

WGSRF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016
Monday, May 30, 10:30am – 12pm
Murray Fraser 162, University of Calgary
Meeting adjourned 10:44am by Marie Lovrod (President)

In attendance: Habiba Zaman, Marie Lovrod, Corinne Mason, Heather Latimer, Allyson Jule, Alana Cattapan, Annalee Lepp, Joan Simalchik, Manuela Valle-Castro, Catherine Orr, Alexandre Baril, Kathleen Cummins, Susanne Luhman, Elbieta Przybylo, Charly Wreggitt, Heather Hillsburg, Jennifer Chisholm, Jennifer Root, Rebecca Godderis, Vicki Hallett, Marcia Braundy, Isabel Prochner, Melissa Autumn White, Mary Bunch, Ann Braithwaite, Caroline Hodes, Ann Henley, Sheba Rahim, Abhar Husain, Sonja Boon, Janice Dodd, Ilya Parkins (minutes)

1. WELCOME
 - Acknowledgement of traditional territory of peoples covered by Treaty 7.
 - General announcements of events to come

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
 - Moved by Habiba Zaman, seconded by Annalee Lepp. Carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM 2015 AGM
 - Moved by Anne Quema, seconded by Heather Latimer. Carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - Appended to minutes; verbally reported by Heather Latimer.
 - Challenge of financing the conference as costs rise and membership does not increase.
 - The collaboration with Sexuality Studies Association has helped to make the conference more affordable for us.
 - There is a long-term vision for sustainability needed.
 - Encouragement to participate in strategic planning process that begins this afternoon.
 - Adoption of financial report. Moved by Heather Latimer, seconded by Annalee Lepp. Carried.

5. CONFERENCE REPORT
 - Appended to minutes; verbally reported by Corinne Mason.
 - Adoption of conference report. Moved by Corinne Mason, seconded by Marie Lovrod. Carried.

6. COORDINATORS' LIAISON REPORT
 - Appended to minutes. Verbally reported by Annalee Lepp.

- Coordinators' meeting on May 28, attended by 24 chairs, coordinators, program representatives, etc.
- Themes: administrative labour in WGS; program specialization in WGS; visibility and communications strategies, particularly at program level.
- Adoption of report moved by Annalee Lepp, seconded by Allyson Jule. Carried.

7. OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE REPORT.

- Appended to minutes. Verbally reported by Marie Lovrod.
- Committee discussed whether to introduce a separate French-language Outstanding Scholarship Prize.
- Discussion of prize criteria.
- Discussion of challenges of comparing edited collections and monographs.
- Adoption of report moved by Marie Lovrod, seconded by Alana Cattapan. Carried.

Discussion of emerging possibility of French-language prize

- Context: longer discussion of the need to be more inclusive of Francophone scholars.
- Are there enough bilingual members to take on assessment?
- There is a provision that the composition of the committee should include at least two members who can read in French.
- Alexandre Baril indicated his interest in being involved in various ways with the question of bilingualism, including the prize. Anne Quema also indicated her interest.
- There was interest in knowing whether at this point, resources are better used in other bilingual initiatives, rather than the prize. For example, simultaneous translation of the AGM or keynotes might be a better use of the funds.
- Discussion of whether our emphasis should be making this a truly bilingual organization, or whether we should really strengthen our connections with the French association. If the latter, there is a possibility to jointly sponsor a book prize, for instance, with the Francophone association.
- These elements will be carried into the strategic planning meeting

8. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

- Appended; reported by Marie Lovrod on behalf of Shannon Stetner.
- Movement toward a more mobile-friendly conference in the future, to facilitate the move toward paperless.
- Adoption of report moved by Marie Lovrod, seconded by Alana Cattapan. Carried.
- Discussion: The website is the only archive we have of WGSRF. Some recent years' archives are not on the website. It is important to have as complete an archive as possible.
- Part of the strategic planning initiative should be an archiving effort.

9. UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Appended to minutes. Verbally presented by committee member Alana Cattapan.
- Discussion: should we revisit the submission guidelines and model depending on what we would like to see of the Undergraduate Essay prize. There is a tension between the desire

for more nominations, and the limited resources of committee members in terms of workload. Discussion of criteria for a prize; should submissions be limited to courses in WGS? Alana Cattapan suggested that this year's committee will revisit this question.

10. GRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE REPORT

- Appended. Verbally presented by committee member Rebecca Godderis.

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Appended. Verbally presented by Marie Lovrod.
- Acknowledgements of Executive members and committee members, as well as local arrangement coordinators and student staff members.
- 147 new memberships and 5 institutional memberships.
- Mt. Allison women's studies closure: the Executive coordinated to respond to the crisis.
- Next year's conference will be at Ryerson: The theme is Canadian Innovation: Imagining Canada's Future: Big Thinking.

12. ASK A FEMINIST

- Allyson Jule introduced the initiative and welcomed a discussion about the name.
- Jocelyn Thorpe has taken over coordination of the initiative.
- Allyson Jule moves that the initiative be taken on, Alana Cattapan seconded. Carried.

13. EXECUTIVE SLATE

- Allyson Jule moving from President-Elect to President.
- Ilya Parkins staying on as Secretary for a second year of a two-year term.
- Heather Latimer has completed a 2-year term as Treasurer, and agreed to a second 2-year term. Acclaimed.
- Annalee Lepp is prepared to vacate the Coordinators' Liaison position, but will stay on if there are no volunteers. Acclaimed.
- In need of Conference Liaison (a two-year term): Marie Lovrod acclaimed.
- Local coordinator at Ryerson: Amina Jamal from Sociology has offered to be local coordinator.
- Communications Officers staying on for another year.
- Membership Coordinator: Ann Braithwaite acclaimed.

14. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

- Keynote speaker liaison: Susanne Luhmann
- Special Events: undecided
- Program Committee abstract adjudicators: Corinne Mason, Alana Cattapan, Ela Przybylo, Alexandre Baril, Jennifer Chisholm
- Outstanding scholarship: Manuela Valle-Castro, Hans Rollman

- Undergraduate Prize: Alana Cattapan, Vicki Hallett, Caroline Hodes, Kathleen Cummins
- Graduate Prize: Sonja Boon, Rebecca Godderis
- Strategic Planning Chair: to be decided at today's strategic planning session
- Discussion of whether there should be a bilingual initiative Executive member, or a member of the strategic planning committee who is bilingual.
- Perhaps it is wise to wait to add a bilingual position to the executive until after the strategic planning process.

15. PRECARIOUS LABOUR PANEL

- Ongoing discussions about the possibility of sponsoring such a panel, but members could not travel to Congress because of financial precarity.
- Feeling of disappointment among members of precarious labour panel about a lack of interest in the panel.
- In Toronto, there should definitely be a prioritization of this issue on the conference agenda.
- Precariously employed faculty should be able to participate in sessions via videoconference.
- This should be something that is pursued alongside other associations.
- Suggestion of connecting with some of the colleges in southern Ontario, which also employ precarious labour.
- Importance of including unions and faculty associations.
- Possibility of taking this on to the strategic planning level, as there seems to be sustained interest in this issue and this could be part of the overall discussion of what the association's future might be.
- OCUFA (Ontario University Faculty Association) should be drawn in, and Rebecca Godderis can help.
- Suggestion that one of next year's conference themes could be precarious futures.
- If there is a focus on precarity, there needs to be a prioritization on open sessions in which we can reach out to non-WGSRF members.
- Coordinators' liaison

16. LOGO

- Draft logo displayed and discussed; final decision will be left to Executive.

17. ADJOURNMENT

- Susanne Luhmann moved to adjourn meeting; Alexandre Baril seconded. Adjourned 12:12pm.

WGSRF Treasurer's Report 2016

Heather Latimer

I am pleased to report to the membership that our finances continue to be in good shape for the year ending December 31, 2015, although we continue to face a small loss in income, a trend which began in 2013. The income statement and bank reconciliation information that I have prepared for the AGM are not audited. The last audit was done of the 2012 financial statements. An audit was intended for 2014, but was not done because of cost.

❖ 2015 Income Statement (Highlights)

- For the third time in recent years, our expenditures exceeded our revenue, this time for a net loss of **\$874.94**
- This is marked improvement from the year before (2014), however, where we had a net loss of **\$3,419.64. This increase in revenue is due to increased memberships.**
- The last time we had a net income was 2012 (**\$ 2,179.71**).

❖ 2015 Bank Reconciliation

- The difference between the book balance and the account balance as of December 31, 2015 was **\$0.00** with no outstanding cheques or withdrawals. As of December 31, 2015 we had a balance of **\$ 25, 432.89**, a slight increase from 2014 (\$800).

❖ 2015 Conference (Ottawa)

- Expenses of **\$ 17,345.74** (a figure which includes cost of plenaries, administration, and travel funding, see attached for details) far exceeded revenues of **\$ 8,840.00** for a net loss of **\$8505.74** (similar to losses in previous two years).
- The conference continues to lose money yearly and this continues to be our biggest challenge as far as revenue maintenance.

❖ 2015 Student/Low Waged Travel Fund

- On January 1, 2015 the Travel Fund had a carry forward of **\$ 1, 58.34**
- We received a total of in **\$1,980.00** donations from members in 2015.
- We paid out a total of **\$530.18** to 4 eligible applicants. This is noticeable difference to 2014, where we paid 17 travelers, and allowed us to build up our fund balance, slightly.
- On December 31, 2015 the Travel Fund had a closing balance of **\$ \$2,988.16**

2015 CONFERENCE

Conference Revenue					
	Registration Fees				\$ 7,240.00
CFHSS	CFHSS International/Interdisciplinary Aid				\$ 1,000.00
CFHSS	CFHSS Interdisciplinary speaker				\$ 500.00
CFHSS	Cheque				\$ 100.00
Total					\$ 8,840.00
Conference Expenses					
CFHSS Invoice	Guests				\$ 340.00
CFHSS Invoice	Catering				\$ 4,534.16
CFHSS Invoice	Bar (hospitality)				\$ -
CFHSS Invoice	AV equipment				\$ 2,710.00
CFHSS Invoice	HST				\$ 941.81
Total CFHSS Invoice					\$ 8,525.97
Other	Plenaries				\$ 6,299.14
Other	On site volunteers				\$ 240.00
Other	Scholarship Prizes and Travel				\$ 600.00
Other	Essay Prizes and Travel				\$ 200.00
Total Other					\$ 7,339.14
TOTAL CONFERENCE SPENDING					\$ (7,025.11)
Related Expenses					
	Conference Administration				\$ 950.45
	Travel fund reimbursement				\$ 530.18
Total Related Expenses					\$ 1,480.63
CONFERENCE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)					\$ (8,505.74)

WGSRF Conference Program Liaison Report

Corinne L. Mason

2015-2016

Program Assistant: Morganna Maylon

Program committee

- Marie Lovrod
- Jessica Wright
- Amber Dean
- Jocelyn Thorpe
- Rhea Hoskin
- Miglena Todoreva
- Jennifer Johnson
- Claire Carter

I am very thankful to Marie Lovrod and Morganna Maylon who stepped into my position at the end of February when I had to take leave from the committee due to a medical issue. Morganna, in particular, played a tremendous role in organizing the conference program.

	2015	2016
Panel, Roundtable and Other proposals received total	33	22
French language	2	0
Accepted total	32 (French 2)	20 (French 0)
Paper proposals received	63	59
French language	2	2
Accepted	52 (French 1)	51 (French 2)
Final program		
Papers	49	42
Panels and Roundtables	unk	14
Keynotes	3	4
Film Screenings	unk	2

Review Process:

All submissions underwent a rigorous anonymous review process: the program administrator anonymized each proposal, which was then sent out and assessed by two external reviewers. Their recorded assessments (of clarity of proposal, quality of scholarship, argument etc.) and status (yes, maybe, no) were then used to accept/ reject panels by the program administrator and program assistant. The program administrator and program assistant created sessions from individual paper submissions.

Grants:

We were successful in securing \$1500 for our keynote speaker. We were also successful in receiving interdisciplinary funds.

Special Sessions:

- Sherilyn McGregor, University of Manchester, UK; Resistance is fertile: feminist green citizenship and the post-politics of climate change
- Dian Million, University of Washington; Therapeutic Nations: Trauma as Political Narrative, Collaboration with Critical Disabilities Studies
- Tara McPherson, University of Southern California; Digital Humanities by Design: Feminism, Aesthetics and the Digital. Collaborative Keynote with Canadian Historical and Digital Humanities Associations
- Nancy Nicol, York University; Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights: Challenges, Resilience and Hope, Joint Plenary with Sexualities Studies Association
- Meredith Ralston, Mount Saint Vincent University, Film Screening: Selling Sex

2016 Coordinators' Meeting Report – Annalee Lepp

There were 21 attendees at this year's meeting. Participants discussed issues of common interest as they pertain to both their own Women's and Gender Studies departments and programs and to WGSRF as a national association. Topics included administrative labour in Women's and Gender Studies programs; program specialization and how do or could WGS programs and departments differentiate themselves; and visibility and communications strategies at the program and association level. In addition, participants discussed the possibility of developing a WGSRF strategic plan, which could be modeled loosely on the one developed by the National Women's Studies Association and which would guide the work of the association over the next five years.

WGSRF 2015-16 OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE REPORT

Committee Members:

Eva Karpinski
Marie Lovrod
Hans Rollmann
Manuela Valle-Castro

This year the committee received a total of fifteen submissions for the Outstanding Scholarship Prize, including two French-language submissions. After Committee members shared and discussed their respective shortlists, a clear winner emerged, along with several other favourable mentions. Given the strength of this year's entries, it was eventually determined to award one prize and three honourable mentions.

This year's winner was:

Gada Mahrouse (2014). *Conflicted Commitments: Race, privilege, and power in transnational solidarity activism*. McGill-Queens University Press.

Honourable mentions went to:

Marnina Gonick & Susanne Gannon (2014). *Becoming girl: Collective biography and the production of girlhood*. Women's Press, Toronto.

Sam McKegney (2014). *Masculindians: Conversations about Indigenous Manhood*. University of Manitoba Press.

Julie Lavigne (2014). *La Traversée de la pornographie : politique et érotisme dans l'art féministe*. Éditions du Remue-ménage.

One issue that emerged in the discussions was the question of whether there ought to be a second award designated specifically for French-language submissions. Although the two French-language submissions were highly regarded by Committee members (most members cited at least one of them in their short-lists) for various reasons some members found it challenging to assess English- and French-language submissions on an equal basis, and acknowledged implicit biases which affected their rankings. Is there good reason to introduce a French-language award? Last year there were no French-language submissions; on the other hand, a specific French-language award might help to encourage more submissions. The Committee appeared generally in favour of moving toward the establishment of a French-language award (it wouldn't need to be awarded if there were no suitable entries in a given year), and it was suggested the notion be at the least discussed at this year's meeting of the Association.

While the Association has designated official criteria to be used in reviewing and adjudicating submissions (these include: (i) relevance to Women's and/Gender Studies; (ii) currency of the subject matter to current debates and discussions; (iii) quality of style, presentation, research, and

methodology; (iv) originality) discussion amongst Committee members identified several other criteria which individual Committee members found useful in comparing and ranking submissions. These additional criteria were compiled with the aim of sharing them with future Committee members and nominees. They included:

- the book fosters feminist, decolonizing, anti-oppressive politics;
- engages with innovative methodological approaches and/or experimental forms of disseminating feminist knowledge;
- addresses complex ecologies of meaning production and intersectional, entangled sites of investigation;
- introduces new theories and new critical perspectives to feminist research;
- innovation - to what extent was the research not merely outstanding, but to what extent was the topic, or approach, innovative/experimental/new compared to existing work in our field;
- attention to applying feminist/anti-racist/decolonizing principles in the structure and approach to the book, i.e. choice of subjects/contributors/methodologies;
- suitability to classroom use at undergraduate or graduate levels

As in previous years, debate also occurred over the challenges (and comparative merits of) comparing and adjudicating edited collections versus single-author monographs.

All in all, there was healthy competition and enthusiastic interest in this award on the part of publishers and authors, and several excellent books were nominated. The submissions reflected the broad and extensive range of scholarship being undertaken in the field of women's, gender and feminist studies.

WGSRF Graduate Essay Prize Committee Report 2015-16

Committee members: Sonja Boon, Rebecca Godderis, Jennifer Musial, Ela Przybylo

Process: We each received 10 anonymized essays from Ilya Parkins. Following her advice, we individually ranked the top five essays and emailed our comments to the rest of the group ahead of our internally-chosen deadline of March 15, 2016. Happily, we had all chosen the same top 2 essays, which made our final decision easy. We decided to go with recommending a first place and an honourable mention.

First Place: “ ‘Second Skins,’ Absences, and a Sealskin of Sounds: The Embodiment and Envelopment of MMIWGT2S in Tanya Tagaq’s Polaris Prize Performance”

By Jessica Fontaine, University of Winnipeg (Professor Angela Failer)

This essay, which presents original research on Tanya Tagaq’s Polaris Prize performance, is attuned to Indigenous feminist debates, in touch with histories and presents of settler colonialism, and theoretically robust and satisfying. Working with a politically important topic, the author draws on disparate theories of the skin to analyze Tagaq’s performance piece, a work which calls attention to MMIWGT2S. This paper was highly original and conceptually rich, theoretically interdisciplinary and intersectional in approach. It is beautifully written and as such, a pleasure to read. This essay stood out as a publishable piece of academic work.

Honorable Mention: “ ‘Ship’s Log’: After Claudia Jones”

By Cornel Grey, University of Toronto (Professor Alissa Trotz)

This essay provides a creatively and compellingly-voiced literary rethinking of the slave ship – and the idea of the ship’s log in particular – in dialogue with black feminist, anti-racist, and black literary traditions. Moving among and through different voices, time periods, and geographies – from Mary Prince and Marie Joseph Angélique to Claudia Jones and CeCe McDonald – the author convincingly articulates his/her/their intervention (ie. revisiting the metaphor of the ship to think through black women’s experiences of enslavement, migration, and forced removal). The essay deftly weaves histories of anti-black exclusion with contemporary anti-black discriminatory practices in a beautifully interdisciplinary work.

Report from the WGSRF Undergraduate Prize Committee 2016

Members: Alana Cattapan, Krista Johnston, Tegan Zimmerman

This short report from the WGSRF Undergraduate Prize Committee provides information about the nature of submissions, the selection process, and overall impressions for the prize selection for 2016.

The Submissions

There were twelve essays in total and the papers addressed a variety of topics, using a range of methods. Some papers provided more conventional approaches to bringing theory and praxis together, while others drew more heavily on the experiential. We were particularly impressed with their ambition and creativity. The committee agreed that the quality of the essays was high, and many demonstrated quality of thought and analysis we would expect from graduate students. It is clear that undergraduate women's studies programs in Canada are producing a great deal of excellent scholarship.

The Selection Process

After the selection committee received the essays via email, we each read and assessed them independently. We met on March 20, 2016 to decide on a winner and whether we wanted to award an honourable mention.

Our discussions circulated around the criteria for the prize, identifying whether a relevant argument was set out in the paper, the theoretical development of the work, the originality of the work, the writing style, and its contribution to Women's and Gender studies as a discipline.

We quickly identified the top three essays, and then narrowed it down to two. Our discussion largely revolved around the relative merits of these two essays, before a winner was chosen.

Overall Impressions

The essays demonstrated a high quality of scholarship and rigour, particularly insofar as they were produced at the undergraduate level. The prize committee was impressed and would encourage those who nominated essays to do so again, and would extend the invitation to others. We really enjoyed reading them.

2016 WGSRF Undergraduate Essay Prize – Winning Essay

The Sacred Spaces of Black Queer Resistance by Jane Alice Keachie, University of Toronto (Professor Alissa Trotz)

This essay examines how the concept of the “sacred” might be used to reimagine narratives and experiences that have historically been read as secular. Focusing on black queer histories in Haiti, the author puts Jacqui Alexander’s *Pedagogies of the Sacred* and Audre Lorde’s *The Erotic is Power* “in conversation with” Omise’eke Natasha Tinsley’s work on black queer resistance in the Haitian revolution.

This essay demonstrates a keen engagement with important literature; excellent contribution to feminist thought and praxis. Alexander and Lorde’s work are well-mobilized throughout the author’s reading of Tinsley, and the author demonstrates the importance of rethinking longstanding historical narratives for the contemporary experience. The author engages with intersectional questions about the ways that gender, indigeneity, racialization, and nationalism operated during the Haitian revolution, and identifies the radical potential of thinking about Black queer histories as aligned with the sacred. The relevance of this work was particularly clear in the innovative and compelling discussion of the sacred and Black queer resistance in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Overall, this was an extraordinary essay. The author’s capacity to use feminist theory to reread history and to identify the importance of doing so for our understanding of the present is deserving of the 2016 WGSRF Undergraduate Prize.

2016 WGSRF Undergraduate Essay Prize – Honourable Mention

Accounting for the Afrolatina Presence in the Columbian Salsa Imaginary, by Maria Martinez, University of Toronto (Professor Alissa Trotz)

This essay examines the ways in which Columbian salsa has worked to marginalize blackness, and to erase or invisibilize salsa’s African roots, as well as to “whiten” women in Columbia. Through careful research and analysis, the author traces how gender, race, and colonialism have worked together and continued to do so in historical and contemporary salsa.

The prize committee was impressed by this essay. It draws together a range of scholarship on salsa, on racialization, and cultural production, and extends the gendered implications of this work in new directions. This essay was particularly remarkable in its intersectionality, demonstrating the relationships between gender, sexuality, “whitening” and the creation of race in a specific colonial context. This intersectionality was particularly striking in the essay’s final pages in which the author examines the lyrics of one song—Joe Arroyo’s “La Rebelión”— to identify how “heteronormative and patriarchal ideals are reinforced despite a discussion of blackness, slavery, and Afrodescendants in Columbia.”

Overall, this was an excellent essay and deserves recognition for the author's attention to detail, creativity, and profound understanding of how intersectional analyses reveal the complexity of experience.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016

WGSRF respectfully acknowledges that the University of Calgary is located on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot and peoples of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Siksika, the Piikuni, the Kainai, the Tsuu T'ina, and the Stoney Nakoda First Nations, and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. We honour the traditional Blackfoot name of the land where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet, "Mohkinstsis," upon which the City of Calgary is built.

PASS SIGN IN PAGE . . .

Welcome to the AGM of Women and Gender Studies et Recherches Féminites' conference! Hope you have been enjoying all of the great presentations, films, catching up with old friends and getting to know new ones.

- Yesterday, great keynote by Sherilyn McGregor, Manchester, UK; Resistance is fertile: thinking through the question of feminist green citizenship and the post-politics of climate change
- Right after lunch, Dian Million, UWashington; Therapeutic Nations: Trauma as Political Narrative in collaboration with Critical Disabilities Studies
- Tomorrow morning, Tara McPherson, USouthern California; Digital Humanities by Design: Feminism, Aesthetics and the Digital. Collaborative Keynote with Canadian Historical and Digital Humanities Associations
- Meredith Ralston, Mount Saint Vincent University, Film Screening: *Selling Sex*
- Nancy Nicol, York University; Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights: Challenges, Resilience and Hope, Joint Plenary with Sexualities Studies Association

At our **annual awards ceremony this afternoon in Craigie 114**, we will announce the winners of the WGSRF Outstanding Scholarship Prize, the Graduate and Undergraduate Essay Prizes, followed by our joint reception with SSA, MacEwan Hall A.

Exciting AGENDA for you today:

In addition to our reports on the year, electing and confirming Executive Members, inaugurating our New President, and populating the prize and conference committees (if you are enjoying this program and would like to we will be part of building the event next year at Ryerson, here's your chance!), we will be

- Discussing a couple of new initiatives – Ask a Feminist
- Developing a Strategic Plan for our organization, moving forward, including how to become a more welcoming conference and association to everyone, including bilingual colleagues, raising funds for graduate student travel, higher profile
 - if you are interested in serving on that committee and developing a process for accomplishing that, please come to Craigie Hall E102 at 4 PM to talk about it
 - Considering possible future collaborations with SSA
 - Precarious Labour – planning for next year

- Bilingual initiative – we’ve had a discussion of ways to make our organization more welcoming to francophone feminists, something for our strategic plan
- Supporting graduate student travel
- Electronic friendly program format for next year
- Selecting our new Logo
- Mount Allison – WGSRF responded quickly, as did many others – Change.org petition had three times more signatures than entire student enrollment at Mount A; program has requested at least 1 and possibly 2 positions, awaiting response – let’s keep in contact with and support that program going forward. One piece of good news is that Leslie Kern, who has PhD in Women's Studies from York and is in the MTA Geography Department has been appointed to a 3 year, uncompensated, term as the Director of the WGST program. This shows at least some level of commitment to continuing the program, although we do not know what form the program will take.

Any donations can be directed to
 Michael Cantwell
 Executive Director
 Campaign & University Advancement
 (506) 364-2259
 mcantwell@mta.ca

Funds must be specified for use by the WGST department, with hopes to engage in a broader fundraising campaign next year.

Executive Committee reports will also be posted on the website, so we will be brief here, but before we get to those, of course, an organization like ours flourishes because of the dedicated work of a volunteer Executive and amazing committee members and leaders.

Therefore, we all owe a hearty thanks to the following people for their amazing work in making this conference possible: **Corinne Mason** (Brandon University), WGSRF Conference Program Liaison and **Morganna Malyon**, who assisted in preparing the program; Local Conference Coordinator, **Rebecca Sullivan** (University of Calgary) who did this work for three associations and helped us to coordinate with SSA. **Allyson Jule** (Trinity Western University, WGSRF President Elect), Abstract Reviewers (**Amber Dean, Claire Carter, Jennifer Johnson, Jessica Wright, Jocelyn Thorpe, Miglena Todorova, Rhea Hoskin, Morganna Malyon**); and the wonderful University of Calgary student volunteers who have assisted during the conference.

I also thank the WGSRF Executive for their incredible work for the association in 2015-2016: **Annalee Lepp** (University of Victoria), Coordinator’s Meeting Organizer; **Ilya Parkins** (University of British Columbia, Okanagan), Secretary, Awards Organizer and web archive documentarian (more on that later), **Heather Latimer**, (University of British Columbia) Treasurer; **Rachel Hurst** (St Francis Xavier University) Membership Coordinator; **Shannon Stettner** (University of Waterloo) and **Tatjana Takseva** (Saint Mary’s University), Communications Officers. Heartfelt thanks also to **Mylène Dorcé** (Université de Montréal), for excellent translation work, and

dedicated members of the Outstanding Scholarship Prize Committee (**Eva Karpinski** and **Hans Rollman**, York University; **Manuela Valle-Castro**, University of Saskatchewan, and **Annalee Lepp**, University of Victoria), the Graduate Essay Prize Committee (**Rebecca Godderis**, Wilfred Laurier University; **Jennifer Musial**, Keene State College; **Sonja Boon**, Memorial University; **Ela Przybylo**, York University), and of the Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee (**Krista Johntson**, University of Winnipeg; **Wendy Robbins**, University of New Brunswick; **Alana Cattapan**, Dalhousie University; **Tegan Zimmerman**, University of Alberta). Special thanks to **Sarah DeBoice** (University of Saskatchewan), Membership Administrator, for her hard work over the last two years, and to the WGSRF membership for continuing to support the association, including those who donated generously to the WGSRF Student, Unwaged, and Low Income Conference Travel Fund!

NEXT YEAR: Ryerson: May 27 to June 2, 2017; THEME: Canadian Innovation, Imagining Canada's Future, Big Thinking