

## **2002 MINUTES FROM THE CWSA/ACEF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 27, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario  
Prepared by Ann Braithwaite, Secretary**

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Shree Mulay – introduced the current Board of Directors to the members. Asked for motion to accept the agenda.

Karen McFarlane – moved we accept the agenda.

Sharon Rosenberg – seconded the motion.

All in favour. Motion carried.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PAST AGM**

Shree Mulay – reported that we had two years of minutes from the AGM to accept, as last year's minutes for the 2000 meeting were never presented. Noted that minutes had been previously distributed to members.

a) 2000 minutes:

Beth McAuley moved to accept minutes.

Susan Heald seconded the motion.

All in favour. Motion carried.

b) 2001 minutes:

Gillian Campbell moved to accept minutes.

Susanne Luhmann seconded the motion.

All in favour. Motion carried.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Shree Mulay presented her president's report of activities of 2002.

Highlights:

The CWSA/ACEF office was officially moved from Brock University to York University, and its daily operation re-organized. Since last summer, we have been operating without a regularly paid employee, thus enabling us to save much money. Barbara Crow was able to secure a graduate student assistant to take on some of this work. All files etc. of the CWSA/ACEF office were also moved to York.

The CWSA/ACEF website has been completely redesigned by Barbara Crow and two web designers in Montreal. In addition, a number of CWSA/ACEF specific listservs have been set up, including one for coordinators of WS programs, one for WS graduate students, and one for WS undergraduates. Another for the membership at large will be forthcoming.

Beth McAuley and Ann Braithwaite took on the job of producing a semi-regular Newsletter for the membership, which has been sent out electronically to all members, and posted on the new website.

In order to better communications, respond in a more timely fashion to issues and queries, and make collective decisions, the CWSA/ACEF Board of Directors has begun to conduct

regular meetings (about once a month) via conference call. One of our first tasks was the incorporate the various changes in our structure into our bylaws, which we will be asking you to approve today.

As President, I attended several national meetings as the CWSA/ACEF representative. These include HSSFC and WIN. At the HSSFC meeting, I argued for the need to restore travel subsidies to CWSA/ACEF, an argument we – in addition to other small associations – have been making for a few years now. Barbara Crow and I also attended a meeting to discuss the re-organization of PAR-L, as CWSA/ACEF is one of the sponsoring organizations for this SSHRC-funded network.

Future tasks for CWSA/ACEF include continuing important lobbying efforts to ensure that WS continues to be recognized for its valuable contributions to intellectual and academic life in Canadian universities. This, of course, also necessitates the continuing support of the membership, and I encourage everyone who teaches in WS in any way to support the association. "CWSA/ACEF needs to be there to provide leadership and a collective voice for the next generation of WS professors."

Finally, I thank all the members of the Board of Directors, with whom it has been a privilege to work this year.

## **RATIFICATION OF BYLAWS**

Shree Mulay – reported that we needed to ratify the association's new bylaws, a result of our becoming incorporated in Ontario (which we did in 2000 in order to apply for an Ontario Trillium grant for the association). Asked Susan Heald to walk the members through the bylaws.

Susan Heald – reported that these were pretty standard bylaws, with nothing unusual in them. Walked the members through the key points, noting standard legal clauses.

Susan Heald moved that we accept the bylaws.

Beth McAuley seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Lesley Biggs – asked about why these are called the association's bylaws in the plural, but the title of the document only says "Bylaw #1"

Susan Heald – answered that this was standard 'lawyer speak' and the way that bylaws were called.

Sharon Rosenberg – raised two issues. 1) noted that bylaws indicate town of North York, but that it was her understanding that North York no longer existed as separate from Toronto, but was now simply a part of Toronto. 2) asked whether it was really necessary to have a clause that stated that 'mentally incompetent' or 'undischarged bankrupt' person could not hold office in CWSA/ACEF.

Susan Heald – responded that again this was standard 'lawyer speak' and thus included.

Motion called. All in favour.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Shree Mulay – reported that the treasurer, Anne Forrest, could not be present at the AGM as she is teaching today, and asked Susan Heald to present the financial statement.

Susan Heald – explained that she would read the report and expand on its detail as she went along. Explained the 'post Brock' and 'at Brock' distinction, and reported that the good news was that CWSA/ACEF's ongoing debt was dropping; we have already paid back \$2000.00 in January 2002, leaving our total debt at just under \$6000.00. Noted how in debt CWSA/ACEF is to Roberta Robb's (Brock University) work over the past several years and expressed our collective appreciation to her. Suggested that we pass the whole report as one, and that we notify the various people mentioned in the motions within by letter of our thanks and appreciation, since they are not present at the AGM.

Susan Heald moved to accept the report.  
Lesley Biggs seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Karen McFarlane – pointed out several 'typos' in the report – 'oher' rather than 'other,' and 'wagss' rather than 'wages'

Ann Braithwaite – asked about when we could expect to make another \$2000 payment on our debt to Brock.

Susan Heald – answered that as soon as we had the final numbers from this year's conference, we would make another payment, and that the idea was to pay the debt back as quickly as possible, and hopefully at the rate of more than \$2000 a year. Noted that according to the treasurer's report the last Board meeting a few nights ago, we currently have about \$5000 in our bank account.

a) Motion to waive official audit is included in the financial report, which will be voted on as one item.

b) discussion about fees at conference:

Barbara Crow – reported on the average costs of putting on our annual conference, and that association pays for such things as AV materials, rental of classroom space from university, all our breaks etc. (if we don't get funded from another source) – and that conference was also occasion when we make our most money

Lesley Biggs – suggested that we think about instituting a daily rate for conference attendance; also suggested that we take a harsh line with presenters who don't pay their membership and conference fees, and drop them from the program

Shree Mulay – noted that we need a stable group of people as members of the association, and that this was our goal

Lesley Biggs – asked if we could have a members and non-members fee structure --- quickly pointed out by others that we already have that – both at the HSSFC and the association levels

Sharon Rosenberg – asked if it would be possible to send out reminders at the beginning of January to all members that their membership dues for the upcoming year were due

Barbara Crow – responded that now that we have a complete membership list, and have moved to a calendar year membership, this should be possible to do

Sharon Rosenberg – asked whether institutions could be included on this reminder list – answer was yes

Barbara Crow – noted that she would also like to think about adding a credit card option to paying membership dues, making it easier for people to pay, i.e. online

Shree Mulay –noted that HSSFC is also looking at sending out reminders to people about need to pay fees

Ann Braithwaite – had a comment and a question about Congress rates vs./and daily rates: 1) asked whether we get a list from the Congress of who has paid their registration fees, i.e. so that we know for the next year, and 2) noted that the burden of fees for the conference wasn't really the association fees so much as the rates charged by the Congress

Barbara Crow – responded that we do get a list of paid names from the Congress

Shree Mulay – reported that non-payment of Congress fees is an issue for HSSFC also. They report that about 25% of presenters don't pay their registration fees across all the associations; the rate runs from about 17-35% non-payment, and CWSA/ACEF's rate is about 25%. Also noted that there is no structure at the level of the HSSFC for a daily rate option and that with all of its costs, the Congress barely makes money every year.

Ensuing discussion about how to ensure the collection of fees. Many ideas suggested. Katherine McKenna (Western) suggested sending out reminder notices to presenters, telling them that they had to be members to present – quickly pointed out that we did that already, but that problem was that we had no 'or else' clause. Susan Heald made impassioned statement about how conference fees were not to 'present a paper' but to 'attend a conference,' and that people needed to change the way they viewed their own presence at the conference or stay home.

Motion called. All in favour.

## **ELECTIONS**

Shree Mulay asked Susan Heald to present the slate of candidates and call for nominations, since, according to the bylaws, nominations are one of the functions of the past president.

Susan Heald went over the slate of candidates presented by the Board, and asked for nominations from the floor for any of the open positions. None were received. Susanne Luhmann, running for a member-at-large position, briefly introduced herself.

Sharon Rosenberg moved that we close nominations.  
Lesley Biggs seconded the motion.

The slate of candidates for 2002/03 was acclaimed.

Shree Mulay presented incoming president Barbara Crow and invited her to take over the

meeting.

Barbara Crow – thanked Shree Mulay, on behalf of the Board and the association, for her hard work, initiative, and leadership over the past year, in this difficult time of transition for the association. Reported on some of the work ahead for the association, and her desire to see the association continue to develop and be more assertive about some issues. Mentioned in particular the letter being drafted by herself, Ann Braithwaite, and Sikata Banerjee (UVic) to Mark Renaud at SSHRC about the gender distribution of CRC positions. Also mentioned that she wanted to work to increase the French presence and profile in the association.

### **OTHER MOTIONS -- BOOK PRIZE**

Barbara Crow – reported the ‘good news’ that CWSA/ACEF, as per a decision taken at last year’s AGM, is now implementing a book prize. Meg Luxton (York) has agreed to be on the nominating committee, and is looking for other volunteers – anyone interested should contact Meg.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### a) Archiving Women’s Studies materials

Barbara Crow noted that this topic had come up at the coordinators’ meeting, and that it was important to begin to the process of archiving Women’s Studies materials. Reported that various materials on what to think about in this process are available. Valerie Raoul (UBC) has some of these and Barbara will contact her and ask her to forward them to the association.

#### b) Report by Wafa Bitar, SSHRC representative

Reported on the status of committee #20—Women’s Studies, Social Work, and Health Studies, in addition to the status of SSHRC’s funding capacities overall. Many statistics reported – available through SSHRC’s website soon. Reported on how the selection process works, on how the selection committee is constituted, and on statistics about this year’s competition. Noted that this year the committee received only 17 applications, and were able to fund 9 – an over 50% success rate, and suggested that we submit many more applications. Reported generally on ‘what’s on SSHRC’s mind’: i.e. in the middle of a budgetary crisis with little progress in funding, especially compared to NSERC and CIHR which gets the majority of research monies. Called for our help and for us all to get together and demand more from the government, especially significantly greater investment in SSHRC.

Lesley Biggs – asked about standard research grants and whether they were being funded or not, because she keeps hearing different stories.

Wafa Bitar – noted that SSHRC is optimistic about its continued funding, but also knows that it’s a gamble. Reported that SSHRC hates for forward files with heading ‘recommended but not funded’ because of lack of funding. Stated that SSHRC wants to continue and has every intention of continuing its 41% success rate – and has no desire to go back to the days of less than 25% funding success.

Susan Heald – asked about a letter that should be on file to her predecessor protesting the composition of committee #20—that is, the amalgamation of Women’s Studies with social work and health studies, as not meeting the needs of many Women’s Studies scholars.

Wafa Bitar – SSHRC’s official response is that we need many more applications from WS in order to have a separate committee, and attempted to clarify process of this interdisciplinary committee. Welcomed all inquiries.

c) Additional item – HSSFC presentation

Unfortunately the Federation spokesperson could not stay for her presentation, but asked us to all go by the desk and sign their postcards to our MPs in support of SSHRC.

Barbara Crow will follow up with her on her presentation.

Reminder about the book launch at the Toronto Women’s Bookstore tonight.