

**Canadian Women's Studies Association/L'association canadienne d'études sur  
les femmes  
AGM 2010  
Concordia University  
May 30, 2010  
3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Submitted by Annalee Lepp, Secretary**

**1. Welcome**

Katherine Side, Acting President of the CWSA/ACEF, extended a warm welcome to everyone attending the AGM and extended a big thank you to those who organized such a successful conference.

**2. Approval of 2010 AGM Agenda**

The AGM agenda was reviewed and approved.

**3. Approval of 2009 AGM Minutes**

The 2009 AGM Minutes have been posted on the CWSA/ACEF website for one year.

**Motion:** Marie Lovrod moved to accept the 2009 AGM Minutes.

**Second:** Lynda Ross.

**Motion carried.**

**4. Business Arising**

None

**5. Kel Morin-Parsons and David Mitchell, CFHSS**

The two CFHSS representatives discussed a number of issues including funding (which was described as “little better than flat”) and the CFHSS’s intention to make a case for the value of Social Sciences and Humanities research on behalf of the associations. They also discussed copyright questions and particularly Bill C-61 related to open access journals. Other questions that arose pertained to SSHRC and health research (Meg Luxton), community-based research (Jo-Anne Lee), and the allocation of CERCs.

**6. Reports**

**a. Acting President’s Report – Katherine Side**

Katherine Side, Acting President and President Elect, announced that Si Transken had stepped down as President on March 4, 2010 and that she had assumed the

position since that time. She thanked Si for her work for the CWSA/ACEF. She also noted that, since February, the executive's main focus had been on organizing the conference. She also indicated that the executive had developed a communication policy and had responded to the ongoing program naming debate.

#### **b. Treasurer's Report – Darlene Juschka**

At the outset, Darlene Juschka was thanked for her amazing work as treasurer over two terms.

Darlene presented the Treasurer's Report, the 2009 Financial Statement indicating expenditures and revenues, and a statement providing a breakdown of 2009 conference costs as compared to 2008.

“The following Treasurer's Report summarizes and explains the information provided by the 2009 Financial Statement.

Both income and expenditures are reported in the year in which the money was received or paid out.

#### *Account Status*

Expenditures exceeded income from all sources by \$910. 77. In 2008 this figure was \$2,220.15. The difference between these figures is \$1,309.38 and due to a reduction in conference costs as you will see below.

#### *Bank Activity*

The book balance as of December 31, 2009 was \$19,883.48, while the bank balance was \$20,453.48. The difference is due to two cheques in the amounts of \$420.00 and \$150.00 that did not clear the account until January 2010. Then the CWSA/ACEF book balance is reconciled with the TD bank balance for 2009.

The book balance as of April 30, 2010 was \$24,660.05 and the bank balance \$24,900.05. The difference amounts to a cheque that had not cleared the account by the end of the month in the amount of \$240.00.

CWSA/ACEF continues to be in good financial shape.

#### *External Audit*

The external audit was completed and copies were given to the acting president and the secretary. One is retained for the treasurer's records.

#### *Conference*

2009 expenditures exceed revenue by \$4,052.20. Our total conference expenditures in 2009 were \$14,807.20 while in 2008 they were \$20,716.78.

2009 CWSA/ACEF conference registered attendance: 74 members, 56 student/unwaged/underwaged members; 5 non-members and 7 student non-members; and 3 complimentary passes for a total of 146 in attendance. Down from 2008 of 180 in attendance.

*Student Travel*

2009 student travel and the graduate and undergraduate essay contests funds and travel are indicated below (figures in brackets indicate a negative balance):

	Carry forward 2009	Donations	SSHRC	Expenditures	2009 Balance	Carry Forward 2010
Student Travel	(\$357.55)	\$70.00	\$5,700.00	(\$4,455.95)	\$1,314.05	\$956.50
Student Essay Undergrad	(\$320.00)	\$25.00		(\$150.00)	(\$445.00)	(\$445.00)
Student Essay Grad	(\$134.95)	\$100.00		\$0.00	(\$34.95)	(\$34.95)
Book Award	\$50.00	\$25.00		(\$984.24)	(\$909.24)	(\$909.24)
Student Essay Travel	(\$250.00)					(\$250.00)

For the 2009 CWSA/ACEF conference we paid out \$4455.95 for student/underwaged travel and in most instances fully refunded travel costs.

As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, the CWSA/ACEF has yet to receive the support for 2010 student travel from SSHRC through the CFHCC amounting to \$5,700.00. We have some money, but not enough to be of any real assistance for travel. Should we receive funding from SSHRC, we can assist our student and underwaged members. The executive has discussed the conditions of the reimbursement. Currently recipients must be members of the CWSA/ACEF and attend the AGM; the executive feels that we should add the condition that a paper be delivered. Before proceeding with changing the travel grant policy to include “and participate in the program of the conference that year,” the executive will check to ensure that this is consistent with SSHRC guidelines or rules.

*Graduate and Undergraduate Student Essay Contests*

For the purposes of clarification, below is information on the student essay contests:

~ First prize: \$100.00 + one year paid membership + up to \$250.00 to cover travel expenses (over and above student travel funding) with winner disclosed at the CWSA/ACEF awards ceremony.

~ Second prize: \$50.00 and honourable mention at the CWSA/ACEF awards ceremony.

The first prize winners of the essay contests (should there be any) will be invited in the same year to read their winning essays at the CWSA/ACEF conference.

### *Book Prize/Award*

A further reminder, the annual book prize winner receives remuneration up to \$1,000.00 for travel, accommodation, and registration expenses for the conference in the year the prize is received. The winner is required to submit her/his receipts to the current treasurer of the CWSA/ACEF for reimbursement of travel costs.”

**Motion:** Christine St. Peter moved to accept the 2009 Financial Report.

**Second:** Sal Renshaw.

**Motion Carried.**

Darlene also noted that she wished to recognize and thank the members of CWSA/ACEF executive for generously giving their time and energy to maintain and grow the association. She also wanted to recognize that Ann has given many years now to the association.

### **c. Membership Report – Reeanna Bradley**

As Reeanna Bradley was unable to attend the 2010 CWSA/ACEF conference, Annalee Lepp presented the Membership Report. Over the course of 2009-2010, the CWSA/ACEF maintained a 320-person membership, representing 66 universities across all 10 provinces, 8 states, and 3 continents. A thank you was expressed to all returning and new members, including 5 new institutional members for a total membership of 18 universities. The success of the last year’s membership campaign was at least in part attributed to the ease of the new PayPal system.

Annalee extended a big thanks to Reeanna for her fantastic work as the membership secretary.

### **d. Graduate Essay Prize Report – Donica Belisle (Chair)**

This year, Donica Belisle (Athabasca), Chair, Barbara Crow (York), and Heather Tapley (Victoria) adjudicated the Graduate Essay Prize. The committee received 8 eligible essays for consideration. All identifiers were removed and the essays were delivered to the committee on 19 April 2010. Upon review, the committee unanimously agreed on the winner. Donica Belisle prepared a letter of recommendation for the award, it was delivered to the executive on 29 April 2010,

and the winner was contacted and invited to attend the CWSA/ACEF awards ceremony. The committee thanked the students who submitted essays and the faculty who supported the applications. They strongly encouraged program to have students submit their essays. It was a pleasure to serve on this committee.

The winner of the 2010 Graduate Essay Prize announced at the CWSA/ACEF awards ceremony is:

**Katherine Mazurok, “The Metaphoric Middle (Im)Passage: Beauty and National L/Anguish.”**

The Graduate Essay Prize Committee prepared and presented the following citation: “The Metaphoric Middle (Im)Passage’ is a sophisticated discussion of nation building as performed through the English language, and it speaks to the absences inherent in such signification practices. It moves through various levels of representation, including the form of language, its sound, its colonial heritage, and its manifestations in notions and experiences of raced bodies, in a cogent and compelling way, and, through its close reading of Nourbese Philip’s work, provides the important insight that engagement with the middle passage is impossible.”

**e. Book Award Committee Report – Sikata Banerjee (Chair)**

As members of the Book Award Committee were unable to attend the 2010 CWSA/ACEF Conference, Annalee Lepp presented the committee’s report. The members of the committee were Sikata Banerjee (Victoria), Chair, Kristin Burnett (Lakehead), and Jennifer Roth (Lakehead).

The committee read 16 books. They were impressed by the quality of books nominated for the prize and really enjoyed the variety of theoretical and empirical works. The committee did not have major concerns, but their discussion did highlight two issues:

Given that this prize is a form of acknowledgement of growth in and contribution to Women’s Studies as a discipline, the committee wondered if there was any way to make sure that the authors of the books nominated had some link to Women’s Studies, no matter how tangentially (i.e. they were associated with Women’s Studies programs, were long-standing members of CWSA/ACEF, had made some kind of contribution to Canadian Women’s Studies, taught a lot of courses that centered gender, etc.). The committee was not sure if some of the authors were members and/or if they were, whether they became members just so they could be considered for the prize. The committee acknowledged that this is an old argument, but perhaps it is worth revisiting. The nomination process is also fairly clear, but was not followed by many of the presses, which simply sent books for consideration. The committee recommended following the nomination process as outlined by CWSA/ACEF in future.

After some discussion of this first point, it was recommended that the Book Award Committee use their discretion to vet books for their relevance to Women's Studies.

The committee also wondered how effective the "usefulness as a text in Women's Studies courses" criterion is. Most of the books they read and that Sikata Banerjee had read in past years as a member of the Book Award Committee were so complex, they would be unsuitable except perhaps for very specialized graduate courses.

**Motion:** Christine St. Peter moved that the "usefulness as a text in Women's Studies courses" criterion be eliminated.

**Second:** Sal Renshaw.

**Motion Carried.**

At the 2010 CWSA/ACEF awards ceremony, the following winners were announced:

The winner of the 2009 CWSA/ACEF Book Award is:

**Liz Millward, *Women in British Imperial Airspace, 1922-1937* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008).**

The committee's citation read as follows: "Drawing on a rich body of archival material, Millward provides a nuanced analysis of the manner in which the body of the female aviatrix was located within airspace. Indeed, the provocative manner in which Millward uses the female body to construct a cultural representation within airspace through which social differences such as gender, nation, race, class, and sexuality were reproduced and challenged impressed the committee and facilitated its unanimous decision to award the book prize to Millward's work."

The 2009 Book Award Honourable Mention is:

**Morgan Holmes, *Intersex: A Perilous Difference* (Susquehanna Press, 2008).**

The committee's citation read as follows: "This book is a courageous and insightful deconstruction of the medical term 'intersexed'. Drawing on the (mis)representations of intersexed bodies in a variety of texts ranging from the *X Files* to medical journals, Holmes challenges the boundaries dividing normal vs. abnormal/ healthy vs. unhealthy to argue for a new politics of meaning that celebrates intersexuality as a part of the infinitely variable continuum that is human sexuality."

#### **f. Undergraduate Essay Prize Report – Suzanne Lenon (Chair)**

This year, Suzanne Lenon (Lethbridge), T.L. Cowan (Saskatchewan), and Joan Simalchik (Toronto at Mississauga) adjudicated the Undergraduate Essay Prize. They received 17 essays of varying lengths and after a substantive discussion, the committee concluded that no one essay rose above the rest and that each paper had

some writing or conceptual thinking problems. The committee suggested that the call for nominations be distributed more widely to faculty and sessionals. There was also some discussion about standardizing the length of the essays to a maximum of 15 double-spaced pages, but there was no consensus on this question. The committee's main recommendations were included in the following motion:

**Motion:** Meg Luxton moved that the deadline for nominations for the Undergraduate Essay Prize be set for May 1<sup>st</sup> (to capture late term papers which means the committee has one week to make their decision); that professors and instructors are required to nominate conceptually and stylistically excellent or outstanding (A or A+) papers only; and in their letter of nomination, professors and instructors are required to speak to the merits of the nominated essay.

**Second:** Sonja Boon.

**Motion Carried.** (1 opposed; 1 abstention.)

Annalee Lepp added that the call for nominations will in future include a check list to ensure that the nomination procedures are clear and to ease the work of the person tasked with anonymizing the essays.

### **g. Conference Committee Report – Marie Lovrod (Co-Chair)**

Marie Lovrod, the Co-Chair of the Conference Program Committee, presented the committee's report. She noted that in recent years, there are a growing number of proposals resulting in increasingly strong sessions. Half of the sessions selected this year were pre-organized panels, which reduces the workload of the committee considerably, but in order to allow enough time for discussion, it might be prudent to limit sessions to 4 or even 3 presenters. With a rejection rate of 20% – 30% in 2009-2010, the committee was unable to accommodate double presentations by a single individual. Marie noted that the timeline of the committee's activities is posted on the CWSA/ACEF website and asked attendees to watch for the call for proposals in the early Fall.

Marie also stressed that no conference could be successful without the commitment and hard work of various individuals: Gen Rail at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute helped to organize on the ground (food, volunteers, etc.); the team of graduate student volunteers (Haifa Tlili, Shannon Jette, Zeing Abourizk, Emma Harper, and Annie Pouloit) worked both before and during the conference; among the Conference Program Committee members, Ann Braithwaite managed connections with the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and kept the committee on track with the CFHSS, and Rhona Shaw and Mandy Koolen participated in the daunting task of vetting and organizing panels; and Erica Van Driel did the practical work of contacting presenters and panel organizers, resolving time crunches, and meeting publication deadlines. A big thank you to all.

Additional thanks were extended to Lynda Ross, who organized the Coordinators' Pre-Conference Meeting, as well as to members of the Book Award Committee and

the Graduate and Undergraduate Essay Prize Committees. Finally, Ronald Rudin, the Concordia Academic Convener, CASID, and CFHSS all contributed support to conference costs, with CASID co-sponsoring Cynthia Enloe's keynote presentation.

#### **h. Communications Committee Report – Ann Braithwaite**

Ann Braithwaite presented the Communications Committee report. While committee was busy in 2009-2010, especially in responding to media coverage of Women's Studies, it was not able to produce newsletters in the current year. Ann recommended that members of the Communications Committee not also be members of the CWSA/ACEF executive.

#### **7. Proposed Executive Change**

The executive proposed that a Member-at-Large #3 position be created. The main duties associated with this position will be to network and build the CWSA/ACEF's institutional and individual membership base.

**Motion:** Sal Renshaw moved that a Member-at-Large #3 position be created on the CWSA/ACEF executive.

**Second:** Joan Simalchik.

**Motion Carried.**

#### **8. Elections**

- a. Treasurer (two-year term): **Rhiannon Bury, Athabasca**, was acclaimed.
- b. Member-at-Large #1 (two-year term): **Sal Renshaw, Nipissing**, was acclaimed.
- c. Member-at-Large #3 (two-year term): **Wendy Peters, Nipissing**, was acclaimed.

#### **9. Selection of Members for Committees**

- a. Conference Program Committee (2010 Congress): **Mylène Dorcé (Université de Montréal), Samantha Thrift (McGill University), and Kate Bride (Memorial)**.
- b. Conference Local Arrangements Committee (2010 Congress): **Wendy Robbins (University of New Brunswick)**.
- c. Book Award Committee: **Kristin Burnett (Lakehead), Jen Roth (Lakehead), Christine St. Peter (Victoria), and Shauna Shiels (Queen's)**.
- d. Undergraduate Prize Committee: **Suzanne Lenon (Lethbridge), T.L. Cowan (Calgary), Joan Simalchik (Toronto at Mississauga), Amber Dean (McMaster University), and Margaret Toye (Wilfrid Laurier)**.

e. Graduate Prize Committee: **Susanne Luhmann (Alberta), Heather Tapley (Victoria), and Shannon Jette (Concordia).**

f. Communications Committee: **Sonja Boon (Memorial)**

## **10. CWSA/ACEF Membership Fees**

Due to escalating conference costs, the CWSA/ACEF executive proposed to raise the association's membership fees as follows:

- a. Regular = \$65.00 (\$15.00 increase)
- b. Low Income = \$30.00 (\$5.00 increase)
- c. Students = \$20.00 (\$5.00 increase)

It was also noted that the CWSA/ACEF executive is exploring the establishment of a more formal arrangement with *Atlantis* which would entail a two-tiered membership structure with or without an *Atlantis* subscription.

After some discussion, the following amended motion was forwarded:

**Motion:** Christine St. Peter moved that the regular membership rate be increased to \$70.00 and that the low income and student membership rates remain the same.

**Second:** Sonja Boon.

**Motion Carried.**

Anne Forrest also suggested that fully waged regular faculty members (earning ca. \$100,000+) be encouraged to voluntarily raise their CWSA/ACEF membership fees to \$100.00 per annum.

**Motion:** Jo-Anne Lee moved that institutional membership rates be reviewed at the 2011 AGM.

**Second:** Sal Renshaw.

**Motion Carried.**

## **11. CWSA/ACEF Financial Audits**

Given the costs involved in conducting a financial audit on an annual basis, the Executive proposed that a financial audit be arranged every two years – at the conclusion of the treasurer's two-year term.

**Motion:** Wendy Kubik moved the above motion.

**Second:** Margaret Oldfield.

**Motion Carried.**

## **12. Thank you to Departing Executive Members**

Ann Braithwaite extended thanks to our departing executive members: Darlene Juschka and Lynda Ross. Katherine Side thanked everyone who had attended the AGM.

### **13. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Ann Braithwaite moved to adjourn.

**Second:** Annalee Lepp.

**Motion carried.**

### **Attendance at the 2010 AGM**

Belisle, Donica  
Boon, Sonja  
Braithwaite, Ann  
Bride, Kate  
Bullen, Darcel  
Burgess, Allison  
Christenson-Ruffman, Linda  
D’Arcangelis, Carol Lynne  
D’Souza, Melissa  
Ferrari, Manuela  
Forrest, Anne  
Gartner, Jennifer  
Gullage, Amy  
Ikeda, Naoko  
Irving, Grace  
Juschka, Darlene  
Kubik, Wendy  
Lee, Jo-Anne  
Lenon, Suzanne  
Lepp, Annalee  
Lovrod, Marie  
Luxton, Meg  
Martin, Nancy  
McFarland, Joan  
Miles, Angela  
Nakagawa, Shihoko  
Nelson-Hamilton, Laura  
Oldfield, Margaret  
Parkins, Ilya  
Peters, Wendy  
Rault, Jasmine  
Renshaw, Sal  
Ross, Lynda  
Shiels, Shauna

Side, Katherine  
Simalchik, Joan  
St. Peter, Christine  
Thrift, Samantha  
Udegbe, Onyinyechukwu Sandra  
Usui, Naoko  
Vander Kloet, Marie  
Van Driel, Erica  
Watson, Georgann  
Wyndham-West, Michelle

Any omissions are the responsibility of the secretary.