

To: **Zvi Biener**, Steering Committee Member, The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), and Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati

From: **Mary Domski**, President, The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), and Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico

Date: 10 April 2019

Dear Zvi,

I wanted to take the opportunity to offer you long overdue thanks for your service on the Steering Committee of The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, HOPOS.

The HOPOS membership first elected you to be a member of the Steering Committee in 2014, and your three-year term began in January 2015. In fall 2017, you were reelected by the membership, and are now in the second year of a three-year term that will end in December 2020.

Just as you were beginning the third year of your first three-year term, I joined the Steering Committee as the HOPOS Vice President. My first month in office, then HOPOS President Helen Hattab filled me in on some of the Steering Committee projects that were underway, and she told me that you were overseeing what she described as the “very complicated process” of updating the HOPOS logo and web site. I didn’t fully comprehend what she meant by “very complicated” – or how much we were going to benefit from your leadership – until the Steering Committee discussions of the logo and web site got underway.

From the very beginning of that process – when you collected and then presented to the Steering Committee bids from possible logo and web designers – to the very end – when in April 2018 the new web site went live – you did everything in your power to ensure that the process went as smoothly as possible. At each turn, you promptly responded to inquiries from other members of the Steering Committee (whether inquiries about costs or about technical details of web design and hosting), and you coordinated with the logo and web designer who we hired to make sure that everyone involved in the process had the information they needed to feel confident that they understood the big picture as well as the next steps. I was most impressed by your professionalism when, in early 2018, you had to repeat hours and hours of work on the construction of the web site, because, through no fault of your own, the web designer mistakenly erased what you had done. Lesser people would have quit at that point, or at least called for the firing of the web designer. But not you. You soldiered on and saw the project through to its completion, and as a result, HOPOS now has a logo and a web site to be extremely proud of.

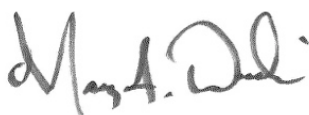
From your point of view, there’s probably nothing extraordinary about any of this. Based on what I have seen from you, to be readily available, thoughtfully engaged, and willing to do work is simply what you think it means to serve the Society. But on a committee comprised of members who are

active researchers and teachers, and participants in numerous non-HOPOS activities and projects, your ability to live up to what may be the most basic standards of service is both rare and very much appreciated.

Perhaps even more rare, and also very much appreciated, is your willingness to take on special projects for the Society. There was the logo and web site project, which took you over a year to coordinate and see through to completion. Then, in December 2018, you agreed to investigate conference management systems that might be used for our next biennial congress, and by mid-February 2019, you and David Miller submitted a masterful report that included a comparative evaluation of a variety of systems – an evaluation based not merely on the functionality of the systems but on how well their functionality could support the Society’s different priorities. Based on the informed recommendation that you and David put forward, the Steering Committee unanimously decided to use the Dryfta conference management system for the HOPOS 2020 congress, and even before that decision was reached, you had agreed to take on the 15-month project of setting up and overseeing the use of whichever conference management system we selected. What you agreed to is no small undertaking – you will have to learn the ins and outs of a system that’s new to you, meet deadlines for having different modules of the system ready for use by reviewers and conference participants, and throughout the process, be in constant communication with members of the Program Committee, the Local Organizing Committee, and the HOPOS Steering Committee. There’s no one else on the HOPOS Steering Committee as well suited to take on this challenging project, and there’s no doubt that, as with every other special project you’ve taken on, you will successfully complete this one as professionally and efficiently as possible.

For all of these contributions, Zvi – and for the ones I didn’t mention – I extend my sincerest and most heartfelt thanks. There are people for whom service to a professional society is a task best left ignored, or best just left to others. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to serve HOPOS with a group of people for whom this is not the case, and I am especially grateful to have you as a leader on the HOPOS Steering Committee. In everything you do for HOPOS, you continue to be an exemplar of professionalism and thoughtfulness, and there’s no question that the Society and its members will continue to benefit from your contributions long after your service on the Steering Committee officially ends.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mary Domski', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mary Domski
President, The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS)
Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico