

2005 MINUTES FROM THE CWSA/ACEF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**May 30, 2005, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario
Prepared by Beth McAuley, Membership Coordinator**

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 two items added: next year's program committee and an item for discussion that came up at the co-ordinator's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2004 AGM

Darlene Juschka moved to accept the minutes of the 2004 AGM.
Christine St. Peter seconded.

Discussion: Katherine Side suggested that the phrase "Members in attendance at AGM" which appears at the conclusion of the minutes be changed to simply "Attendance" since not all in attendance were members.

Aysan Sev'er moved to accept the minutes of the 2004 AGM as revised.
Katherine Side seconded.
All in favour. Motion carried.

REPORTS

President's Report

Ann Braithwaite congratulated all of us on the hard work we have been doing on building the organization over the past year. She reported that over the past year the Board has been busy building the profile and visibility of the association, both among its members and within the WS academic community in Canada. She is especially grateful that the work of being president of CWSA/ACEF has really afforded her even more opportunity to expand her thinking about the field, and to think about how complexly its academic and intellectual assumptions and concerns are tied to more (apparently mundane) administrative and institutional endeavours – and issue that was certainly reflected in the national coordinators' meeting on Saturday.

One of her primary goals as president over the past year has been to build community. As the person who monitors the Association's e-mail list, she is impressed by the strength of the Women's Studies community in Canada; the growth of this reflects the growth of the organization – and the spread of the field. The CWSA/ACEF email distribution list is integral to both building our community and keeping members in touch with events and debates in the field. It also is a place that allows us to announce and celebrate members' publications and achievements, and make connections across our productive differences.

As we grow as an organization and as our financial base becomes more secure, it is important to consider where we want to go? How do we want to grow? In thinking about these questions and in continuing this momentum, it is also important to think about

initiating endeavours that are 'doable.' For example, this year we initiated the graduate and undergraduate student essay prizes, which have been extremely well received. Ann thanked all of those who responded and participated in these two contests.

Ann thanked the Board of Directors for making her job so rewarding: Lori Chambers, Barbara Crow, Anne Forrest, Darlene Juschka, Beth McAuley and Anne Wagner.

On behalf of all the members, Christine St. Peter thanked Ann for her excellent management of the listserv.

Aysan Sev'er thanked Barbara Crow for starting the listserv.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Braithwaite reviewed the CWSA/ACEF Financial Report 2004 on behalf of the CWSA/ACEF treasurer, Anne Forrest, who was unable to attend the AGM. The Association's financial situation continues to improve. The bank balance as of December 31, 2004, was \$10,042.42 with no major expenditures outstanding. CWSA/ACEF is in good financial shape because the executive and local conference organizers provide a great deal of unpaid labour.

Some discussion on the question of membership growth and the increase in fees that the Association would have to pay the Congress. Membership fee paid to Congress is based on number of members. There is also the question of the costs for the conference fluctuating depending on where the Congress is held and the status of WS at that university. Costs for this year's conference will be higher than last year's, while next year's costs could be lower than this year's. This year's attendance was down, but average number of members attending is 120.

Susanne Luhmann moved to accept the 2004 Treasurer's Report.
Sikata Banerjee seconded.

Barbara Crow moved that we waive the need for an external audit.
Darlene Juschka seconded.

Discussion: Katherine Side asked if we could waive this year's audit but consider having an audit done next year. Given that Anne Forrest was a professional accountant but the incoming treasurer does not have this status, agreed that an audit next year would be advisable. Barbara Crow offered to find out about reinstatement and proving our financial situation.

All in favour. Both motions carried.

Membership Report

Beth McAuley said that we cannot thank our members enough for their ongoing support of CWSA/ACEF. There has been some growth in our membership over the past year: as of May 2005, we have 182 members and 16 institutions. Last year's total was 157 members in total.

1) The Association is still experiencing problems with making sure all individuals who attend the conference, and especially those who present papers, are members. This year there are 30 non-paid members. This represents at least \$1,500 in lost membership fees.

This is not a new problem, but has been ongoing for many years. Beth proposed that a new process be set up whereby the membership co-ordinator is the gatekeeper for all conference submissions and do this on a trial basis this year to see if it helps. The process would be that the submissions are sent to either the CWSA/ACEF post office box and if there is a membership enclosed, the submission is forwarded to the program co-ordinator. If not, the presenter is contacted and her/his paper is not forwarded until the membership is submitted with fees. Also recommend that the call for papers go out a bit earlier so that there is time to process the memberships.

There was agreement that this process should be tried out this year to see if it helps improve the situation.

2) Beth introduced the new Voting Chit which members need to use when voting. This will ensure that members in good standing have their votes counted.

3) Beth thanked those individuals who had made donations over the year to the Annual Book Prize for Feminist Scholarship, the Graduate and Undergraduate Essay Prizes and the Conference Travel Fund for Students, an initiative that was introduced with the revamping of the membership form in 2004. Last year, \$200 in donations were received. On behalf of the Board, Beth thanked Lori Chambers, Diana Gustafson, Jean Bobby Noble, Iris Raif, Wendy Robbins, Rusty Shteir and Carol Williams.

4) Atlantis was adopted as our journal of choice at last year's AGM, and information about Atlantis is included on our new membership form. Requests for subscription information are passed on to the journal's managing editor. To date, there have been 15 inquiries, resulting in 3 paid subscriptions. CWSA/ACEF also sent out 500 membership forms with the fall 2004 issue of Atlantis, which resulted in one new membership.

5) Beth apologized for being behind on the on-line membership registration project, and promised to look into it further this year.

6) Beth reminded everyone that the CWSA/ACEF membership year runs from January to December of any given year. She also reminded everyone that even though a member's department has joined CWSA/ACEF, that membership does not extend to individual memberships. Individuals must register independently of the department, especially if they are presenting at the Conference.

7) Beth proposed the idea of offering past president's lifetime membership to the Association as a way to bring these members back. Much discussion on this suggestion, it being pointed out that some past presidents were still members. Other alternatives were discussed and the following motion was put forward.

Beth moved that as a way to bring past presidents back to CWSA/ACEF, they will be offered a one-year complimentary membership plus a one-year complimentary membership to give to a student or to an unwaged or low-income sessional.

Sharon Abbey seconded.

All in favour. Motion carried.

It was agreed that Christine St. Peter and Barbara Crow will compose a letter that will be sent to past presidents inviting them to consider this offer and rejoin the Association.

Book Prize Report

Aysan Sev'er reviewed the history of the CWSA/ACEF book prize, the past committee members and the ongoing struggle to make the process of reviewing submissions a bit less onerous. She also reported that 15 books were nominated for the 2003-2004 book prize. All books were again in English, although the committee had deliberately ensured that reviewers could evaluate books written in French. The winner of the 2004 prize was Ayasan's book *Fleeing the House of Horrors: Women Who Have Left Abusive Partners* (University of Toronto Press, 2002), and Ayasan will be giving a keynote speech at this year's conference. She reported on the committee's recommendation that the winner of the book be asked to serve on the committee for two years.

Aysan reported that 11 books were nominated for the 2004-2005 prize and that committee members are concerned with the volume of work required. The books are received during the academic term so there is a tremendous amount of reading added to an already heavy workload. The winner for this year's award will be announced at the book prize reception and the winner will give a presentation about her book. She will also be invited to give a keynote address at the 2006 conference at York University and be invited to serve a two-year term on the book prize committee.

She pointed out that there were 3 key decisions to be made:

- * Finding ways to reduce the workload. One idea is to limit the number of books any one publisher can submit and have the person nominating the book write a one-page summary of why the book is worthy of nomination.
- * The need to recruit new members. June Corman of Brock University has volunteered to serve a term.
- * Improve outreach to French publishers for French submissions. Or do we want to accept English submissions only?

Discussion: Agreed that more needs to be done to reach French publishers by sending a letter to academic presses and inviting submissions. Agreed that presses whose books win do not list the CWSA/ACEF Book Prize in their catalogues and that this should be a condition of nomination. Agreed that workload needs to be reduced, but not agreed that winners be obliged to sit on the committee for two years but that they be invited to sit on the committee and do so if they so wish.

Some discussion about workload issues ensued. Darlene Juschka suggestion that perhaps one solution could be to have each person on the committee read 4 books, and then each person recommends one of those books, and that everyone reads the 4 best books as identified. Katherine Side asked for clarification that process of receiving books would not be changed and that number of books submitted by any one publisher not be limited.

Darlene Juschka moved that: 1) the letter of nomination comes from the individual who has to be a member of CWSA/ACEF, 2) the work of the committee needs to be changed, 3) ask publishers to acknowledge award in their catalogues and make this retroactive, and 4) invite winners to sit on committee but not make it mandatory.

Christine St. Peter seconded.

All in favour. Motion carried.

Aysan Sev'er moved that the committee write a bilingual letter to be sent to the English and French publishers to see what books come in as a result of this effort. If French books are received, the committee will deal with it at that time.

Barbara Crow seconded.
All in favour. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY DONNA PENNEE, CFHSS

Donna Penee invited CWSA/ACEF to appoint a member of the board to be a liaison with the CFHSS as a way to revitalize the network. She then reported on activities of CFHSS over the past 18 months which included a review of grants and who received them; copyright legislation to protect creators of cultural products; "open access" initiatives that would allow publicly funded research to be publicly accessed online; and that the director of SSHRC was stepping down. As well, she wrote a response to the women and equity issues portfolio.

Some discussion from audience on issue of open access and concerns around this. Question from Barbara Crow as to why scholars applying for funding on Women's Studies projects are not members of the Association and how this could be corrected. Response from Jacqueline Wright was that she could not speak to this but felt sure that similar situations arise in other disciplines.

Jacqueline gave the dates for next year's conference at York University: May 29 to May 31, 2006, and confirmed that the dates for the Lesbian and Gay conference are the same. Future Congresses are scheduled as follows: 2007 in Saskatchewan; 2008 at UBC; 2009 at Carleton; 2010 in Montreal.

PRESENTATION BY Wafa BITAR, SSHRC

Wafa Bitar of SSHRC presented statistics on grants and amounts of grants over the past year, pointing out that numbers of grant submissions have increased and that they have had 43% success rates with applications in the Women's Studies committee.

Discussion on numbers of applications and size of grants raised by members. Barbara Crow pointed out that grants did not exceed \$100,000 to Women's Studies applicants, and that CWSA/ACEF would have input into this process but still haven't been invited to do so. Wafa responded that committee divided grants according to its budget and the cuts it was facing.

Katherine Side raised the issue of parental leave not being acknowledged by SSHRC, and noted that this was a major concern of CWSA/ACEF. When CAUT raised this issue, it was told by SSHRC that it was an economic issue, but we maintain that it is not an economic issue but an equity issue. Wafa was not aware of this concern and said she would take it back to SSHRC.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ESSAY PRIZES

Barbara Crow thanked the committee for their work and said they have been fabulous. As well, there has been great national representation and all committee members have agreed to stay on for next year. The challenge has been the shortage of essays and we need to encourage submissions from a greater number of students.

This year's winners are: Undergraduate: Joanna Campbell, "The Cultural Taboo of Breastfeeding in American Culture," Concordia University, and Graduate: Katherine R.

Larson, "Emancipatory Strategies: Using Postmodernism and Standpoint Theory to Redefine Feminist Methodology," University of Toronto.

Katherine Side asked if the winners were paid to attend the conference. Ann Braithwaite said that \$200 is attached to the prize, they receive a complimentary registration to the conference, and that financial assistance is available for transportation if the CWSA/ACEF budget allows.

ELECTIONS

a) Ann Braithwaite presented the slate of nominations for the Board positions. She noted that the terms of the positions need to be changed as the overlap system set up in Quebec City is not working. Board would like to suggest changing terms as follows:

- * President – one year as incoming, then two years as president
- * Past President – eliminate
- * All other positions switch to two years each, staggering them so every year half our positions come up for election... so:
 - Secretary – currently 2 year, stay at 2 year
 - Treasurer – currently 3 years, change to 2 year
 - MAL #1 – currently one year, change to 2 years – and add working on Newsletter with Secretary to the portfolio
 - MAL #2 – currently 2 year, stay at 2 year – and add coordinator liaison to portfolio

Reason: all these different terms means that every so often (like this year), we will have the situation where all positions come up in the same year. The result would be a whole new Board with no continuity and forward movement – something that this new configuration of terms of service would address.

Katherine Side asked for clarification on whether a treasurer can serve consecutive terms and Barbara Crow responded there are no limitations. Barbara pointed out we will need to change the by-laws and that Shree Mulay has offered to help Barbara have this done.

Susanne Luhmann moved that the terms be changed as suggested in the report.
Katherine Side seconded.
All in favour. Motion carried.

b) Membership Co-ordinator as a paid position

Ann Braithwaite raised the issue of making the membership co-ordinator's position a paid one. This has been an issue discussed at the Board over the past few months. The reason for this is that this position is an important one for the Association and requires a lot of time and attention. Membership has grown over the past few years as a result of individuals taking on this job responsibly. The Board would like to propose that the membership co-ordinator position become a paid position for 100 hours at \$20/hour (plus GST) for a total of \$2,140 to take effect from June 1/2005 to June 1/2006 (there are no benefits, vacation, etc.). The co-ordinator will set up a payment schedule with the treasurer and submit invoices for payment on a regular basis to cover her hours.

Ann Braithwaite moved that the membership co-ordinator's position become a paid position on a one-year trial basis.

Much discussion ensued on the implications of making this a paid position. Discussion clarified the importance of having someone in this position on a regular basis to perform the administrative work it requires and that a payment for the work recognizes the value that position brings to the organization. It is an important administrative cost of running the association.

Barbara Crow moved to reframe the motion to read that CWSA/ACEF have a budget item to cover the cost for the administration of the organization's membership.

Krista Johnston seconded.

All in favour. Motion carried.

c) Ann Braithwaite presented the 2004-2005 slate for the Board of Directors:

Lori Chambers, Incoming President for a 1-year term

Wendee Kubik, Secretary for a 2-year term

Cheryl Runions, Treasurer for a 2-year term

Sikata Banerjee, Member at Large #2 for a 2-year term

Darlene Juschka, Member at Large #1 for a 1-year term

As the membership co-ordinator will now be a paid position, it will not be included on the slate, although the co-ordinator will sit on the Board. The by-laws will be changed to reflect this.

Ann Braithwaite asked for nominations from the floor.

As there were no nominations from the floor, the slate was acclaimed.

JOINT PROGRAM WITH CANADIAN LESBIAN AND GAY STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Susanne Luhmann suggested that it would be a great initiative for the CWSA/ACEF to explore the possibility of creating a joint program for the 2006 Congress conference with the formerly named Lesbian and Gay Association. There has always been a close relationship between these two organizations and there have often been unsuccessful attempts to have overlapping sessions. This could be solved by creating a joint program and since the conferences are taking place at the same time, this is a good opportunity to give this idea a try.

Susanne Luhmann moved that the CWSA/ACEF executive explore the possibility of creating a joint program with the new organization that was formerly known as the Gay and Lesbian Association.

Katherine Side seconded.

All in favour. Motion carried.

THANKS FOR BOARD MEMBERS LEAVING

Beth McAuley moved that the CWSA/ACEF Board extend their deepest thanks and appreciation to Barbara Crow, Anne Forrest and Susanne Luhmann for their years of hard work and commitment to the organization.

Ann Braithwaite seconded.

All in favour. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Ann Braithwaite moved to adjourn.

Beth McAuley seconded.
All in favour. Motion carried.

Attendance at the 2005 AGM:

Sharon Abbey
Sikata Banerjee
Ann Braithwaite
Rhiannon Bury
Barbara Crow
Sarah Ghabrial
Krista Johnston
Darlene Juschka
Eva Karpinski
Susanne Luhmann
Beth McAuley
Wendy Peters
Sheetal Rawal
Lara Shkordoff
Aysan Sev'er
Katherine Side
Christine St. Peter
Anne Wagner
Carmen Webb

Any omissions are the responsibility of the minute taker.