016/06/18-22] • Participation at the Institut Catholique de Paris in an International Conference on occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the foundation of the Dominican Order by St. Dominic of Guzmán. The event coincided with the Board Meeting of the journal *CONCILIUM*, of which I am also a member. This is yet another occasion for our efforts to approach, both in epistemic and communicational terms, the worlds of Philosophy and Theology. As it so happens, the event turned out to be of great importance to the network inasmuch as it became crucial towards the *conumdrum* that had become the realization of a Regional Meeting of COMIUCAP for Africa. Indeed, it was thanks to this meeting, which brought to Paris two Professors of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, that we could restart the process leading up to the Regional Meeting that, finally, took place in April of this year in the capital city of Kenya.

[2016/07/02-11] • Participation in Shangrao, Wuhan and Beijing (China) in a series of philosophical discussions on the Role of Philosophy in Contemporary Times. These events were an initiative of The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy in cooperation with diverse academic institutions of the Peoples Republic of China. For obvious reasons, we do not have a presence in P. R. of China and yet we express gratitude for all the opportunities we have of dialoguing with Colleagues so deeply immersed in the cultural traditions of China. The dialogues in which we took part were very congenial, open-minded and substantial. China for us will continue to represent a major call as it comes to open and maintain honest dialogues approaching East and West, China, Europe and the rest of the world.

[2016/08/08-09/10] • Participation as Academic Moderator in the International Seminar on the *Interactions of Power, Justice and Love: Multicultural Perspectives* at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. This edition of the International Seminar organized and promoted by The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy counted with the participation of Scholars from the following countries: Austria, Thailand, Slovakia, Spain, Russia, Uganda, Afghanistan, China, India, Sri Lanka, United States and Portugal.

[2016/10/24-31] • Participation in a series of philosophical events organized by the Philosophy Department at Boston College around the phenomenological work of Emmanuel Falque, of the Institut Catholique de Paris, and Richard Kearney, from Boston College. The meeting was also part of the ongoing preparations for the V World Congress of COMIUCAP in Bogotá.

[2016/11/02-07] • Organization of the 2016-Meeting of the Administrative Board of COMIUCAP at the University of San Francisco in San Francisco, California. The Board Meeting of the network for 2016 at the University of San Francisco was very productive regardless of the fact that both the Vice-President for Europe and the Vice-President for Africa were unable to participate. The meeting was planned in connection with the organization of a Satellite Session during the Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association (ACPA) taking place during those same days in San Francisco.

[2016/11/07-14] • Follow-up on the project (with George McLean, Charles Taylor and José Casanova) *Renewing the Church in the Secular Age* in Washington, DC. The meeting was dedicated to the final preparation of the manuscript of the book that resulted from the meeting that took place in Rome in March of 2015. The occasion was all the more important as on the previous September 6, 2016 Reverend Professor George McLean, OMI, passed away to the Lord.

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[2017/03/19-24] • Board Meeting of the *Council for Research in Values and Philosophy* and public presentation of the following book: Vila-Chã, João, ed. *Renewing the Church in a Secular Age: Holistic Dialogue and Kenotic Vision*. Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change. Series VIII, Christian Philosophical Studies, Volume 21. Washington D.C: Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, 2016 [327 p.] [ISBN: 9781565183179].

[2017/04/20-22] • Regional Meeting of COMIUCAP-Africa at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi on *The Role of Philosophy in the African Context: Traditions, Challenges, and Perspectives*. The meeting was co-organized with Dr. Stephen Okello and brought together Scholars from different Universities in Kenya and diverse countries in Africa. The event was successful and COMIUCAP is grateful to all the assistance granted by the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, particularly in the person of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Justus Mbae, and other authorities present in the event. The Keynote Speakers at this event were the following: Prof. Justus Mbae (Catholic University of Eastern Africa), Prof. Dismas Masolo (Louisville University), Prof. Joseph Agbakoba (Madonna University).

[2017/05/18] • Participation in Prague in a preparatory meeting of a project on *The Future of Religion* to be realized mainly in Eastern Europe under the leadership of Rev. Professor Tomas Halik, of the Charles University in Prague. If approved, the project is to be realized under the auspices of the Templeton Foundation. This kind of cooperation is all the more important as COMIUCAP remains much in need of finding and promoting opportunities for a positive networking of research projects that have as their most fundamental goals and topics issues that are of vital interest for both Church and Society.

The Report presented orally in Bogotá also contained detailed information regarding the Legal Situation of COMIUCAP in Italy and the creation of a legal base capable of sustaining from the legal point of view the publication of Books and of a Journal by COMIUCAP itself. A few words about the Journal «Parousia» were also offered as part of the Report. Regarding the financial situation of the network, finally, the following summary was presented to all the participants (active and passive) at the V General Assembly of the network: 1. During 2014 we had entries in the amount of 8.464,13€ and expenses in the amount of 4.201,87€; 2. During 2015 we had entries in the amount of 5.605,00€ and expenses in the amount of 3.205,50€; in 2016 the entries amounted to 7.718,50€ while the expenses were in the amount of 6.141,56€. On what goes of the year 2017, as of July 1, the entries amount to 2.386,50€ while the expenses already amount to 8627,20€. Hence, the provisory balance of the financial activities of COMIUCAP between January 1, 2014 and July 1, 2017 is the following: 1.998,00€. – As the Report was put up for discussion, a question was asked about the way in which the expenses are to be distributed. In the impossibility of answering immediately, the President assured all the listeners that a list of Expenses would be forthcoming as soon as possible. The Report was unanimously approved.

In point 3 of the Agenda, the issue was the election of the President of COMIUCAP for the period 2017-2021. The Electoral Commission (Prof. Salomón Lerner, Prof. Janis Ozolins and Prof. Brendan Sweetman) took over the proceedings and, once stated that the President Elected in Johannesburg for the period 2013-2017 was a candidate again, the Assembly was asked if other persons were candidates as well, a question to which no positive answer was given. Accordingly, the delegates of the Institutions that are Members of COMIUCAP present in Bogotá (one vote per Institution) were asked to express themselves in regard to the new President of the network. The result was that Prof. João J. Vila-Chã SJ was unanimously elected President of COMIUCAP for the period 2017-2021.

As we then moved on to point # 4 of the Agenda, the President assumed anew the conduction of the meeting and proposed to the Assembly the confirmation of the Governing Body of COMIUCAP

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for the years 2017-2021 as follows: Professor Salomón Lerner Febres, Vice-President/World; Professor Camille Riquier, Vice-President/Europe; Professor Miguel Giusti, Vice-President/Latin-America; Professor Janis Ozolins, Vice-President/Oceania; Professor Brendan Sweetman, Vice-President/North-America. The President also asked the Assembly for the following authorization: 1. To name as soon as possible a Vice-President for Asia; 2. To name as soon as possible a Vice-President for Africa; 3. to ask Professor Franco Imoda SJ to become Vice-President for legal and financial affairs. The Delegates voted the entire proposal unanimously.

In point 5 of the Agenda, the issue was raised about the place to host the VI World Congress of COMIUCAP. The dialogue was vivid and two options were immediately put on the table. But since no delegate had a mandate from the respective Rectors/Presidents, no decision could be taken. The Governing Body of the network has now the duty to determine the place where the next World Congress and General Assembly of the network shall take place preferably around the UNESCO Philosophy-Day in the year 2021. The same about the Regional Congresses to take place during the upcoming four years, whereby the Congress for North America is already being planned for Boston College in November of 2017 and subsequently others shall follow in Europe, Asia and Oceania, Latin America and Africa. Announcements will follow as soon as possible.

Regarding point 6 of the Agenda, a short presentation took place of the *Parousia: An International Journal of Philosophy and Culture*. To all participants in the proceedings for the General Assembly the announcement was made that anyone seriously concerned with the promotion of Philosophy in a Catholic context, and with no other interest than just doing that, could be welcomed as member of the platform that shall soon be forming the legal basis needed for the publication of books and journals by COMIUCAP itself.

Points 7 and 8 of the Agenda were dealt with rather quickly, first, in order to call to the attention of all to the importance of each Institution member of COMIUCAP share with the network information about the configuration of the corresponding department and the human forces dedicated to teaching and research in Philosophy. On the other hand, it was kind of consensual the recognition of the need for the network to be active in an adequate process of fundraising in order to enable the network achieve some of its foundational goals such as the promotion of exchanges of teachers and students, the creation of a prize for philosophy in a Catholic context, facilitation of international experiences for doctoral and post-doctoral students, etc.

In point 9 of the Agenda, finally, an appeal was made so that the process of membership actualization becomes more effective, something for which it would be most helpful if Institutions could pay their annual dues as soon as possible during the first trimester of each year.

The V General Assembly of COMIUCAP ended with a word of gratitude to all the delegates and other persons present as well as to the University of Santo Tomas of Bogotá for hosting us and to all the members of the network in good standing around the world. The Universidad Santo Tomas did a great job both with Congress as well as with the General Assembly about which we are here reporting. Special thanks, however, are here due to Prof. Rafael Antolínez Camargo and his team of Colleagues and Students for their work during the long preparations needed as well as during the days of our common stay in Bogotá.

Most unfortunately, and that just about three hours after the conclusion of the Assembly, we were destined not to end this 7/7/17 without first receiving the shocking news about the sudden death of one of the participants in the V General Assembly of COMIUCAP and a former Vice-President of the network for Asia: Rev. Professor Noel Sheth (1943-2017), of the Society of Jesus, passed away in the evening of this day in Bogotá. We trust and pray that our beloved Colleague and Faithful Friend is now in God enjoying the fullness of Peace. His spirit of dedication, open dialogue and serious cooperation shall remain for a long time as a serious source of inspiration to us all. RIP.

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