

CWCA/ACCR Board of Directors Meeting

Feb. 14, 2022, 3 - 4:30pm ET

Video conference

Detailed reports available upon request

Present: S. Batacharaya, C. Bermingham, S. Bell, N. Fladd, J. Garbati, J. Goddard, S. King, D. Landry, M. Nikouee, L. Latta, B. Hotson

Regrets: D. Landry, T. Tran, T. Troughton

1. Call to order (Bermingham)

- The meeting is called to order at 3:08 pm ET.
- Approval of agenda (Bermingham)
 - Approved.
- Approval of minutes from Jan. 18, 2022 (Bermingham)
 - Approved.

2. President's Report

IWCA meeting, January 28, 2022

- Writing Center Journal: new editors are transitioning into the role; adding a fourth issue focused on UG tutors; proposed new open access format through Purdue (passed)
- Membership management: IWCA is looking at a new membership management system to merge both websites. No options allow a conference submission function, so this is something we may need to monitor for CWCA/ACCR's future.
- IWCA conference 2022, Vancouver, BC: I raised concerns about the language of the CFP as discussed via email. Executive planned to discuss separately.

IWCA conference 2022, Vancouver, BC

- After my email about representation of Indigenous people in Canada, I met with Georganne Nordstrom, Vice-President to discuss. She revised the CFP to remove the first few sentences of the point that was the biggest issue. Otherwise, the CFP is going ahead. They wanted to say that they had done this in consultation with CWCA/ACCR, but I was clear that they don't have our approval / blessing of the CFP as it is revised. I did articulate that our goals are to work with IWCA, to mutually support each other. We ultimately want to support an IWCA conference in Canada, but continue to have concerns about the CFP, which we understand is not going to be changed further. IWCA would like the CFP to invite problematization of the language, framework, positioning, etc. that it contains.

- Lucie Moussu, chair of the Vancouver conference, has reached out to Stephanie and Brian (Nadine and I were copied) about getting the word out about the IWCA conference via CWCA.

Questions:

1. Do we want to take any further actions or make recommendations with regards to the IWCA CFP or the conference? 2. How do we want to work with IWCA and Lucie Moussu on the Vancouver conference?
 - Hotson: in 2019, there was interest in how this would connect with CWCA. Hotson and King articulated to IWCA that CWCA had not been approached, but no action was taken.
 - Prior to the CFP being issued, Hotson brought up issues with CFP and lack of consultation with CWCA;; these were not reflected in the revised CFP. Hotson will not be participating in the IWCA conference.
 - Bell: appreciation for Bermingham and Hotson for speaking up. Highlighted differences in direction of CWCA and IWCA in terms of direction and focus.
 - Batacharya: the Caucus does not endorse the CFP and will prepare and share a response.
 - Goddard: I would not want to make a decision *for* anyone who wants to attend/contribute to the IWCA conference, so I worry about *not posting* information about the conference for two reasons: 1) a lack of response might be read as complicity in/support of the CFP, and 2) *not* posting the information might ostensibly take away the choice for CWCA membership in terms of attending/presenting. Perhaps we could post both the information about the conference as well as the substantial CWCA concerns?
 - King: could this be used as a way to engage different perspectives/speak publicly to the issues?
 - Hotson: there wasn't consultation outside of the Executive on the CFP (particularly with the social justice sub-committee). Language is so important, and the language in the CFP is highly problematic.
 - Bermingham: local institutions, who are engaged in reconciliation work, need to be consulted to avoid doing more harm.
 - Would like to see CWCA issue a formal response/statement.
 - Batacharya: are we supporting the CFP, or not? The board needs to make a decision for future decisions/actions.
 - **Draft motion:** CWCA does not endorse the CFP, does not plan to promote it, and will not extend an invitation to have an IWCA representative promote it at our CWCA conference.
 - Bermingham: do we want to also provide a statement/some guidance around what they need to be aware of to hold a conference in Canada?
 - Hotson: when CWCA became an affiliate of IWCA, they were promised consultation for future conferences.

- King: supports board not supporting the CFP and supports making an attempt to let IWCA know more about the Canadian content and the risk of harm. Could a letter be done in conjunction with BCWCA?
- Nikouee: also supports not supporting the CFP and feels that relationship reparation can happen in the future.
- Batacharya: we need to be clear and public about our concerns.
- Bell: “education” can also involve seeing consequences of language and behaviour. We do more harm to the CWCA by prioritizing our relationship with the IWCA than our relationship with our own members and Canadian community.
- Bell: **proposed revised motion**: The CWCA/ACCR board does not endorse the IWCA’s 2022 CFP as it stands. Official CWCA/ACCR events (conferences) and messaging (website and social) will reflect this position.
 - Motion moved by Batacharya.
 - Motion seconded by Bermingham.
 - **Motion passes** with one abstention.

ACTION: Bermingham to draft a response to IWCA for board review (1 week). BIPOC Caucus will also publicly respond.

2. Advocating for anti-racist practices with faculty and administrators (King:

- Preliminary planning for Interactive session for writing centre professionals on how to advocate for antiracist approaches to writing assignments and assessment with faculty and administration
 - At the last meeting I offered to get the ball rolling on this session. Did two things:
 - Came up with a very rough proposal – all open to change
 - Reached out for advice/input from people I thought would have interest/expertise–BIPOC caucus, conference chairs from last year, members of committee who drafted the first version of the Statement (current Board members excepted)
- Proposal
 - A practical and collegial session where Canadian writing centre professionals share experiences and learn from one another about advocating for antiracist approaches to writing
 - 2 hours between 12 noon and 4pm Eastern
 - first week of May (May 2-6)
 - Hour 1:
 - Introduction
 - Panel of Canadian writing centre professionals who have experience advocating

- How have they approached the work
- What they have tried
- What the outcome has been
- Any advice—do's/don't
- Each panelist would speak briefly (5-10 minutes max)
- Participants submit questions to the moderator via chat
- Moderator would have some prepared questions (based on registration forms) and would ask Qs that come up from the floor
- Confirmed panelists so far:
 - Vidya Natarajan
- Consultants, possible panelists and/or co-organizers*
 - Julia Lane (SFU)
 - Logan Middleton (New College, UT—new hire with a focus on promoting anti-colonial writing practices, member of BIPOC caucus)
 - Mandy Penney (UofA)

**deliberately not reached out to Board members knowing (a) would have your feedback in meeting, and (b) that everyone is already doing a lot—and would welcome offers*

- Hour 2:
 - Structured time for participants to take in what they have learned and imagine or apply it to their own context, and speak to others.
 - Writing and reflection time: three or four questions aimed at planning advocacy
 - Breakout group discussion to share thoughts and questions
 - Return to the full group to raise questions and get the perspective of the panelists
- Registration form will gather information about goals, questions, where people are at in relation to advocacy
 - Attendees encouraged to bring a colleague
- Questions
 - Feedback on proposed structure
 - Volunteers to help organize,
 - Suggestions for people I should contact for input
 - Fladd: reach out to OCAD (contact: Emilie Brancato)
 - What is/should be the role of the BIPOC caucus? (if any) Can Logan, as one of organizers, keep the caucus informed, invite feedback as appropriate?
 - Student member organizing committee and/or panel?

3. Conference 2022 planning (Bell)

- CFP extension to Feb 17. Still few submissions ~20. Please consider submitting and circulating the CFP

- Brian produced *How to Write a Proposal* and posted to the blog
- We have a great many reviewers, the majority of whom identify as BIPOC
- We will be working collaboratively to create an advice for reviewers document
- Brian & I will begin working on building the conference pages in March
- Plan to create posters to feature
 - Special regional affiliate conference events
 - Peer tutor roundtable (no special registration necessary)
 - Keynote events...
- Thanks to Jordana and all who helped get registration information up on the website!
- Question about an IWCA 2022 session at our conference for discussion.
- **Pilcrow Writing Retreat**
 - Planning group met Feb 10 and came up with the following rough outline for the Retreat [link removed]—still open to change. Questions at the bottom are for planners but also open to Board member input.
 - Any and all feedback and suggestions welcome.
 - Specific question: we would like to increase the diversity of the planning committee. Current members willing to step back in order to make space. People to reach out to?
 - Latta: clarification: do they already need to be CWCA members?

ACTION: Bell: will reach out to Garbati to discuss payment of keynotes

Board members: please read and provide comments on outline for Pilcrow retreat

4. CWCA/ACCR BIPOC Caucus (Batacharya and Nikouee)

- Strategic planning process - explained the role of the committee (to plan the strategic plan process). Two BIPOC members on the committee. Engage in designing the strategic planning process where equity focus is central to the decided on strategic planning work plan and timelines.
- Bi-monthly meetings with the board to bring ideas forward and diversity voices, etc. Open to any board or caucus members who want to attend.
- Project underway: Anti-racism resources for the CWCA/ACCR website.
 - Needs curating if this is going to be a good resource for people
 - 5 caucus members committed to the project.
 - Pedagogy resources could be curated, added, etc.
 - Mention of resisting impulse to jam pack the database with everyone's favourite texts if it's going to be a useful resource.
- CWCA conference proposals – extended to Feb 17th. Caucus members encouraged to reach out to other members of the BIPOC community in our networks to submit proposals. Important to get more voices represented, etc.
- IWCA “revised” CFP discussion points:

- Frustration with lines in the revised version.
- Discussion of the line “but sometimes also have to compromise and collude to stand firm in our practice and values” - who is the assumed “we” of this statement?
- Frustration and a sense of hopelessness with the argument that we don’t have a choice but have to at least partially collude with what is wrong.
- Considering a blog that responds to this revised CFP to convey the caucus perspective.
- Comment that this revised version still reads like it was written in the 1980s - disappointing discourse.
- Discussion that engaging with these folks directly about the problems still in the CFP won’t fix anything – don’t want to deal with the backlash from people refusing to address the concerns.
- Frustration with them still using the term mission in this particular moment in Canadian experience and history. Just because we’ve always used a term doesn’t mean we have to keep on using it. When the graves of Indigenous children are found in the thousands across Canada, it is no longer contextually and culturally respectful to use mission as a neutral term. Mission was always a problematic word for those that have experienced the colonizing, civilizing, Christianizing mission before this violence was in media headlines.
- Majid and Sheila will set up a board & caucus meeting in March.
 - Nikouee: sent out a poll to BIPOC Caucus inviting members to attend a discussion with CWCA to share ideas and giving the BIPOC members the opportunity to voice concern and ideas; also will chat about about the IWCA CFP, developing resources for the CWCA website,
 - Proposed dates: Feb.23 1-2 (MT) or 2-3 (MT) or March 2-3 (MT)

ACTION: Nikouee to send out poll; BIPOC Caucus to draft response to IWCA CFP

5. Treasurer’s Report (Garbati)

- Conference fees were posted on the conference website thanks to Lenore.
- Conference registration form on ePly was finalized and linked on the conference website (thanks, Lenore). Thanks to CWCA board members who provided feedback on drafts of this registration form. Form is available at:
<https://events.eply.com/CanadianWritingCentresAssociationConference2022Virtual3365383> Board members are encouraged to register and share conference registration information with their communities.

- Nadine Fladd and I met to finalize the procedures and application form for the 2022 Conference Grants. The grant information can be viewed at [link removed]. The application form will be live soon.
- Nadine Fladd and I also discussed the student bursary allocation. We will propose procedures for the student bursary allocation in 2022-2023 with the goal of issuing bursaries in 2023.
- I have filed the 2022 annual return to Corporations Canada.
- A proposal for 2022-2023: Hire an auditor to review CWCA's financial statements. I don't believe this has ever been done. I think it would confirm that CWCA is in a good financial position and could inform our financial record keeping procedures. Does anyone know an auditor, so I can start inquiring about fees?

ACTION: Bell will share information on an auditor with Garbati

6. CASDW Report (Landry)

- Nothing to report

ACTION: Continue being awesome!

7. Report from Membership Chair (Fladd)

- Nothing to report

ACTION: continue being awesome!

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

- Meeting minutes:
 - Marked December 21, 2021 meeting as cancelled (not posting the BIPOC Caucus minutes)
 - Removed links on copy of January 18 minutes, downloaded as PDF, uploaded to website and linked from list
- BIPOC Caucus
 - Added Feb BIPOC meeting to upcoming events, and linked back and forth to description
 - Tweeted about Feb BIPOC meeting
- Conference CFP Submission instructions were posted by Stevie/Brian
 - Updated CFP PDF with extended deadline and with IWCA submission instructions (Jan26-22)
- Updated and addressed issues with all links on website
- Anti-racism Statement
 - Created a new separate page for Antiracism and Writing Centres statement, replaced link on front page

- Uploaded docs to Google Drive under Advocacy
- Posted on social media
- (Feb 13, 2022) Created a separate webpage with full text of Anti-racism Statement, with link to PDF version, as requested by Clare
- Conference registration fees and early bird date:
 - Jordana confirmed Registration fees and early bird date
 - Added conference fees to website (deleted mention on CFP and on CFP PDF so people would go to one place) (Jan26-22)
 - **Conference registration (includes the cost of a one-year membership):**
 - Regular - Early Bird Rate \$125 (before midnight April 20)
 - Regular - \$150 (after midnight April 20)
 - Attendees Without Institutional Funding - \$50
 - Student Flat Rate - \$25
 - BIPOC – Free

ACTION: Latta to link "Meetings are held monthly" to the "Upcoming" page and list the February BIPOC Caucus meeting

9. Student Member-at-Large (Fladd)

- Incentives for facilitators:
 - In order to send out the official recruitment for Peer Tutor Club facilitator, I have created a draft to describe the facilitators' duties and benefits: [link removed]
 - I would like to ask board permission to give out appreciation gifts (maybe in the form of gift card) to our facilitators at the end of the year/ end of term
 - I enquire \$25-50 to each person and I think we will start with 3 facilitators. The number of facilitators are subjected to change as the club grows.
 - Fladd: **motion:** be it resolved that CWCA/ACCR approve a GC for each of the 3 facilitators who help with the peer tutor club (Bell seconds)
 - **Motion approved**

ACTION: Tran to work on outlining the benefits to becoming a facilitator

10. New Business:

- *Birmingham to defer the discussion about Meeting procedures to future meeting*
- New meeting times
 - March: Tuesday, March 15, 12 - 1:30
 - April: Monday, April 11, 3 - 4:30

ACTION: Goddard and Birmingham to set up meeting to review timelines for bylaw changes/AGM information

Meeting end 4:33 pm ET

CWCA canadian writing
centres association

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Next meeting: 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, Dana Landry, Brian Hotson