



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

May 26, 2014

Brock University

Meeting commenced at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Executive: Markus Reisenleitner (President), Albert Braz (Vice-President), Paul Morris (Treasurer), Asma Sayed (Acting Media and Communications Officer), Rachel Stapleton (Graduate Student Representative); Susan Ingram (WebSysAdmin), Jonathan Hart (CRCL)

Members present (32): Susan Ingram, Markus Reisenleitner, Paul Morris, Jonathan Hart, Asma Sayed, Lauren Beard, Rachel Stapleton, Jonathan Allan, Albert Braz, Susan Niazi, Andrea Valente, Jessica Tsui-Yan Li, Yi Chen, Joseph Pivato, Janice Zehentvauer, Cristina Santos, Tracy Crowe Morey, Jerry White, Monique Tschofen, Doris Hambuch, Elisabeth Tutschek, Catherine Phillips, Julia Polych-O'Neill, Kevin McGuinness, Colin Dignam, Joshua Synenko, Kathryn Franklin, Inga Untiks, Justine Derry, Amir Khadem, Pushpa Acharya, Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard

Opening Remarks:

President Markus Reisenleitner opened the meeting; he welcomed the CCLA members and thanked Albert Braz for organizing the conference, and Cristina Santos and Kevin McGuinnis – the very helpful local organizers.

Conference Program Chair's Report:

Albert Braz thanked members of the executive for sorting abstracts and translating the CFP into French. There was a brief discussion about abstract sorting process. Albert suggested that the abstract submission deadline for future conferences should be moved forward to Dec. 15 – earlier submission would ensure enough time for screening the abstracts and planning the program.

Media and Communication Officer's Report:

Asma Sayed reported that she attended the Federation meeting on behalf of the CCLA. Federation officials informed that many large universities are unwilling to host Congress, and thus the Federation now depends on smaller universities for hosting Congress. 8000 members registered for Congress in 2014 – 39% are graduate students. Approximately 5 to 8% of the delegates are from the U.S. There was

a discussion about the possibility of attracting international scholars. SSHRC is now stressing open access; funding was being made available for open access monographs and journals. Asma asked if the Federation was doing anything to help find funding for grad students/underemployed (given that SSHRC cut the CCLA's \$ 3000/yr. grant); she also asked what role, if any, the Federation was playing in drawing attention to the increasing dependence on contingent labour at Canadian universities. The answers were less than satisfactory.

Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the budget report was provided to all members present. Paul Morris, the Treasurer, reported that the CCLA budget is in the black. As per the discussions at the 2013 CCLA Executive Meeting, Paul looked into registering the CCLA as a charity; however, he found that it was not a viable option. To be a charity, the CCLA would have to demonstrate how it is beneficial to the public at large, and it would require a degree of administrative oversight – auditing, hiring an accounting agency, minutes, series of by-laws, etc. Paul mentioned that the CCLA needs to come up with a model for distributing travel funds to grad students/underemployed members consistently.

Rachel Stapleton suggested that we could use SSHRC guidelines. Jerry White suggested creating a separate account for travel funds. Susan Ingram suggested that we could be to just cover Congress and association fees. Asma suggested looking into the CWSA model – CWSA requests tenured faculty members to donate funds for grad students/underemployed, as the CAUTG does. Cristina Santos suggested that we could simply add a line in membership form asking delegates to donate to the grad student fund.

All the grad students and underemployed were requested to send their registration fee receipts for refunds.

Report on the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*:

Copies of the report were circulated by Jonathan Hart, who reported that the CRCL is rated as an 'A' journal by the European Union and that it is a pluralistic journal which publishes in various languages. At times reviewer response times slow the process, but journal publication is on track.

WebSysAdmin Report:

Susan Ingram reported that the CCLA website needs to be updated. She requested members to send her CFPs, announcements, etc. for posting.

Constitution Update:

Rachel Stapleton provided a detailed overview of the proposed changes to the Constitution. The new Constitution will be posted on the website for the membership to review and suggest changes, following which, 30 days later, an online vote will be held.

Membership:

It was proposed that the 2014 membership year be extended to December 31st. Future membership years will run from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Cristina Santos moved the motion; Jonathan Allan seconded. All in favour.

Meeting adjourned: 7:02 p.m.