

2001 MINUTES FROM THE CWSA/ACEF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**May 26, Université Laval, Quebec City, QC
Prepared by Liz Kaethler, Executive Manager**

WELCOME

Susan welcomed all present, and introduced herself, the Board, and Executive Manager, Liz Kaethler. Minutes from 2000 AGM: will be circulated to members via e-mail.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CWSA has much to celebrate. In this year, the process for incorporation as a not-for-profit organization was completed, and \$16,900.00 was received from the Trillium Foundation. The network of Women's Studies programs has strengthened this year, both throughout the year by use of e-mail and at the conference at the Chairs and Directors meeting. A preliminary survey of Women's Studies programs was initiated this year; further work on this initiative will be carried by the President for 2001-2002, Dr. Shree Mulay. The President thanked Cheryl Lemaitre and Sharon Rosenberg for their hard work on this project.

Susan discussed further the participation of CWSA in the HSSFC and WIN, and reminded those present of the Women in Academy meeting on Monday. She also summed up the letter-writing effort that she had undertaken on behalf of Women's Studies programs in Canada to SSHRC, and discussed further the impact of SSHRC changes on Women's Studies programs. To date, there has been no response from SSHRC; further action is required.

Susan outlined the efforts the Board had made to increase communication with members. Finances did not permit the publication and distribution of a paper newsletter this year. Increased efforts were put into communicating using e-mail and the CWSA web site. Women's Studies programs began using the CWSA e-mail list to distribute job postings and conference announcements; the Board posted reports via the web. Susan acknowledged in response to comments from the floor that exclusively using e-mail and web based communication means that CWSA members who are not connected to the web are not receiving information.

Susan thanked the program co-chairs (Ann Braithwaite and Barbara Crow) and the conference organizing committee (Diane Naugler, Sharon Rosenberg, Susanne Luhmann), as well as the local arrangements group: Micheline Beauregard, Helene Lee-Gosselin and their staff and volunteers. The conference committee report will follow later in these minutes. Susan recognized the efforts of the local arrangements committee in hosting and providing coffee breaks during the conference, and organizing the Women's Walking Tour of Old Quebec (to follow AGM). Micheline Beauregard thanked Susan for her kind words.

Susan then commented on the increase in memberships for CWSA. She outlined the following as reasons for increased and continued support: CWSA's role as a watchdog for Women's Studies programs in Canada; the excellent conferences; the network of support and knowledge sharing. "We don't have to be big to be effective...we need to do modest things consistently and well." The conference program shapes Women's Studies; CWSA exists to support this work. CWSA works when its members work.

Susan concluded her report by thanking the Board, in particular Ann and Anne Forrest (Treasurer), and Liz Kaethler, and recognized the contributions of members such as Thelma McCormack, Meg Luxton and Margrit Eichler. She acknowledged that she had felt supported and thanked for her efforts.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT

Liz Kaethler briefly thanked members for their continued support, and outlined the focus of the Trillium Grant Reminded members of the importance of updating membership information, in particular e-mail addresses.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne Forrest thanked Micheline Beauregard for the support of her staff during the preparation of the financial statement. She stressed that membership had grown substantially over the year, due especially to conference organization and increased collegiality. Student and faculty members are up; institutional memberships have increased to 28, not all of which are Women's Studies programs. The ratio of faculty to student members is beginning to shift, largely due to the conference organization's effort to support the growth of faculty.

Anne then reviewed the financial report: the goals of CWSA's Board this year were to live within its budget and take steps to reduce the debt. The financial year has shifted: year end is December 31st; the membership year will coincide with this new year end. Part of the salary expenses can be charged against the Trillium Grant. The accumulated debt stands at \$6,500, a considerable reduction from last year. 2001 is projected to be a good year for CWSA, provided services and membership dues remain constant, or increase. This raised some questions about the growth and direction of CWSA. Should we increase services in an effort to increase members, or should we stay at a modest level? This is something that needs to be addressed over the next few years. Shree Mulay (Vice President, Incoming) stressed that these new potential discussions fall outside of the scope of a financial report; new initiatives must be self-financing. SSRHC subsidy is still not available to CWSA; exclusions put into place at the beginning of the current SSHRC program are still in effect. This program has been extended, so CWSA is unable to apply for funding. HSSFC continues to lobby SSHRC on this issue. The impact of this exclusion from travel grants to the annual conference will be felt for years to come, particularly by student members.

Questions from the floor:

June Corman remarked that university funding had been available to her as program chair when the Learned's were at Brock; was such funding available at UofT for the conference in 2002

Roberta Robb: Aside from Brock's Women's Studies program, who had contributed to fundraising to reduce CWSA's debt?

Andrea Levan suggested passing the hat at the AGM; this was done.

Valerie Raoul suggested applying for SSHRC funding for the conference. Anne Forrest explained that this would require a publication. Some discussion ensued. Raised questions about HSSFC, conference revenues; this issue was referred to the Board for further

discussion.

The conference 2001 committee will share knowledge and experience with the program committee for 2002. Marlene Goldman of 2002 conference organizing committee spoke and acknowledged many offers of support.

CWSA is not required to have an audit performed for purposes of the Trillium grant.

Motion: That CWSA not engage in audit for year 2000.

Discussion: Could a financial review be done? Does not require services of a CA.

Motion (repeated): That CWSA not engage in external audit for 2000.

Carried.

New Motion: That CWSA conduct a financial review at end of 2001.

Seconded: Greg Kelson

Carried.

Motion to accept financial report: D.Naugler

Second L.Bates

Carried.

Motions: (see list)

Clarification of Motion #2: 2001--president elect

2002--no president elect

--past president

2003--president elect

--president

--no president elect

Consideration of Motions:

S. Rosenberg, seconded by K. MacFarlane, motioned that motion #1 and #2 should be combined.

Carried.

Discussion: Why is this restructuring being recommended by the Board?

Board response: past experience suggests that all three presidents are not generally active on the Board.

Further discussion ensued, particularly around the length of term for the President, and mechanisms for

replacing the president should she need to resign before her term concluded.

Called the question for the new motion (combined #1 and #2): In favour: 19; opposed: 3; abstained: 10

Carried.

Motion #3 Moved by Greg Kelson, Seconded Ann Braithwaite. Carried.

Motion #4 Moved by Meg Luxton

Discussion: change "meeting" to "conference." Further discussion for clarification of details was referred to the Board. If a prize is to be offered, there would have to be targeted fundraising to provide for it. Other details, such as alternate English/French prize years, linking the book prize to a keynote address for the conference would need to be worked

out.

Motion: To establish criteria, rotating through those nominated.
Carried.

ELECTIONS

There being no other candidates, Barbara Crow was acclaimed to the position of president-elect, under the new terms. Barbara introduced herself, remarking that she has been an active volunteer and Board member for other organizations, is a tenured Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary and with York University department of Communications. Her research areas of interest include: US radical feminism, Canadian feminism, and radical technology. She called for a continuation of the Badgirls caucus, focussed on developing the conference as a forum for dialogue and debate on political and professional issues.

Member at Large: One Member at Large will be elected to serve a 2 year term; the other, a one year term. Who will serve which, will be determined by those elected this year. Beth McAuley reviewed her biographical sketch.

Ann Braithwaite presented her biography: teacher and co-ordinator of Women's Studies program at UPEI; co-chair of 2001 CWSA conference program committee; in 2000, she served on the CWSA Finance Committee. Her most recent research projects include revisiting and rethinking the concepts of backlash and postfeminism for feminist media and cultural studies, and exploring the concept of the 'cyborg' as a metaphor for social and cultural anxieties about the influences of media technologies, especially on the bodies of particular audiences deemed more susceptible to 'media effects.'

Other people had put their names forward for the position. None being present and no biographies being available, the Executive Manager spoke briefly outlining the information available on other candidates.

Following the election, Ann Braithwaite and Beth McAuley were elected as members at large.

Membership co-ordinator: Nominated: Karen MacFarlane
Carried unanimously.

HSSFC PRESENTATION

Louise Forsyth complimented CWSA on their meetings, and invited comments. She announced the Congress 2002 themes: 1. Gender 2. Genre and 3 Geography. She reminded members that special funding was available for joint sessions from HSSFC, and pledged continued support for CWSA's discussions with SSHRC. Comments were made about the direction of SSHRC funding 56.5 million dollars allocated for research and development. Recommendations are made for more proposals from women and increased regional representation. SSHRC is focussed on research in the new economy. It appears that they are not interested in critical scholarship. CWSA is needed to hold political space, and Dr. Forsyth welcomed Barbara's commitment.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE 2002

Reminded those present of the theme for 2002: Designing Women. Members were encouraged to think broadly in terms of their presentations. The Call for Papers was

available in hard copy at the conference registration desk and will be distributed electronically as well. The benefit of the experience of the 2001 conference committee was welcomed.

Susan Heald then introduced the new president, Shree Mulay. Shree reiterated her commitment to working for the association in a 'persistent and dogged' fashion. Shree thanked Susan and Anne on behalf of all CWSA members for their efforts in the past year.