

## **2006 MINUTES FROM THE CWSA/ACEF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 31, 2006, York University, Toronto, ON  
Prepared by Wendee Kubik, Secretary**

### **WELCOME**

President of the CWSA/ACEF, Ann Braithwaite, extended a warm welcome to everyone at the AGM.

The Agenda for this year's AGM was reviewed and there were no additions.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2005 AGM**

Darlene Juschka moved to accept the minutes of the 2005 AGM.

Barbara Crow seconded

Motion carried.

### **REPORTS**

#### **President's Report**

Ann Braithwaite reflected on the changes and the growth of CWSA/ACEF over the last 7 years from an organization that was in debt with under 100 members to one that is now healthy and has a membership of over 250. She noted that the conference has become a much "bigger event" with a larger programme committee. CWSA/ACEF has an annual book award and receives great publisher and member support for this initiative. We've started an annual graduate and undergraduate essay competition with a large numbers of submissions, launched a website, maintained an email list of all members, plus regularly keep everyone informed of calls for papers, job openings, book releases, events, and other academic matters about Women's Studies. A newsletter is produced 3 times a year for the membership and we also keep an updated email list of the coordinators of Women's Studies programs and departments across Canada, as well as an updated chart of the state of Women's Studies in Canadian universities for those coordinators.

Ann attributed the growth of CWSA/ACEF to the volunteer work of a number of dedicated people on the Board of Directors and because of the members who serve on the increasing number of committees and groups. She is incredibly proud of the association, and of the many people who make it possible. She noted, however, that CWSA/ACEF could do more if they had more people. As president and as the 'face' of the association, her primary goal has been academic community building (the field and the discipline) over the past 2 years to make us all more visible to each other through the variety of work that we do in our various institutional contexts. One of Women's Studies challenges in the next few years is to begin to find ways to talk about feminist/queer/ and other identify related knowledge production, communities and academic endeavours. Ann mentioned there are also organizational issues such as rewriting our constitutions and bylaws, figuring out whether we're still incorporated in Ontario, thinking about where to go with our money and how to build the organization in ways that are more transparent and accountable.

Ann thanked the members for being such an overall agreeable membership, and especially thanked the Board of Directors of both this year and from other years on the executive for

making her experience a great one and for sharing a vision of what the growth and visibility of academic community can look like. She thanked Lori Chambers (incoming president), Darlene Juschka (MAL), Sikata Banerjee (MAL), Wendee Kubik (Secretary), Susan Heald (Treasurer), and Beth McAuley (Membership Coordinator).

## **Financial Report**

Susan Heald, treasurer, reported that CWSA/ACEF is in good financial shape. The bank balance as of December 31, 2005, was \$16,050.01. The balance as of April 30, 2006 was \$21,370.92 with no major expenditures outstanding. Income from all sources exceeded expenditures by \$5,413.59. One of the reasons CWSA/ACEF is in good financial shape is because the executive and local conference organizers provide a great deal of unpaid labour. As well, (i) lower translation charges (ii) higher number of paid members due to a tracking and reminder system (iii) increased intuitional memberships and (iv) lower cost website maintenance costs, all contributed.

Money was given to the Atlantis launch and executive related expenses (conference calls, postage, dinner) which had to be paid this year (sometimes the university pays for this).

There was discussion that no audit had been done last year. A question was asked whether there should be 2 signers on cheques or an audit because of issues of accountability. Funds go through an institution whereas they used to be held in an institution. We also now have on-line banking so this is a check. It was decided that 2 people are too hard to co-ordinate for cheque signing. The Board will be kept up to date about finances and there will be 2 people who have access to the on-line account (President and treasurer).

Motion: Susan Heald moved to accept the 2005 Treasurer's Report.

Second: Lori Chambers

Motion: Darlene Juschka moved that the treasurer locate people in her geographical area to do an audit for the next AGM.

Second: Barbara Crow

Both motions carried.

## **Coordinators' Report**

Darlene Juschka reported the Co-ordinator's meeting was held May 28th from 10 am to 4:30pm with 19 people in attendance. The theme for the meeting was interdisciplinarity with 4 breakout sessions. The four foci were:

- Ø How can Women's Studies benefit from the call for Interdisciplinarity?
- Ø How can Women's Studies assist in the future shaping of Interdisciplinarity?
- Ø The labour of Interdisciplinarity
- Ø Interdisciplinarity and Corporate U

A primary realization was that the theme of interdisciplinary operated differently in relation to research, administration, and teaching. Although interdisciplinarity tended to be well funded when it came to research, it often operated to disadvantage Women's Studies and other interdisciplinary oriented programmes and departments when it came to administration issues such as funding linked to student numbers or funding in relation to budgets and hiring within Women's Studies. In terms of Women's Studies curriculum, it did provide extensive engagement with a variety of subjects, themes, theories and so

forth, but it also meant that students and those teaching in Women's Studies were hard pressed to define their discipline.

A possible theme next year is looking at Women's Studies curriculum, and course content of Canadian Women's Studies departments and programmes.

### **Membership Report**

Beth McAuley reported that membership numbers continue to be healthy. Currently there are 255 members (individual and institutional). Beth thanked everyone for their support and for renewing so promptly when the calls for renewals go out. There was some confusion over the issue of an institutional membership. The policy has been that even though a women's studies / gender studies department has joined, department co-ordinators and professors are still invited to take out individual memberships. This is especially true if that individual is presenting at the conference.

Motion: Moved by Beth each institutional membership includes a one-year membership for the department's co-ordinator.

Friendly amendment: An institutional membership includes membership for one other person equivalent to a student membership.

Second: Susan Heald

Motion Carried.

Beth asked members to include e-mail address on their membership form so that newsletter and bulletins can be sent out and to send the Membership Co-ordinator any change of e-mail address so she can update our records.

Beth thanked the Board and everyone for the opportunity of working with everyone over the past three years and wished the best to the Association.

### **Book Award Report**

Barbara Crow, chair, thanked all the members of the book award committee: Ann Porter, Sidney Eve Matrix, June Corman, Jane Gordon and Sikata Banerjee. Nine books were nominated for the 2005/6 prize, and Barbara noted that the work of reading, evaluating and ranking these books was exceptionally time consuming. She also congratulated Wendy McKeen, the recipient of the 2005/2006 award. Wendy has been invited to serve on next year's selection committee.

Barbara urged members to note that the call for nominations for the 2006/2007 award has been issued. To nominate a work, contact the publisher of the book and write a one page summary of why the work should be nominated and the letter of nomination must come from someone who is an up-to-date member of CWSA/ACEF.

Discussion:

1) The workload for the committee is very onerous. The deadline for submissions has moved up and must now be provided by publishers on or before July 17. It is the committees hope that committee members will then have all nominated books in hand by August so that some of the reading can be completed before the commencement of the fall term. Suggestions from committee members as to how the workload could be further reduced would be most welcome.

2) Collecting the responses of committee members was challenging.

Motion: Moved by Barbara Crow that money be made available for a conference call for the book award committee (minimum 2 calls).

Second: Susan Heald

Motion Carried:

3) We need to recruit new members for the committee (although any from last year's committee who wish to continue to serve will be welcome to do so).

4) Publishers have been asked to acknowledge the award in their catalogues. In order for this to occur, decisions regarding the award must be made in time to meet publication deadlines for the presses, so some discussion with the presses is necessary.

5) Letters soliciting French language submissions were sent out, but no French language books were nominated. As an officially bilingual organization, this is a disturbing failure? How do we solve this problem? Can/should we create a parallel award for a French language book?

### **Essay Prize Report**

Barbara Crow, chair of the committee, thanked all the committee members; Student representatives, Krista Johnston and Anne Wagner and Faculty representatives, Fiona Green, Diana Gustafson, Jacqueline Holler, Sandra Magnusson, Myra Rutherford and Katherine Side.

Twelve submissions were received this year for the undergraduate essay and 6 for the graduate essay prize (with one candidate retracting his/her submission) from across the country.

Because of the increased number of submissions, recommendations were developed to help guide the selection committee with the process. The following items were recommended to consider in future work:

- 1) 10 undergraduate essays and 5 graduate essays would be the maximum for a committee member to read;
- 2) it would be useful to ask students to submit essay submissions in a digital format;
- 3) the Chair of the committee vet essays, like a journal editor to determine whether essay should move forward for committee review;
- 4) essays be ranked (as opposed to graded by letters or percentages);
- 5) criteria was established to be used as a guideline for assessing papers;
- 6) What are we looking for in paper -- originality, relationship to feminism and Women's Studies, well written, well organized
- 7) anonymous review is important to process (this year Ann Braithwaite sent essays to committee members without any identifying markers and letters of nomination were sent to the Chair of the committee).

2005 Graduate prize: Tina Virmani, York University, "Gender, Nationalism, and the Regulation of Globalization in India"

2005 Undergraduate prize: Trish McIntosh, Concordia University, "VIATHAI: White Men's Erections and Neocolonial Representations of Thai Sex Workers"

Overall, the committee enjoyed the range of topics, ideas, and formats of the papers they reviewed. They were excited by the diversity of ideas, approaches and most importantly, the exciting research in Women's Studies.

Motion: Moved by Barbara Crow, that the essay prize committee be allotted money for 2 conference calls.

Second: Lori Chambers.

Motion carried.

Motion: Moved by Barbara Crow that there be a place to deposit the work of the committee, listing every year who won the essay awards and that the minutes be available to the next book awards committee.

Second: by Lori Chambers.

Motion carried.

## **TRAVEL FUNDING**

Discussion on how do we go about as a membership to offer aid to people coming to conferences. Some of the discussion focused on the distance people must travel, the need for criteria, deadline for applications, graduate students.

Motion: Moved by Kate that once a budget is made available to set aside \$500.00 for student travel in the fall with the executive making the decision if finances are available

Second: Jean

Friendly amendment: Bonita Decome amended that the presenter must be at the conference.

Formal amendment: Barbara Crow amended to open up travel funding to individual presenting at the conference.

Question: defeated

Amendments: defeated

Motion: defeated

Motion: Moved by Lori to strike a committee to consider travel funding and criteria to allocate funds

Second: Lori

Friendly amendment: Susan amended that part of the work of the committee to be to try and put an end to the intolerable situation of CWSA continuing NOT to receive SSHRC support for travel funding.

Second: Susan Heald

Motion carried

Darlene is to approach SSHRC with committee members Susan Heald and Kate MacPherson to express our concerns.

## **ELECTIONS**

Ann Braithwaite noted that 2 positions are open this year and presented the 2006-2007 slate for the Board of directors.

Darlene Juschka, Treasurer for 2 years

Margaret Toyne, Member at Large #1 for 2 years.

Ann Braithwaite asked for nominations from the floor.  
As there were no nominations from the floor, the slate was acclaimed.

### **PRESENTATION BY DONNA PENNEE, CFHSS**

Federation Representatives Donna Pennee, Women's Equity Issues (WEI) portfolio and Diane Belanger, membership liaison with SSHRC updated the membership on programmes initiatives, advocacy, the delegates guide, membership categories, funding, policy

Conference dates: May 28, 29, 30 Saskatoon  
2008: UBC  
2009: Ottawa  
2010: Montreal  
2011: Atlantic Canada

Ann thanked the presenters on behalf of the membership.

### **THANKS TO MEMBERS LEAVING**

Thank-you to Ann  
Thank-you to York Programme Committee

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Ann Braithwaite moved to adjourn

### **Attendance at the 2006 AGM:**

Ann Braithwaite  
Lori Chambers  
Barbara Crow  
Bonita Decome  
Susan Hearl  
Darlene Juschka  
Jean Franklin Hancher  
Wendee Kubik  
Carol MacDonald  
Beth McAuley  
Kate McPherson  
Marjorie McIntyre  
Nancy Ray  
Margaret Toye  
Linda Wayne

Any omissions are the responsibility of the minute taker.