

**Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes
AGM 2014
Brock University
May 26, 2014
4:45 – 6:15 pm
Submitted by Heather Hillsburg, WGSRF Secretary**

1. Announcement

One AGM attendee asked to make an announcement at the outset of the meeting. Prince Edward Island now has doctors who are willing to provide abortions, but the province now claims that there are insufficient funds to allow abortions. Academics (particularly feminist academics) are being asked to sign a petition to support a new abortion initiative in Prince Edward Island. The attendee circulated a hand out, letter, and other information. This issue is particularly urgent in light of the recent closure of the Morgantaler clinic in New Brunswick, which leaves New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island women without access to abortions. Ann Braithwaite spoke about the necessity for this initiative, the politics surrounding the project, and the different people involved.

2. Welcome

Annalee Lepp, president, welcomed everyone to the AGM. She extended thanks to everyone who contributed to making this conference happen: the conference participants as well as members of the executive, the conference program committee and administrator, the membership administrator, the local organizers, and the awards committees.

3. Approval of Agenda

One amendment: Agenda item 5f. should read "Graduate Essay Prize Committee Report." There is no motion attached to the Graduate Essay Prize.

Motion: Marie Lovrod moved to approve the agenda.

Second: Heather Latimer

Motion Carried.

4. Approval of 2013 AGM Minutes

Motion: Ann Braithwaite moved to approve the 2013 AGM Minutes

Second: Mary Bunch seconded

Motion Carried.

5. Business Arising

None

6. Reports and Motions

a) President's Report – Annalee Lepp

The primary work of the WGSRF executive over the past year has been organizing this year's conference at Brock University. Annalee Lepp extended a big thank you to the following people for their amazing work in making this conference possible: **Susanne Luhmann** (University of Alberta), WGSRF Conference Organizing Liaison and Conference Program Committee Co-Chair; **Ann Braithwaite** (University of Prince Edward Island), Conference Program Committee

Co-Chair; **Danielle Normandeau** (University of Alberta), Conference Administrator; **Wendee Kubik** (Brock University), Local Conference Organizer; and **Shannon Moore** (Brock University) and **Marie Lovrod** (University of Saskatchewan and WGSRF President Elect), Conference Program Committee members; the conference abstract reviewers; and the many students at Brock University who have come forward to assist during the conference. She also wished to thank additional members of the WGSRF Executive for their incredible work for the association in 2013-2014: **Ilya Parkins** (UBC Okanagan), Coordinators' Liaison and Coordinators' Meeting Organizer; **Rhiannon Bury** (Athabasca University), Treasurer; **Heather Latimer** (UBC), Membership Coordinator; **Heather Hillsburg** (Ottawa), Secretary; and **Haley Turnbull** (McMaster), Communications Officer. She also extended great appreciation to **Mylène Dorcé** for her ongoing translation work, as well as to the dedicated members of the Outstanding Scholarship Prize Committee (**Bobby Noble**, York University; **Leah Allen**, Duke University; **Thea Cacchioni**, University of Victoria; and **Florence Pasche Guignard**, University of Toronto), the Graduate Essay Prize Committee (**Jocelyn Thorpe**, University of Manitoba; **Krista Lynes**, Concordia University; **Hans Rollman**, York University; and **Patty Douglas**, University of Toronto), and the Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee (**Danielle Cooper**, York University; **Wendee Kubik**, Brock University; **Gary Lee Pelletier**, York University; **Kate Daley**, York University; and **Heather Latimer**, UBC). And finally, she wished to extend a big thanks to **Rachel Bergen** (Victoria), the WGSRF Membership Administrator, for her hard work over the last two years, and the WGSRF membership for continuing to support the association, including those who donated so generously to the WGSRF Student, Unwaged, and Low Income Conference Travel Fund.

Annalee Lepp noted a few items of business for consideration:

- i. SSHRC cancelled the Aid and Attendance Grants to Scholarly Associations, which has hurt the WGSRF Travel Fund. The association initiated a new membership structure in order to raise additional funds to ensure that students and lower waged participants can attend the conference. The base membership has remained the same (\$75.00), but we created three new categories (\$100.00, \$150.00, and \$200.00). The amount above the base membership is allocated to the WGSRF Travel Fund. In 2013-2014, the association raised an additional \$1600.00 through this initiative. However, we need to raise more funds as the demand for travel assistance is generally around \$4000.00. If the membership has any specific fundraising suggestions, please bring them to Annalee Lepp's attention.
- ii. The WGSRF needs a logo. There is a \$200.00 allocated to hire someone to design a logo. We are hoping that the logo will be modern, edgy, and dynamic and consistent with the association's vision and political mandate; it also has to be recognizable.
- iii. This marks the end of Annalee Lepp's term as president. She indicated that she very much enjoyed facilitating the work of the association. Marie Lovrod, as President Elect, will take the position as President. A warm welcome to Marie!

b) Treasurer's Report – Rhiannon Bury

Rhiannon Bury was pleased to report to the membership that our finances continue to be in good shape for the year ending December 31, 2013. The income statement and bank reconciliation information that she prepared for the AGM were not audited. The last audit was done of the 2012 financial statements. The next audit will be of the 2014 financials.

❖ **2013 Income Statement (Highlights)**

- For the first time in recent years, our expenditures \$ **24, 501.32** exceeded our revenue of \$ **23,293.85**, resulting in a net loss of \$ **1,207.47**.
- In 2012, we had a net income of \$ **2,179.71**.

❖ **2013 Bank Reconciliation**

- In March 2013, we closed the original CWSA account and transferred the balance to the WGSRF account. The December 31 balance was \$ **31,242.17**
- The book balance was \$ **29,734.30** with two outstanding cheques for a total of \$ **1,507.87**. The difference between the book balance and the account balance is \$ **0.00**.

❖ **2013 Conference (University of Victoria)**

- Expenses of \$ **17,150.18** (adjusted figure) far exceeded revenues of \$ **7,385.00** for a record net loss of \$ **9,765.18**.
- In 2012, we had a net loss of \$ **4102.99**. The size of the loss is related to the Travel Fund (next item).

❖ **2013 Student/Low Waged Travel Fund**

- On January 1 the Travel Fund had a carry forward of \$ **7,758.87**. To maintain this carry forward, we are not distributing a maximum of \$300.00 per person who requests travel assistance. The importance of the new membership scheme to raise funds for the WGSRF Travel Fund was emphasized.
- We received a total of \$ **1360.00** in donations from members.
- We paid out a total of \$ **5831.08** to 24 eligible applicants.
- On December 31 the Travel Fund had a closing balance of \$ **3,287.79**.

One participant reported on attending a Congress wide meeting, where Federation representatives were present. She asked about the cancelled Aid and Attendance Grants to Scholarly Associations and the Federation representatives replied that they need statistical data about student attendance because it seems as though students continue to attend in large numbers even though the funding program was eliminated. She further noted that SSHRC recognizes that more students are attending, but given the job climate, more students feel obligated to attend and thus need the monetary support more. The elimination of the Aid and Attendance Grants also makes it harder (and decreases participation) when Congress is in less centrally located universities. Moreover, larger universities are reluctant to host Congress and so more remote universities are hosting, which also inhibits low waged individuals from attending.

c) Membership Report – Heather Latimer, Member at Large and Rachel Bergen, Membership Administrator

As of 15 May 2014, the association had 189 individual members. This number is down from 225 members as of the end of 2013. At least 25 of the 2013 members did not renew their membership after the conference, so we can assume that this pattern will be repeated in the coming year. The association currently has 11 institutional memberships, 5 of which have opted for the three-year

membership option. The WGSRF is committed to keeping the student and low waged membership rates as low as possible.

d) Outstanding Scholarship Prize Committee Report

The Outstanding Scholarship Prize Committee consisted of four members: Bobby Noble (York), Leah Allen (Duke), Thea Cacchioni (Victoria), and Florence Pasche Guignard (Toronto). The committee read 14 books including 6 edited collections; 2 of the books were in French. The committee was impressed with the richness and high quality of the books nominated for the national prize.

Outstanding Scholarship Prize Winner:

Elizabeth Podnieks (Ryerson University), ed., *Mediating Moms: Mothers in Popular Culture* (McGill-Queen's, 2012).

According to the prize committee, "Elizabeth Podnieks' edited volume, *Mediating Moms: Mothers in Popular Culture*, which explores the diverse mediations of mothers, motherhood, and mothering makes an important contribution to media studies, cultural studies, and gender studies. *Mediating Moms* also constitutes an important addition to the burgeoning field of motherhood studies, with contributions focusing on mothers and media in Canada and in international contexts. The central question of the book, examined from a variety of methodological perspectives, is the representation of mothers in both traditional media (television, film, newspapers, magazine, fiction) and online media, with a particular focus on key issues such as maternal surveillance, generational motherhood, pregnant and postpartum bodies, as well as medical and reproductive technologies. Dr. Podnieks' editorial work introduces and brings together a selection of twenty excellent papers that explore the many ways mothers are spoken for in the media, but also how they speak for themselves and negotiate the tensions between representations and reality. *Mediating Moms* offers insightful and original perspectives on how maternity is culturally constructed and how twenty-first century mothers themselves engage critically and reflexively with such representations."

Outstanding Scholarship Prize Honorable Mention:

Sharon Anne Cook (University of Ottawa), *Sex, Lies, and Cigarettes: Canadian Women, Smoking, and Visual Culture, 1880-2000* (McGill-Queen's, 2012).

According to the prize committee, "*Sex, Lies, and Cigarettes: Canadian Women, Smoking, and Visual Culture, 1880-2000* is a fascinating and beautifully researched historical analysis of the complex relationship between sexuality, commodity capitalism, women, and smoking. Cook's text is a rich and nuanced study that the Outstanding Scholarship Committee felt worthy of special acknowledgement."

e) Graduate Essay Prize Committee Report

The members of the Graduate Essay Prize Committee included Patty Douglas (Toronto), Krista Lynes (Concordia), Hans Rollmann (York), and Jocelyn Thorpe (Manitoba). The committee reviewed a total of five papers submitted for the award. The papers varied in methodology and subject matter, but each sought to provide an intersectional approach to questions of gender. Several papers addressed questions of sexuality, and especially the intersection of feminism, gender studies, and trans studies. Papers also addressed the specific legacy of settler colonialism and racism in shaping First Nations women's lives. The committee was very impressed by

several of the papers, and it required some exciting debate (debate central to the stakes of the field) to rank the top three papers. This year's entries for the Graduate Essay Prize truly epitomized the vast range of styles, literatures, and sub-disciplines subsumed within the broader field of Women's and Gender Studies. From the potentials and possibilities of speculative theory to the empirical analysis of hard data, Women's and Gender Studies stays true to its roots as an inter-discipline while constantly growing to draw in new and provocative innovations rooted in the lived experience of our communities and individual lives. The committee's deliberations were collegial and no difficulties were encountered. The process went extremely smoothly.

Graduate Essay Prize Winner:

Karen Lawford (University of Ottawa), "Locating Invisible Policies: Health Canada's Evacuation Policy as a Case Study."

According to the committee, "This year's winning paper offered a superlative demonstration of what our field can offer when it comes to striving to improve the lives of those marginalized and ignored by inadequate and uncoordinated state activity.

The paper, 'Locating invisible policies: Health Canada's evacuation policy as a case study,' is a public policy paper par excellence. The author identifies a glaring public policy concern and deploys a combination of innovative thinking and analysis, grounded in literature and data sets, to analyze the inadequacies of government policy and its impact on individuals and communities, as well as to propose creative ways of addressing the problem. In this paper, the author describes an initial tool for revealing 'invisible' policies, which the author describes as being made apparent by three criteria: allocation of resources, material impacts, and reactions. Using these criteria, the author reveals long-standing "evacuation policy" as a genuine and authentic policy, which is currently applied to those First Nations populations falling under federal jurisdiction. Not resting content to merely analyze this phenomenon, the student's contribution to policy analysis is to provide another tool to close a gap in the literature with respect to the analysis of 'invisible' policies.

'Locating Invisible Policies' offers an excellent model not just for students but for researchers in our field more broadly: it offers an important policy intervention around invisible strategies of ruling and Aboriginal health, and makes a genuine, original and creative contribution to the literature. At a time when it is all too easy to surrender to the despair of neoliberal policy regimes, the author proposes a methodological tool that is well thought out and has immense potential impact in tackling the problems the author identifies. We were pleased to select this paper for the 2014 Graduate Essay Prize and we encourage the author to seek publication of this excellent and important paper."

Graduate Essay Prize – Second Prize Winner

Zaren Healy White (Memorial University), "Femaleness, Fakeness, Freakery: Nina Arsenault's Male to Female Transformation."

According to the committee, "The paper demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the queer and transgender theory discussed, as well as an ability to apply the theory to an important contemporary figure, one who, as the author shows, simultaneously does and undoes femininity, heterosexuality, and the 'real' in both her life and her art. The essay shows that a close reading

and application of key texts in gender and trans studies can still provide insight into our contemporary world.”

f) Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee Report

The committee was comprised of five members: Danielle Cooper (York), Wendee Kubik (Brock), Gary Lee Pelletier (York), Kate Daley (York), and Heather Latimer (UBC). It reviewed eight anonymous undergraduate essays. The review process consisted of setting up a google document where each member independently ranked the essays. The document allowed us to indicate our first and second choices, as well as to provide short comments. Once we had all conducted our rankings, we realized that we had unanimously chosen the same essay as number one and that we had a tie for number two. The first ranked essay became our winner, and the two others honorable mentions. Heather Latimer and Kate Daley then wrote short citations about the winning essays on behalf of the committee. Overall, the quality of the essays was extremely high and we were all impressed with the scholarship—this is reflected in selecting two honorable mentions this year instead of one. The process was very collegial.

Undergraduate Essay Prize Winner:

Jodi Beniuk (University of Victoria), “All of My Relations: Reclaiming the Stories of Our Indigenous Grandmothers.”

According to the committee, “‘All of My Relations: Reclaiming the Stories of our Indigenous Grandmothers’ is an exceptional piece of scholarship. It is a theoretically rich analysis of the importance of using Indigenous theories, such as felt theory and theory in the flesh, in order to (in the author’s own words) ‘challenge the exclusion of Métis women from discussion of Métis peoples and shed light on the importance of Métis revitalization, resurgence and ultimately, decolonization.’ It is also a clear demonstration of the importance of creating archives of Métis women’s histories and experiences, and of using inherited, Indigenous knowledge-making practices in order to create such archives.

Beautifully written, theoretically dense, and expertly structured, ‘All My Relations’ is both an essay and a creative act. It is a thorough and detailed analysis of the ways ‘Indigenous women's experiences have been discredited by Western forms of knowledge production, such as those ways of being and knowing often dominant in academic institutions.’ It is also a record of the author’s own personal experiences interviewing her grandmother (her Grambear) about her family’s history, and of creating an accompanying hand-crafted book of Grambear’s stories. This book (photos of which were included with the essay) is designed to be ‘passed down to future generations’ and to highlight three key themes in Grambear’s stories that are significant to the author and of vital importance to Métis women today: violence towards Indigenous women; sharing knowledges; and the importance of community and family.

As the author notes, in the process of listening, compiling, and documenting Grambear’s stories and lessons, she, as well future generations, can use the book to engage in a ‘process of revitalization, resurgence, and decolonization’ by sharing ‘knowledges and teachings with each other as a means of healing from the impacts of colonialism.’ This is arguably something the essay’s readers can engage in as well, if they are willing to open themselves up and feel in their flesh, as the author suggests, how Grambear’s stories and the author’s interpretations, are linked to decolonization.

In both writing an academic essay and engaging in the construction of a book, the creation of which the author carefully outlines (describing, for instance, the process of tanning the leather cover and the importance of the book's beadwork) the author uses several forms of Indigenous knowledge-making in order for the 'brutal realities of ongoing colonialism to be heard, felt, and theorized' on multiple levels. I speak for the entire committee when I say that one of the reasons this essay is so deeply moving is because it functions on these multiple levels. It is therefore a significant piece of scholarship; one that reminds us that at its best, women's and gender studies scholarship is simultaneously radical, transformative, and communal."

Undergraduate Essay Prize – Second Prize Winner

Astri Jack (UBC Okanagan), "Geography of the Call Girl: The Plating and Consumption of Working Women."

According to the committee, "'Geography of the Call Girl' is an ambitious yet thoughtful look at the careful construction of fantasy in sex work performed by high-end call girls. The author carefully outlines the three ways in which she argues such fantasy is produced. In so doing, she makes a rich theoretical contribution to the study of sex work.

Yet this essay's contribution goes further. This paper shows three related and impressive accomplishments. First, the author places the agency of call girls at the centre of her analysis. She is, as she says, 'concerned with the fantasy she shrouds herself in to *prepare* for the transaction' (p. 3). The author takes as her starting point the activities and decisions of sex workers, and this attentiveness is woven throughout the paper.

Second, the author is not content with abstractions. She instead draws carefully on detailed examples from real sex work advertising, as well as from a novel by a former sex worker and published academic work. Despite applying a theoretical model to describe the creation of fantasy by call girls, she keeps her account closely connected to the day-to-day practices and experiences of particular call girls. While she names general processes, any generalisations are grounded and illuminating, rather than obscuring.

The combination of these factors leaves the reader with a certain sense of immediacy: the paper closes the gap between the reader and the women whose practices are being studied. The author makes space to consider the perspectives, needs, and experiences of those who have often been flatly objectified in academic accounts. All in all, this paper shows a high level of scholarship that engages creatively and directly with interesting and crucial questions in feminist research."

Undergraduate Essay Prize – Second Prize Winner

Michelle Moreno (University of Victoria), "In Search of Home: A Critical Self-Exploration in History, Identity and Diaspora Subjectivity."

According to the committee, "'In Search of Home' is a personally rich project. As the author says, she 'has been searching for a piece of *me* in university scholarship that I have been unable to find,' as 'a queer, mixed-race woman of colour' (p. 1). She continues her search through this project.

The essay is accompanied by a ‘graphic narrative zine’ (p. 2) which chronicles the author’s findings as she sought to explore her family’s diasporic history, and her active efforts to engage with her grandmother to learn about her own past. The focus on this particular relationship, with its author’s accompanying narrative and drawings, brings a clarity of voice that grounds the work and keeps it connected with the material realities of the author’s search for home.

This project goes far beyond simple family history. For the author, her own experience of diaspora is closely linked to her contemporary experiences, in which ‘my skin marks my body as Other to the colonial project’ (p. 5). Woven throughout the project is a strong sense of the way that global forces have shaped her family and her sense of self.

The connection between the zine and the essay is explicitly and consistently theorised throughout the essay. The author identifies her zine with a ‘long’ feminist ‘tradition of zine making’ (p. 8). She also carefully describes her process in creating the zine, along with a number of her creative choices. She engages substantively with the unexpected emotional and personal journey that was an integral component of the project, and the way in which her journey home ‘was part of the symbolic process of healing work provided by this project’ (p. 13). Thus the artistic, personal, and political project is consistently framed as a theoretical and scholarly one, as well.

In the end, this essay is a significant contribution to addressing the problems the author identifies of ‘the white experience’ that ‘is still universalized as the norm inside and outside the university’ (p. 1). Not finding space for herself, she made it. It is a sight to see.”

g) Conference Committee Report – Susanne Luhmann (presented by Ann Braithwaite)

This year’s program committee consisted of the following members:

- Susanne Luhmann and Ann Braithwaite (co-chairs)
- Marie Lovrod
- Wendee Kubic and Shannon Moore (local organizers)
- Danielle Normandeau (program administrator).

The program committee also received a lot of support from the outgoing president, Annalee Lepp. In addition, we had twelve outside reviewers who anonymously reviewed all proposals. (Thank you to: Joanne Muzak, Jennifer Brady, Jennifer Gartner, Ela Przybylo, Amber Dean, Corinne Mason, Clarie Carter, Janet Smith, Weronika Rogula, Katie Aubrecht, Karen McCallum, and Cristina Stasia.)

In total, we received 76 paper proposals (4 of which were French language submissions) and 26 proposals for panels, a total of 102 submissions. The final program includes 22 of the 26 submitted proposals as well as 55 papers (2 French language papers). Needless to say that the acceptance rate for fully formed panels is much higher than for individually submitted papers.

All submissions underwent a rigorous anonymous review process: the program administrator anonymized each proposal, which was then sent out and read by two external reviewers. The programming committee used their respective assessments (coherence of proposal, quality of scholarship, relevance for conference, etc.) to accept panels and to form sessions from individual paper submissions. This process was adopted because previously, there were only three abstract

reviewers. People whose papers were not accepted were sometimes very angry with the committee. In an effort to protect vulnerable committee members (graduate students and sessional instructors) as well as abstract reviewers, it was decided to make the process more anonymous. Ann Braithwaite further recommended that it is important that the person who sends out the rejections is protected (i.e. is not a graduate student) in case there is push back.

The new process adopted this year proved to be extremely cumbersome, both in regard to the mail out and recording process, and in the assemblage of the sessions. Basically, the program committee had to reread all accepted proposals again in order to be able to form coherent sessions. Based on the kind of commitment required and our limited resources, I suggest that next year, we simplify the process and have a smaller group of reviewers (4-5) who are part of the program committee and who also assemble the sessions, once the review process is concluded. The review process would still be anonymous and each proposal would continue to be read by two reviewers.

In order to streamline the program committee and make clearer the responsibilities of the members, Susanne Luhmann suggested the following structure for the program committee:

Conference Program Committee and Chair (2015 Congress - Ottawa) – (6-8 members plus local organizers)

i) Keynotes (1-2 people) – Develop suggestions in discussion with committee and board; invite and communicate with keynote speakers; write Federation funding applications and final report; publicize with Congress and other relevant associations; organize introductions and hosting

ii) Programming (4-5 people) - Review anonymous proposals; develop draft program; keep track of changes; produce the final program with program chair and program administrator; organize cross-listed sessions; organize association initiated sessions on professional development, etc.

iii) Special Events Organization (1 person) - Receptions, awards, scholarly achievement, cultural events, etc.

iv) Conference Local Arrangements Organizer (1 person)

Thanks were extended to all members of the program committee for their hard work; without them this conference would not be possible. Special thanks were also extended to the student conference administrator, Danielle Normandeau, who did an exceptional job keeping track of the many details involved in putting this program together.

h) Coordinators' Meeting Report

Ilya Parkins organized the meeting, which took place on Saturday before the conference began. This year's meeting was less well attended (17 coordinators attended); however, the smaller group allowed for networking and great discussion of various issues. Topics included program prioritization, which is being adopted in various institutions, as well as the politics of

internationalization; various challenges and strategies were shared across programs and institutions.

i) Communications Report

Haley Turnbull, the Communication Officer, undertook the major project of re-organizing the WGSRF website and the membership payment options. After experiencing some challenges, everything appears to be working smoothly now. Currently, more than two-thirds of WGSRF members use PayPal to take out or renew their memberships. The 2014 WGSRF conference is being widely publicized on social media by Haley Turnbull and Ann Braithwaite in particular.

6. Elections

- a) President (2014-2016): Marie Lovrod (Saskatchewan), incoming president.
- b) Treasurer (2014-16): Heather Latimer (UBC) nominated. Annalee Lepp called for any further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. Heather Latimer acclaimed for a two-year term.
- c) Member-at-Large #1: Coordinators' Liaison (2014-2016): Annalee Lepp (Victoria) nominated. Annalee Lepp called for any further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. Annalee Lepp acclaimed for a two-year term.
- d) Member-at-Large #3: Membership Coordinator (2014-2016): Rachel Hurst (St. Francis Xavier) nominated. Annalee Lepp called for further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. Rachel Hurst acclaimed for a two-year term.

7. Selection for Members for Committees

- a) Conference Program Committee Chair
 - i. Chair: Susanne Luhmann
 - ii) Lead on Keynotes (1-2 people): Ann Braithwaite
 - iii) Lead on Programming (4-5 people): Jennifer Brady and Tegan Zimmerman
 - iv) Lead on Special Events: vacant
- b) Conference Local Organizer: Marie Lovrod will contact Michel Orsini, Director of the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa, to solicit a local organizer
- c) Outstanding Scholarship Prize Committee: Bobby Noble (York), Hans Rollman (York), Connie Guberman (Toronto), Kristen Rodier (Alberta), Ilya Parkins (UBC Okanagan).
- d) Graduate Essay Prize Committee: Sonja Boon (Memorial), Mary Bunch (Toronto), Wendy Peters (Nipissing).
- e) Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee: Alana Cattapan (York/Dalhousie), Danielle Cooper (York), Julie Dowsett (York), Sarah Dorchak (Calgary), Samantha Balzer (Alberta), Emma McKenna (McMaster)

Annalee Lepp noted that a notice to the membership will go out to fill any vacant positions.

There was one question that arose from the floor about committee membership; i.e. is there any specific criteria for volunteering for these committees. Annalee Lepp noted that it is important to protect graduate students from any conflicts of interest or power imbalances. However, in 2013-2014, two Ph.D. candidates sat on the Outstanding Scholarship Prize Committee and it worked well. It is important that this committee has 1-2 members who have reading fluency in French.

8. New Business

a) Annalee Lepp received an email from a contract faculty member who asked if WGSRF could create an executive position for contract faculty members. The question of creating a specific position for graduate students had also been discussed. She suggested that, given the fluidity of the lives of session instructors and graduate students, such position would have a one-year term (AGM to AGM). These positions would be intended to create more space for graduate and contract faculty and give them opportunities to voice their concerns to the association and its executive; their responsibilities would include promoting the association, organizing conference sessions of interest to their constituencies, etc. One AGM attendee indicated that the sessional representatives in ACCUTE wrote up a 'best practices' document that addressed sessional instructor concerns that was sent to English departments; this might be a useful tool for WGSRF contract faculty.

b) In another association, there is an essay prize for contract faculty, which can be a great way for new scholars (graduated but non tenured) to gain exposure. This could function as an emerging scholar prize. A motion was forwarded for a WGSRF committee to be established to consider the creation of an emerging scholar prize, its criteria (what type of work can be nominated), eligibility (who counts as an emerging scholar and in what programs/departments), and nomination process.

c) There was also discussion about going beyond making one person more visible through a prize and having conference sessions that focus on how to change academic culture toward more tenure track hirings, professionalization and preparation for work outside academia, and precarious labour in Women's and Gender Studies programs.

9. Thank you to Departing Executive Members

Annalee Lepp thanked the following executive members whose terms have been completed: Rhiannon Bury (Athabasca) who completed four years as Treasurer; Ilya Parkins (UBC Okanagan) who completed two years as Member-at-Large Coordinators' Liaison; and Rachel Bergen who completed two years as the Membership Administrator.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Ilya Parkins moved to adjourn

Second: Rhiannon Bury

Motion carried.

In Attendance at the 2014 AGM:

Heather Latimer (University of British Columbia)

Asma Sayed (Athabasca University)

Nathalie Lozano-Weira (Simon Fraser University)

Kristen Rodier (University of Alberta),

Samantha Balzer (University of Alberta)

Mary Bunch (University of Toronto)

Alexandre Baril (CUNY)

Ariel Perrotta (University of Lethbridge)

Karrisa Patton (University of Lethbridge)

Ann Braithwaite (University of Prince Edward Island)

Wendy Peters (Nipissing University)

Tegan Zimmerman (MacEwan University)
Elli Dehnari (University of Alberta)
Susan Manning (Mount Saint Vincent University)
Alana Cattapan (YorkUniversity/Dalhousie University)
Sarah Dorchak (University of Calgary)
Heather Hillsburg (Lakehead University)
Phebe Ann Wolframe (Lakehead University)
Ilya Parkins (University of British Columbia - Okanagan)
Rhiannon Bury (Athabasca University)
Marie Lovrod (University of Saskatchewan)
Julie Dowsett (York University)
Melissa Autumn White (University of British Columbia - Okanagan)
Rachael Hurst (St. Francis Xavier University)
Linda Christiansen-Ruffman (St. Mary's University)
Ann Denis (University of Ottawa)
Alan Santinele Martino (Lethbridge University)
Annalee Lepp (University of Victoria)