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Parting Comments from the Outgoing Editor

Steven N. Waller Ph.D.

The University of Tennessee- Knoxville, swaller2@utk.edu

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PARTING COMMENTS FROM THE OUTGOING EDITOR

STEVEN N. WALLER

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE-KNOXVILLE

ABSTRACT

This short reflective essay captures several transitional thoughts as *Movement and Being: The Journal of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure and Sports Studies* transitions the editorship of the journal. The following pages offer an examination of the strengths/assets of the journal as well as a “snapshot” of some of the challenges the journal has faced in the last five years. There are several recommendations offered to continue moving the journal forward.

Implementation of these suggestions are contingent upon the incoming editor’s and Board of Directors review and approval. Most important need is to think strategically about the sustainability of the journal. This will call for creating to audiences, new opportunities to publish for the membership and including writing for publication as a part of our mentoring efforts.

Keywords: journal, scholarship, membership engagement, sustainability

Let me begin this short reflective essay by thanking the Board of Directors and general membership of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure and Sport Studies for the opportunity to serve as the Managing Editor of *Movement and Being: The Journal of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure, and Sport Studies* (MB). It has been a pleasure working with board members, reviewers and authors to move the journal forward. It has certainly been a journey.

As I vacate the editorship of MB I do so joyfully. To borrow a line from the movie John Wick 4, “I have served, and I will be of service.” The journal in all its iterations has come a long way since its inception.

Much of the success of the organ over time can be attributed to the steadfastness and commitment of former editors Glen van Andel, Tom Visker, Valerie Gin, W. Dale Connally, and myself. What should be kept in the forefront of the minds of our board of directors, membership and consumers of the journal is that MB is a *scholarly* journal. Since 2010, the CSKLS online journal has been a stable platform for the distribution of interdisciplinary scholarship, dedicated to faith-based issues and trends, and seeking to engage with the wider academic community. MB is a place where Christian scholarship thrives and is celebrated.

Assets/Strengths of the Journal

Our journal has a number of strengths associated with it. First, the scholarly organ is a Christian journal that embraces the peer review process with an aim toward “instruction” and excellent scholarship. Historically, both the editors and reviewers have made it a point to help authors build their writing skills so that the submissions could be published in our journal and in other journals across the diversity of academic and practical disciplines. *Movement and Being* is an inclusive journal that encourages scholarship from the academy as well as *practice* as long as it is consistent with Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure and Sports Studies (CSKLS) policy and Christian doctrine.

Second, our journal has a growing global readership among the community of scholars and practitioners. The good fortune is that on a monthly basis the Bepress publishing system maps readership so that the editor and board can see where our readers are located in the world and the array of papers that are being downloaded.

A third significant asset is the relationship with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville who hosts the journal at no cost to the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure and Sports Studies. *Movement and Being* is located in the V.O.L. Journals section of the Tennessee Research and Creative Endeavors (TRACE) housed in the Hodges Library and has a fulltime faculty librarian assigned to provide technical assistance as need and serve as a liaison with Bepress Publishing.

Another asset of the CSKLS and the journal are its Christian worldview coupled with innovation and serving the membership. Subsequently, the patience and dedication of the Managing Editors, especially as we moved platforms, has proven invaluable. Finally, CSKLS as an organization continues to maintain a great working relationship with the organizers of the Global Congress on Sport and Christianity. One of the by-products of this global Congress is a special edition of our journal that features invited papers that were presented at the Congress. See Table 1 below for a summary of the journal’s seven-year publication history.

Table 1

Seven-Year Publication History of the Movement and Being (formerly the CSKLS Journal (2017-2024))

Year	Vol.	Issue	Articles Submitted	Articles Published	Editors	Notes
2017	4	1	4	4	Dale Connally & Valerie Gin; Guest Editor: Dan Czech	4 articles published from the Inaugural Global Congress on Sport and Christianity-Special Edition
2018	5	1	1	2	Dale Connally	General Submissions
2019	6	1	2	2	Dale Connally & Steven Waller	General Submissions
2022	7	1	7	6	Steven Waller	General Submissions
	7	2	7	6	Steven Waller	5 articles published from 2 nd Global Congress on Sport and Christianity-Special Edition
2023	8	1	2	0	Steven Waller	General Submissions
2024	9	1	8	5	Steven Waller	General Submissions

Challenges

In spite of the progress that the journal has made over several years, there are a few challenges to our continued success that remain. To begin, there is the question of the journals' value among our membership and the general community of scholars and practitioners who write for publication. Not all CSKLS members are required to publish in refereed journals as a prerequisite for promotion and tenure.

Related to the aforementioned point is the matter of journal quality. Unfortunately, some academic departments, especially those with a Carnegie Classification designation as R1: Doctoral Universities – Very High Research Activity (e.g., Baylor University, University of Tennessee), R2: Doctoral Universities – High Research Activity (e.g. Lipscomb University) or D/PU: Doctoral/Professional Universities “Very High Research Activity” where publication in refereed journals with “good” impact factors is essential to success in the professorate. At some point a healthy inclusive conversation about obtaining an impact factor for the journal may be a necessity.

An additional challenge to be addressed is the frequency at which the editions of *MB* are published. Frequency of publication is always a function of the supply of submissions and after a rigorous review, how many manuscripts are

publishable. The most germane question is how to inspire CSKLS members and non-members in our respective disciplines to submit their manuscripts to *Movement and Being*? Finally, obtaining a well-trained pool of manuscript reviewers will be a task that needs to be reconciled to further ensure the success of the journal.

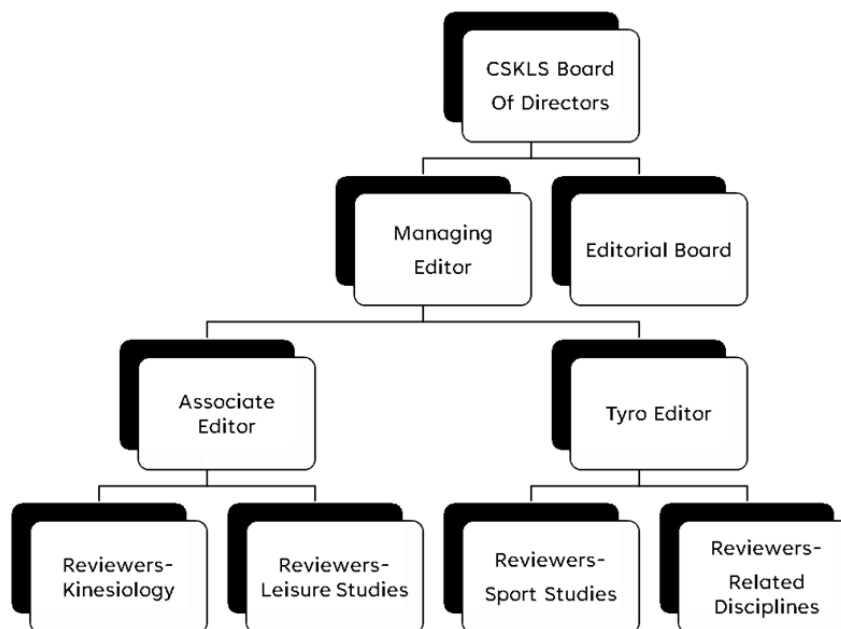
Considerations for Moving Forward

Over the past few months, I have had the great privilege of working closely with our incoming editor, Andrew Mauldin (Lipscomb University) and Peter Fernandez who manages the Research Impact & Open Access Unit of the University of Tennessee Libraries to facilitate a smooth transition of leadership. After several meetings we believe that the transition will be very smooth.

During our deliberations we spoke meaningfully about a potential leadership structure for the journal (See Figure 1); the development of guiding documents/position descriptions for the leadership team and editorial board; conducting a bi-annual meeting of the editorial board in-person or via Zoom or a similar digital platform; and reconstitute the editorial board toward the end of sustainability.

Figure 1

Potential Structure for Movement and Being Journal Editorial Board



As previously noted, creating additional opportunities to increase the volume of quality submissions should be an aspiration for the journal. Table 2 illustrates a typology of manuscripts that may provide new opportunities for academics, practitioners, and students alike. The establishment of a scholarly writing-based mentoring group to assist members, students who have an interest in writing for publication may help to grow the number of submissions.

Additionally, theme-based special editions (e.g., Christianity and Leisure, Christianity and Kinesiology, Faith and Sport, Best Practices in Teaching Kinesiology, Sport Studies, Leisure/Recreation) may also capture the attention of potential writers. Lastly, better marketing of the journal through parallel organizations members belong to: American College of Sports Medicine, the American Kinesiology Association, North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Shape America, American Academy of Religion, Society of Christian Scholars, The Academy for Leisure Sciences, American Therapeutic Recreation Association, etc. may help to build a new base of consumers of the journal.

Table 2

Typology of Manuscripts for the Journal

Essays	Research Articles	Research Note	Student Paper	Practice & Pedagogy
•2000-5000 words •Conceptual •Faith oriented	•3000-8000 words •Can be data driven •Faith oriented	•Advances a new idea, theory or method •3000-4000 words •Faith oriented	•Focuses on developing undergrad and masters level scholars •Develop scholarly writing skills •Faith oriented	•Short essays oriented toward practitioners in our disciplines. •3000-4000 words •Faith oriented

Conclusions

As my tenure as Managing Editor of *Movement and Being: The Journal of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure, and Sports Studies* expires, the journal is in great hands. I look forward to serving CSKLS and the journal in whatever capacities are needed. May God continue to bless the work of CSKLS and our incoming editor, Dr. Andrew Mauldin.