

**CWCA/ACCR Board of Directors Meeting**

Jun 24, 2021

Video conference

**Present:** Stephanie Bell (Vice President); Sarah King (Past President); Jordana Garbati (Treasurer); Tessa Troughton (Francophone Representative); Jenna Goddard (Secretary); Sheila Batacharaya (MAL); Majid Nikouee (MAL); Thi Bich Ha Tran (Julie) (Student MAL); Brian Hotson (Past Secretary; Past Membership Chair); Vidya Natarajan (2021 Conference Co-Chair)

**Regrets:** Clare Bermingham (President); Nadine Fladd (Membership Chair); Lenore Latta (Digital Media Chair)

**1. Call to order (Bermingham):**

- The meeting is called to order at 3:06pm EDT.
- Approval of agenda (Bell):
  - Approved.
- Approval of minutes (Bell):
  - Approved.

**2. President's Report (Bermingham)**

[240621 President's report](#)

- Bermingham to set up individual meetings with board member over the next couple of weeks
- Signed an MOA as requested by Athabasca U

**3. History of CWCA/ACCR (Hotson)**

- Brian Hotson working on a document (40 pages, currently!) on the history of the CWCA/ACCR and writing centres in Canada
- 2006: 4 people came together and decided a Writing Centres Association was needed
- 2009: CWCA/ACCR officially formed
- 2010: separated from STHLE
- 2012: Brian Hotson became chair/president of CWCA/ACCR; decided to hold conference
- 2013: first conference (UVIC)

- UBC, McGill, Winnipeg, U of A, U of T - influential institutions in the history of writing centres
- Brian to create a shorter document that will be posted to the blog (overview of CWCA/ACCR) and website
  - Will include social justice movements that influenced writing centres (student inclusion in curricular decisions; move towards a Canadian content)

**ACTION:** find out about how the writing centre in *your* institution was founded, if you can, and send to Brian! Who started it? What did it look like? Brian is compiling a repository of resources and documents.

#### 4. 2021 Conference Debrief (Natarajan)

- [240621 Conference committee report](#)
- More than 170 participants
- Possibility of holding future conferences using the same platform; Zoom would probably be sufficient to minimize costs
- Recommendation for a hybrid model moving forward
- Conference theme: people were excited!
  - Lots of interest in *attitudinal* change
- Importance of pushing back against ELL students as a deficit model
- There is interest in future conferences with a specialized focus (like equity concerns), but include opportunities for more general presentations that are writing-related as well
- Sessions were well-attended
- Lots of different kinds of presentations and sessions: round tables, collaborative sessions, peer tutor round table, research, key notes, sandbox sessions....)
- Other highlights: closed session for BIPOC attendees, inclusion of a student MAL on the CWCA/ACCR board, recognition of global Englishes, Anti-Racism statement, Anti-Racist Reading Circle that came out of the conference
- Anti-Racism initiatives are necessary and a work in progress; it needs to be addressed in an ongoing basis
  - Acknowledgement of board to NOT post the statement that was voted at the AGM to include BIPOC voices
  - Hope that CWCA/ACCR will become political spaces that are part of an ongoing discourse of anti-racism

**ACTION:** discussions need to be made by CWCA board re: availability of recordings; conversations about accessibility; possibility of a future hybrid conference (Bell)

#### 5. Conference 2022 planning (Bell)

- Feedback Survey Results [240621 Conference feedback survey results](#)
- Survey results supported Vidya's takeaways during her debrief
- 41 survey results; 85% said conference was "very good - excellent"
- Preference for hybrid moving forward and demand for continued virtual access
  - Important consideration for a hybrid conference: complexity of fee structure for in-person vs. virtual attendees
  - \$4000 for Connexme
  - Access and inclusivity is important for future conferences (ASL interpreter, for example)
  - Platform: people tended to prefer using the Zoom link rather than the Connexme system
  - Challenge: a hybrid conference is like planning two conferences
- Session formats: people found the variety refreshing; some contradictory statements around wanting to interact/not wanting to; some confusion around what sandbox sessions were
  - Variety is a preference; clarity around what the session looks like is necessary
- People attended FEWER sessions than at previous conferences (the reality that is continuing to work while attending a conference; also, the fact the conference was 5 days as opposed to 2-3 might have impacted this)
  - Considerations for shorter conferences/on a weekend (easier to clear schedule)
- Main takeaways: Tech access and remote access
- Theme: several people commented on wanting a continuation of the theme (this year was a launching pad; next year will be a continuation?)
- Conference planning: small group to make some big decisions; include and invite regional affiliates to initial brainstorming

**ACTION:** Big decisions to be made for future conferences! Small group to form to chat more about options before next meeting

Jenna: Doodle poll for small group meeting re: conference decisions (in the next two weeks - July 12/13/14; 1.5 hours)

Steph: reach out to point people (Brian, Sarah Jean, Jenna) to contact their regional affiliates to see if a member for inclusion (Majid volunteered for the Alberta regional affiliate)

Steph, Majid, Tessa, Sarah, Jenna; reach out to regional affiliates

#### 6. Position Statement on Writing Centres in Canada (King)

- <https://cwcaaccr.com/cwca-accr-position-statements/>

- Preferences for linking to Google doc or pdf?
  - Pdf: professional appearance
  - Google doc: easier to update

**ACTION:** Lenore to use a pdf doc

**7. CWCA/ACCR Anti-Racism statement (Bermingham, Batacharaya, and Goddard)**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZUZHmcVTw5xim\\_Q8hTu6UUnLSToJ0awQMwEyTBigdl/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZUZHmcVTw5xim_Q8hTu6UUnLSToJ0awQMwEyTBigdl/edit?usp=sharing)

- [240621 Anti-Racism statement report](#)
- Sheila met with Megumi Taguchi to discuss CWCA/ACCR antiracos, work
  - Meeting with Vidya in the next two weeks
- Reminder: Reading Circle sessions for *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* (June 28, July 19, August 16)

**8. Treasurer's Report (Garbati)**

- [240621 Treasurer's Report](#)
- Question: CWCA/ACCR support (\$500) for the Reading Circle (books for peer tutors; extra funds to invite the author to the Reading Circle)
  - Motion: "be it resolved that CWCA/ACCR provide up to \$500 for the BCWCA Reading Circle for purchases of the books or speaker's fee."
  - Jordana will record it as an "expense for event: Reading Circle"
  - **Motion passes** unanimously!

**9. Report from Digital Media Chair and CWCA/RCCR (Latta, Bell)**

- [240621 Digital Media Chair's report](#)
- Steph and Lenore reorganized website; recognized need for reorganization

**ACTION:** CWCA/ACCR board members to go to the CWCA/ACCR website; explore; give feedback on what doesn't make sense (organizational structure/Menu); Send feedback directly to Lenore

**Nadine:** lead a discussion about membership fees (waived? Separate fees?)

**Nadine:** chat to Jordana and bring some proposals to the board to vote on

**Jenna:** send minutes to Lenore

**Lenore:** need to make some decisions about website organization after receiving feedback

**10. Report from Membership Chair (Fladd)**

- [240621 Membership Chair's report](#)
- Brian and Nadine met to discuss transition

**ACTION:** add discussion points to next agenda (Goddard)

**11. CASDW report (Garbati)**

- [240621 CASDW/r Rep report](#)

**ACTION:** Clare to invite Dana Landry to future meetings to share updates from CASDW/r (Bermingham)

**12. Guidelines for Board Members (King)**

- [240621 Guidelines for Board Members](#)
- Steph invited members to participate and to give feedback on how they'd feel most comfortable participating

**ACTION:** CWCA/ACCR board to put questions that you have into the document; send email to Clare if you have preferences as to how to participate during meetings

**13. Strategic Planning (Bermingham)**

- We ran out of time for this item/Clare was away

**ACTION:** put on agenda for next meeting

*Meeting end 4:34 EDT*

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**Next meeting:**

**ACTION:** Jenna to send out Doodle poll for next meeting (end of August/beginning of September)

Distribution: *Sheila Batacharaya, Stephanie Bell, Clare Bermingham, Nadine Fladd, Jordana Garbati, Jenna Goddard, Sarah King, Lenore Latta, Thi Bich Ha Tran (Julie), Tessa Troughton, Majid Nikouee*