

2003 MINUTES FROM THE CWSA/ACEF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**June 3, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Prepared by Ann Braithwaite, Secretary**

WELCOME

President of the CWSA/ACEF, Barbara Crow, extended a warm welcome to everyone at the AGM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2002 AGM

Karen Macfarlane moved to accept the minutes of the 2002 AGM
Meg Luxton seconded the motion
No discussion.
All in favour. Motion carried.

REPORTS

President's Report

Barbara Crow officially thanked the conference committee for their tremendous amount of work on this year's conference. This year the work of the program committee and the local organizing committee was done by the same small group of people -- Katherine Side of Mount Saint Vincent University, Marie Lovrod of St. Francis Xavier University, Leslie Biggs of University of Saskatchewan, and student assistant Robin Fovlik of Mount Saint Vincent University.

Barbara reported on her and the Board's many activities this year. She noted that the main emphasis of the CWSA/ACEF has been to expand the professional, intellectual, and political work of the association. To that end, throughout the year the Board has continued to have regular (usually monthly) conference calls, which have greatly aided the work and decision making of the Board. We have also put a lot of effort into keeping the new CWSA/ACEF webpage going, in an effort to make it the clearinghouse and first place to check for all Women's Studies related information in Canada. The conference has also continued to referee papers and conduct professional development workshops. The President has also continued to sit on WIN (the Women's Issues Network of the newly named CFHSS), and has been the liaison with the Federation in its activities. (More details of these activities are available in the CWSA/ACEF newsletters, on the webpage).

Barbara also officially thanked the other members of this year's Board of Directors – Anne Forrest as Treasurer, Ann Braithwaite as Secretary, Beth McAuley as Member-at-large, Susanne Luhmann as Member-at-large, Shree Mulay as Past President, and Karen Macfarlane as Membership Coordinator. She also thanked York University for their institutional support and for providing a graduate assistant to CWSA/ACEF. Finally, she noted that the Board had two retiring members – Past President Shree Mulay and Membership Coordinator Karen Macfarlane, and especially thanked them for their work over the last few years.

Treasurer's Report

Anne Forrest could not make the meeting. Barbara Crow presented the Treasurer's Report in her stead.

The report indicates that CWSA/ACEF has almost finished paying back its debt to Brock University. We continue to make the bulk of our money on the annual conference and on memberships (which are unfortunately too often tied to the conference—more below).

Andrea Levan moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report

Susanne Luhmann seconded the motion.

No discussion.

All in favour. Motion carried.

Newsletter Committee

Ann Braithwaite reported on the work of the newsletter committee for the year. She noted that she and Member-at-large Beth McAuley had worked hard reintroducing a newsletter for the CWSA/ACEF membership, and had produced 4 newsletters in the past year. She also encouraged everyone to send along ideas for items—or to write them themselves, and indicated that the main effort was to make the newsletter – along with the webpage – the place where members could find out about each other's activities and successes in Women's Studies. She reported that it had been a great pleasure to work with Beth on these newsletters, and that they worked together really well; Beth McAuley made the same observation.

Book Award Committee

Barbara Crow thanked Meg Luxton and the other members of the committee for their work, and invited Meg to talk about the report she had submitted in the AGM package of materials. Meg Luxton went over her report on the work of the book award committee in the first year of its existence, noting and thanking the hard work of Lori Chambers of Lakehead, Margaret Kechnie of Laurentian, and Elisabeth Boetzkes of Lethbridge. She drew our attention in particular to some of the items for action included in the report, most of which addressed procedures.

Item 1: After much discussion, it was agreed that from now on the author of the book must also be a member of CWSA/ACEF, and not just the publisher (as was the case this year). While we also encourage publishers to become members, it was also agreed that this prize was to acknowledge the work and scholarship of our membership.

Item 2: There were no books nominated this year written in French. There was some discussion about the merits and drawbacks of having a second prize specifically for French books, with no final decision taken. Angela Miles volunteered to make contact with some of the French/francophone research groups and centers she knows in Quebec to follow up on the need for more representation from that community.

Item 3: It was quickly agreed that next year the committee ask the publishers to submit 6 copies of the nominated books, so that the books don't have to be sent around the country to the various committee members, and so that there is an extra one for the raffle at the book prize party/celebration at the conference.

Item 4: The procedures for notifying authors of their nominations etc. were clarified.

Meg also reported that the journal Atlantis will be reviewing all of the nominated books in upcoming issues.

Susanne Luhmann moved to accept the book award committee's report

Karen Macfarlane seconded the motion.

All in favour. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Susanne Luhmann reported on her outreach projects with both graduate students and faculty in Women's Studies. She has contacted every WS program/department and now has a database of everyone teaching in Women's Studies in Canada. She also organized lunchtime caucuses at this year's conference with both new WS faculty and with grad students, and many ideas came out of those meetings. Her interest and efforts for next year will continue to be on building networks, including of pre-tenure WS faculty. These various outreach projects are part of the larger attempt in the association to see CWSA/ACEF grow as a professional academic organization.

Andrea Levin: asked whether we could or were going to measure the new database against the list of current members of the association. Much agreement that this was a good idea.

Meg Luxton: thanks Susanne for this work, and noted that this kind of outreach was a great initiative.

Some discussion ensued about how to ensure that our various databases and email lists don't duplicate names, with the caveat understood that it may take a few months to get this in place.

NATIONAL COORDINATORS' MEETING

Ann Braithwaite reported on this year's national coordinators' meeting, organized by herself and Lesley Biggs of University of Saskatchewan. She outlined the various activities and workshops/break out sessions of the day, and noted that minutes and a short report of that meeting would be going out shortly all coordinators on the coordinators' listserv.

MEMBERSHIP

Karen Macfarlane reported on her efforts during the year as the Membership Coordinator. Among the initiatives she started is an emphasis on organizing a series of campus representatives, who could take on the responsibility for getting more members at that particular university. She also started contacting lapsed members, especially past executive members, and inviting them to rejoin the association. With the additional work of Robin Fovlik and Barbara Crow (who stepped in when Karen experienced major computer difficulties), we have seen a significant increase in our membership.

Barbara noted that with only about 40 more members, we will be reclassified from a small sized association to a mid sized one. This difference in size would make a significant difference in our relationship with the Federation.

Karen also noted that we still have very few institutional members, and that this category

needs to be increased. Right now, there are only 6 WS programs that are institutional members, and these represent the membership of the executive.

ELECTIONS

According to the CWSA/ACEF bylaws, elections are handled by the Past President. As Shree Mulay could not be at the AGM, Beth McAuley ran the elections.

Beth presented the slate of nominees who had come forward so far. She noted that the position of President was a continuing position for one more year, while the position of Treasurer was continuing for another 2 years. After introducing each nominee, she asked for additional nominations from the floor. As no new nominations were made, the slate was acclaimed. The new CWSA/ACEF Board of Directors is now:

President Elect:	Ann Braithwaite, UPEI
Secretary:	Lori Chambers, Lakehead University
2 Year Member-at-Large:	Darlene Juschka, University of Regina
1 Year Member-at-Large:	Susanne Luhmann, Laurentian University
Membership Coordinator:	Beth McAuley, Sumach Press

Meg Luxton moved that the nominations be closed.

Katherine Side seconded.

All in favour. Motion carried. New Board of Directors welcomed and thanked.

2004 CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Next year's conference is scheduled for Sunday, May 30 to Tuesday, June 1.

There is some problem so far getting a local organizing committee together at the University of Manitoba. Much discussion ensued about what to do about this, about what the CWSA/ACEF could do to help, and about what this means for future conferences. Katherine Side described the work of the local organizers. Angela Miles noted the political importance of doing this work at any university.

BREAK: The AGM took a short break in order to allow Jackie Wright and Wendy Robbins from the Federation to report to the membership.

Wendy gave us an update on the Human Rights complaint against Industry Canada about the Canada Research Chairs program. Six senior women faculty have launched this complaint; they are working closely with Rosemary Morgan, equity lawyer of CAUT. CAUT has also passed an expression of support for this complaint. Wendy also noted the new SSHRC scholarships and the 'Piper Paper,' both initiatives aimed at revitalizing and recognizing the importance of the humanities and social sciences in the university.

Jackie reported on a Federation project entitled the 'Association Project.' This project aims to collect data to see how all the various associations function, in order to produce a 'best practices' manual as a guideline for future executives of those associations. She also reported on new task forces, including the New Scholars taskforce.

Linda Christiansen-Ruffman noted that there were real consequences in the current state of the CRC program for future scholarship in the university, given how much money is being poured into this program by the government, and all the inequities in it. For example, only 20% of the CRC appointments so far are to people in the social sciences and

humanities, while the social sciences and humanities constitute 53% of the professoriate.

Meg Luxton thanks Wendy for all of her work on this complaint initiative. Seconded by everyone present.

BACK to the AGM, and continued discussion about the 2003 conference in Manitoba.

Angela Miles noted opportunity for both Women's Studies folks and feminist scholars in other fields.

Marie Lovrod proposed that since this was an ongoing issue, and likely to remain so, if there wasn't the possibility for funding from the association for grad student help for the conference.

Wendy Robbins also noted that 'Federation Day' next year was June 2, and thus there was an opportunity to extend the CWSA/ACEF program.

It was agreed that Barbara Crow/the Board would continue to look at these and other options for next year.

THE FUTURE OF CWSA/ACEF

Many issues were brought up very quickly, as time was running short.

1) The possibility of an Atlantis and CWSA/ACEF link: Atlantis would be interested in such a link. The suggestion was made to set up a working group to think about and further explore that possible relationship.

2) Barbara asked what the membership thought about the association getting a dedicated domain name – so we would have the URL www.cwsaacef.org. All agreed.

3) There was an expression of interest in setting up an essay prize for students. The Board will look into this possibility.

4) The Board has put forward the idea that next year's conference also include a one day embedded conference, on a specific theme related to the theme of 'where now for Women's Studies.'

5) Ongoing issues for the association are how to increase its bilingualism and diversity. The Board will have discussions on this.

6) The difficulties with organizing next conference highlight some questions about the usefulness and future of the association's relationship with the Federation. Again, something for the Board to talk about more and report back on.

7) The issue of archiving CWSA/ACEF materials was raised. One possibility is to house our papers at York University. Barbara Crow moved that we do this. Seconded by Beth McAuley. Discussion: Meg Luxton raised the question of where the earlier papers and materials were archived, and asked about the Canadian Women's Movement archives at Universite d'Ottawa. Wendy Robbins noted that the early CWSA/ACEF materials were all currently in Ottawa. Katherine Side moved that we table this issue while the Board found out more about those past archives. Seconded by Karen MacFarlane. Meg Luxton then

moved that the membership leave it to the executive to research this issue and make a decision. Seconded by Katherine Side. Linda Christiansen-Ruffman made a statement for the record about the importance of the relationship between Women's Studies and the women's movement.

OTHER ITEMS

Ana Isla, a new appointment at Brock University, introduced herself to the membership, and volunteered herself in any capacity to the association!

Wendy Robbins moved that the meeting adjourn.
Seconded by Andrea Levin.

Meeting adjourned