

## **2000 MINUTES FROM THE CWSA/ACEF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 28, 2000, University of Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta  
Prepared by Liz Kaethler, Executive Manager**

### **WELCOME**

Minutes of the 1999 Annual General Meeting were tabled.

Questions: Arising from the Minutes of the 1999 Annual General Meeting:

V. Golini inquired whether there had been any report to HSSFC regarding WS programs. Due to time restraints, CWSA was unable to undertake this report. The necessity of such a report was recognized, as was the need for funding and the formation of an interdisciplinary committee to undertake the work.

Motion to approve the minutes of the 1999 Annual General Meeting:

Moved: G. Kelson

Second: K. Fulton

Carried.

### **HSSFC REPORT**

J. Hearst, L. Robert and C. Alexander made reports on three aspects of the work of HSSFC. C. Alexander outlined the three pillars of HSSFC's work: advocacy, research dissemination, annual Congress. Members were encouraged to visit the HSSFC web site ([www.hssfc.ca](http://www.hssfc.ca)) for more information regarding lobbying efforts.

J. Hearst spoke about the Aid to Scholarly Publication (ASP) program which is currently being reviewed. It is possible that funding will be made available for the publication of conference proceedings; these proceedings may include previously published materials, providing they are augmented and revised to make a coherent contribution to the new publication.

C. Alexander described HSSFC's efforts to bring colloquia to the Congress, such as the Women in the Academy Roundtable discussion. The roundtable was the start of a dialogue to develop a proposal under the Grant for Innovation or Rethinking Productivity. The WIN Steering Committee has been expanded to include the President of the CWSA.

L. Robert commented on the success of the current Congress, and acknowledged the challenges posed by last year's Congress. There are three Special Topics for next year's conference: Intellectual in Society; Plagues and Viruses; Language, Culture and Society. HSSFC also encouraged CWSA to change the mandate of the President to a two year mandate from its current one year mandate. HSSFC will be increasing its dues by \$2.00 per regular member in the next year.

Comments: Various comments were made about the need for clearer communication between the HSSFC and its member associations. The President thanked the HSSFC representatives.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President reported on her activities on behalf of CWSA. She networked extensively with CAUT, HSSFC, WIN, and SSHRC, both through letter-writing and at meetings in Ottawa. She was invited to participate in a Roundtable on Women and the Academy in

Ottawa, and then again in Edmonton during the Congress. The Executive met at Brock University in September to set the agenda for the year, which focussed on finances and policy development. A search for a new Treasurer was launched then, and Anne Forrest (U Windsor) accepted the position. She stressed the importance of fundraising for the Association, and mentioned the three fundraising events held this spring: a silent auction at UNBC, a dinner featuring special guest Judy Rebick at Brock, and a raffle held at McGill. These fundraising efforts helped to raise the profile of the Association. The President thanked the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair and the Margaret Lawrence Chair for their significant financial contributions to the Association this year. At present, few WS departments are members of the Association; in addition, the number of individual members does not reflect the numbers of faculty working in Women's Studies departments. The President pointed out that the web site had been revived and was being used as a vehicle for informing members of Association news and events. This is of particular importance, given that the Association was able to produce only a single newsletter this year. However, members were kept informed of Association activities through the web site and through regular e-mail bulletins. In conclusion, the President thanked the Executive Manager and the members of the Executive Committee for their hard work throughout the year; the Women's Studies Chairs, Directors and Co-ordinators who supported her work through the year; and the organizers, session chairs and presenters at Conference 2000.

#### **EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Executive Manager introduced herself and described the functions of the office. Members were encouraged to keep in touch with the office, and to inform the office of changes in their addresses.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

See attached document.

##### Discussion:

Various members suggested ways to improve the financial situation of CWSA, including raising membership fees, creating a new category of membership, encouraging new institutional members. It was suggested that a system of campus representatives to encourage memberships could be developed. Roberta Robb pointed out that Brock had held a very successful fundraising event, and queried whether other WS programs would be interested in holding similar events. It was suggested that not all WS programs can support events, and that seeking additional members would be more feasible. Questions were asked as to why the membership had not been informed of the budget shortfall during the year.

Moved by the Treasurer: That the membership affirm that CWSA operate so that the organization does not consistently have expenses which exceed revenues. A series of motions were then brought to the membership by the Executive Committee for discussion and ratification.

##### 1. Motion #1

Moved that the following additions and changes be made to the Executive Committee, to facilitate applying for grants and other funding:

- (a) Rename the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors
- (b) rename the Incoming President to VicePresident/President Elect
- (c) nominate 2 members-at-large to be drawn from community, and/or college and university faculty and staff with an interest in and commitment to Women's Studies to focus on outreach and involvement and CWSA fundraising

Seconded: V. Golini  
Carried

Motion #2

Moved: that a nominating committee be struck to seek out nominations for CWSA Board of Directors. The nominating committee shall be comprised of VP/President Elect; one past executive member; one student member. Their responsibility shall be to provide a slate of candidates for all positions that will be vacant as of the next AGM.

A Levan : amend motion to read "past president" instead of VP/President Elect.

Motion to pass amended motion.

Second: K Fulton

Carried.

Motion #3

That the Executive Manager should be given autonomy, in consultation with the executive, to organize fundraising events.

Second: R Robb

Carried

Motion #4

That the CWSA return to a fixed membership year. A member will remain on the mailing list for one year after they default in paying their dues but during that year they would not be a member in good standing. To become a member in good standing again, the individual will be required to pay all outstanding dues, to a maximum of three years.

After discussion, the motion was put to a vote. Defeated

New Motion: Moved that CWSA return to fixed year to be determined later by the Board.

Second: B Neuman

Carried

Motion #5

Moved: That a new category of membership, named "Sustaining Member" be created to allow members and non-members to make gifts to the CWSA over and above membership dues.

Second: K MacFarlane

Carried

Motion #6

Moved: That membership fee structure be altered: Individual/paid members earning \$25000 or more: \$50/year. Individual/paid members earning less than \$25000/year: \$25/year. Student/unwaged members: \$15/year.

Discussion: Proposed that 'less than \$25 000/year' be changed to 'low income.'

Second: L Christiansen-Ruffman

Carried

Proposed (L Christiansen-Ruffman) that sliding scale for Institutional members be determined by Board

Second: K. Fulton

Motion (A Forrest): That membership fee structure by altered: Individual/waged members

earning \$25 000/year or more: \$50/year. Low income members \$25/year.  
Student/unwaged members \$15/year. Institutional members: sliding scale to be determined by Board.  
Second: S Rosenberg  
Carried

### **ELECTIONS**

Election by ballot was held for the position of President-Elect.  
Shree Mulla elected.

Motion to destroy ballots. Seconded (Ann Denis)

Nomination for member-at-large  
Ann Braithwaite (nominated by Karen MacFarlane)  
Caroline Weber (nominated by Anne Forrest)

Motion to close nominations. (Linda Christiansen-Ruffman)

### **NEW PRESIDENT**

Susan Heald assumed presidency. She encouraged the formation of caucuses. She outlined briefly the plans for 2000-01: increasing the membership, paying down debt. There is no local organizer in place for the conference at Laval. Dates for the conference: May 25-26-27, in the middle of the conference. CWSA theme will be determined at a later date. Members were invited to make suggestions for a conference theme. A request for members for the Nominating Committee will be sent to members via e-mail.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motions presented re: Women's Studies at SSHRC

1. That women's Studies/études féministes be recognized as a discipline by SSHRC and have a place among the discipline committees. To be communicated to SSHRC and HSSFC.
2. That in the Strategic Grants Program a specific theme on women be maintained and defined with a broad focus on diverse women, including those identified by race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, disability, age, geographic location, colonial status, etc.
3. That all strategic themes include pertinent reference to diverse women, including those identified by race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, disability, age, geographic location, colonial status, etc.
4. That the discipline committees recognize and encourage feminist scholarship within the discipline committees recognize and encourage feminist scholarship within the disciplines and that SSHRC monitor these committees for that recognition and encouragement.
5. That SSHRC ensure that the Chairs Program and other SSHRC initiatives are inclusive of women, as researchers and subjects of research in all granting areas. In the Chair Program, for example, a mandatory incentive structure should ensure that second round allocation is predicated on including diverse women including those from #2 above and feminist topics in the first round.

The first four of these motions (with a slight wording change in #2) were passed during the October 18-19th symposium on "Women, Research and Strategies". They were supported by the executives of both the Social Science Federation of Canada and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities at that time. They were recently passed at the symposium, Women in the Academy: Global Warming and the Chilly Climate, on May 26, 2000.)

Motion proposed by Linda Christiansen-Ruffman  
Seconded: Ann Denis  
Carried: unanimous

Proposed: That this meeting endorse the suggestion for a new Strategic Theme made by the Women and Change adjudication committee at SSHRC: Women, Locations, Resistance  
Moved: Linda Christiansen-Ruffman  
Seconded: Ann Denis  
Carried: unanimous

Proposed: Re: Ethics -- That SSHRC take immediate steps to ensure that the ethics approval processes do not distort qualitative research in the humanities and social sciences, including critical research, participant observation, qualitative research and naturalistic research. That SSHRC and the Tri-0Council explicitly recognize feminist methodologies, including participatory action research, in order to ensure that such methodological approaches are not defined as 'bad science' by committees.  
Moved: Linda Christiansen-Ruffman  
Second: Ann Denis  
Carried: unanimous

Call for campus volunteers to help with renewal of CWSA membership. Karen MacFarlane volunteered to be a co-ordinator of campus reps.