

CWCA/ACCR Board of Directors Meeting

Sept. 21, 2021

Video conference

Detailed reports available upon request

Present: Clare Bermingham (President); Stephanie Bell (Vice President); Sarah King (Past President); Nadine Fladd (Membership Chair); Jordana Garbati (Treasurer); Lenore Latta (Digital Media Chair); Jenna Goddard (Secretary); Sheila Batacharaya (MAL);

Regrets: Majid Nikouee (MAL); Thi Bich Ha Tran (Julie) (Student MAL); Tessa Troughton (Francophone Representative)

1. Call to order (Bermingham):

- The meeting is called to order at 12:05:pm EDT.
- Approval of agenda (Bermingham)
 - Approved.
- Approval of minutes from August 17 (Bermingham)
 - Approved.

2. President's Report

- I'd like to postpone discussion of CWCA/ACCR meeting procedures.
- Thanks to Nadine and the conversation facilitators who helped organize and lead the Return to Campus event. Nadine covered the details in her report, but I think it was useful for those who attended.
- The letter to SMU administration re: Brian Hotson's dismissal was sent on August 26, 2021 at Brian's request. No reply or confirmation of receipt was received. 178 people internationally co-signed the letter.
- I attended the IWCA board meeting, or part of it, on Friday. Discussions focused on the upcoming hybrid conference, October 20-22. I'll be attending the conference and anticipate that the agenda will have space for affiliates/other national members.
 - Dr. Vidya Nataraja, King's College at Western U. is featured as a speaker on the program, and her talk is scheduled for 5:45pm on Friday, October 21.
- Brian Hotson finished writing a history of writing centres in Canada. He is going to share it with the blog and asked about it going on our website as well, which I would support.

- Two priority action items:
 - Call together a meeting procedures working group
 - Call together a strategic planning working group

ACTION: Birmingham: CWCA/ACCR meeting procedures to be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Conference 2022 planning (Bell)

- **CWC/ACCR 2022 Conference CFP**
- **Short title:** Space & Safety; **Long title:** Reckoning with Space & Safety in the COVID Turn
- Virtual Conference Spring 2022
- “For me, the writing center is neither my safe space nor my home.” (Garcia, *Unmaking Gringo-Centers*, 2019, p. 48) (*draft CFP available upon request*)
- Topic evolved from “Transformative Inclusivity”
- Bell requested feedback from board on theme:
 - Fladd: wonders about the “we” used in the CFP: administrators? Can we make it clear to peer tutors that they are welcome to submit?
 - Birmingham: do we need to draw more attention to the virtual space of writing centres (borders/access)?
 - Classroom space and writing centres: consider the tensions of extending the classroom
 - Would inclusion fit with the notion of borders?
 - King: repetition of “safe space/space and safety”: is it intentional? Do we want to include other terms to invite other connected themes?
 - Psychic space: mental health
 - Value of comfort/discomfort? Belongingness?
 - Bell: initial conversations included “belongingness” and “ease of access”. We could also consider, *How does the writing centre contribute to student wellness?*
 - Latta: does the wording suggest that the spaces ARE safe?
 - Bell: issues with language: “help”, “support”, “safety”
 - Batacharya: continuity of CWCA/ACCR as a learning organization. Can we pull forward some of the work and learning from the last conference?
 - Antiracist frameworks included in the theme?
 - Idea of “safe spaces” is interdisciplinary; versatile theme that will speak to members
 - Bell: wondered if pulling forward the theme from last year was too implicit; feedback on how to make the themes from last year’s conference clearer: in the introduction? In the prompts?

- Baracharya: suggests that the prompts and themes reflect more specifically the themes from last year; introduction is cohesive.
 - *inclusivity* and *diversity* without *equity* is not sufficient
 - There's been a lot of change in the language we use when we talk about EDI; important to capture this
- Bell: would like to post information about the date, the fact it's virtual, and title ASAP
 - Also wants feedback on type of sessions: no more "sandbox" sessions"; build an asynchronous space; "hallway" space and discussion forum paired with asynchronous resources (similar to a poster session)?
 - Fladd: social connection and discussion are tough with virtual conferences! This works better than "sandbox" session (which are more conducive to in-person)
- Bermingham: wants to understand the purpose of the "streams"; are they necessary? Could they be clarified in terms of purpose? What about including "streams" around theory, EDI
- Batacharya: do we want to move away from "streams"? Gives more freedom for both those submitting and conference organizers
- Bell: thoughts on keynotes?
 - Bermingham: black body acknowledgement? Vershawn Ashanti Young?
 - Fladd: Katie Plaisance? Sheila Cote Meek?
 - King: Felicia Rose Chavez?
 - Batacharya: Natalie J K Baloy? Theme of Indigenous language and application to writing centre work?

ACTION: Deadline for posting is early November. **Bell** to bring feedback back to Conference Committee.

4. **CWCA/ACCR Anti-Racism statement and Reading Circle update** (Batacharya, Goddard)
 - **Anti-Racism Statement** report (5 min)
 - The CWCA/ACCR BIPOC Caucus has prepared a revised antiracism statement that addresses the concerns raised at the 2021 AGM.
 - The next BIPOC Caucus is Friday, October 1 at 1 pm (EST/EDT).
 - Next steps: tba.
 - King: would the BIPOC Caucus be invited to the Oct. 1 meeting to discuss the statement?

- **Anti-Racism Reading Circle: Author Q&A**

- Reminder that Felicia Rose Chavez, author of this summer's Reading Circle book, *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom*, will be giving a Q&A on Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 3 - 4:30 EDT.
 - Questions from BIPOC Caucus prioritized in the discussion following the Q&A
 - Garbati: suggests making a record of the Reading Circle and BIPOC Caucus on the website

ACTION: Batacharya to check in with Caucus re: next steps (on Oct. 1); will update board members as to next steps and meeting with original committee members. Board members to review the Anti-Racism Statement; think about feedback for Batacharya
Goddard to send information re: Q&A to Latta to tweet/add to website.
Latta to consider adding "events" to website

5. Treasurer's Report (Garbati)

- The Reading Circle (contact: Julia Lane) seems appreciative of the funds provided by CWCA (up to \$500CAD). \$68.98CAD was used to purchase books (The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop) and \$350CAD will be used for the speaker's fee (Felicia Rose Chavez) on Sept. 29th. I have told Julia she could use remaining funds (or a bit more) to offer giveaways (e.g., books, bookstore gift cards) at the speaker's talk.
- Balances (as at Sept. 15):
 - BMO balance: \$19,576.15CAD
 - PayPal balance: \$67.36CAD
 - ePly amount owing: \$0CAD
- It would be good to confirm the conference budget and registration fees.

ACTION: continue being awesome

6. CASDW report (Garbati)

- *Nothing to report*

7. Report from Membership Chair (Fladd)

- Clare and Nadine hosted a virtual fall term planning event for CWCA members on September 2nd. 20 CWCA members (including regional discussion facilitators).
- Participants indicated they would like a follow-up event in mid-October
- Some facilitators took notes, and there is potential to turn these into either a blog post or a newsletter summary

- Next time we host something like this we will assign note-takers and plan a written follow-up from the beginning
- **Mailing list:**
 - I'm having trouble with MailChimp. Only about 30% of emails sent through the platform get opened, and I'm getting reports from some folks that they aren't receiving emails at all -- they can't find them in their junk mail or SPAM folders.
 - Since the point of using MailChimp was to prevent mass emails from ending up in SPAM folders, I propose simply keeping an excel/google mailing list instead and using the cwca gmail account or my Waterloo email account to send emails out from now on
 - Bermingham: it's a complicated process
 - Garbati: likes the idea of Gmail
- **Membership Committee and Membership rate options:**
 - *No updates since August.*

ACTION: **Fladd:** will work on membership committee for next month; will experiment with using Gmail; **Fladd** to send out notice on listserv that we will be switching and to add the gmail address to their accounts

8. Report from Digital Media Chair and CWCR/RCCR (Latta)

- I've posted the minutes from 2021 meetings as PDFs.
- I posted the document that Brian Hotson discovered from 2008. He suggested posting to the website under the AGM minutes, but as "2008 Annual Report (STLHE)". However, I thought as a report it fit better under Chair's Annual Report, so I titled it Chair's Annual Report, CWCA/ACCR AGM (STLHE), June 18, 2008, Windsor. Is that acceptable?
- I posted membership institutions info given to me by the Alberta Writing Centres Association.
- I'm checking and revising links to other minutes and reports on website - gradually trying to ensure they are all PDFs rather than Word docs, and all uploaded to the website rather than linking to our Google Drive.
- Participant materials on Archives: there is material only for 2018, 2014, 2013. Should there be other materials for other conferences?
- Conference co-chair names for website?

ACTION: **Latta** to add conference co-chair names and information re: BIPOC Caucus and Reading Circle/Q&A for website

9. Student Member-at-Large (Tran)

- Nothing to report

10. Other Business:

- Bell and Hotson launching new journal; looking for support (reviewers for peer review)
- More details to come in next couple of months
- If you want to become involved, let Bell know

Meeting end 1:26pm EDT

Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021

TBD

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*