15th CWCA/ACCR AGM
Canadian Writing Centres Association/association Canadienne des centres de rédaction
May 26, 2022
Via video conference

1. **Call to order** (Bermingham)
   - Meeting called to order at 3:00pm EST.
   - Welcome and procedures outline: Bermingham clarifies that CWCA/ACCR meetings are run with a "loose version" of Robert's Rules, which is what we'll follow for the AGM.
     - If you have a question/comment, please raise your hand or pop it in the chat.
     - We've also included a "meeting observer/moderator" in our meetings; Sheila Batacharya will be in this role for the AGM, so if you'd like to send an anonymous message, please send Sheila a direct message.
   - Land acknowledgement & Action

2. **Adoption of the Agenda of the 15ᵗʰ Annual General Meeting** of the Canadian Writing Centres Association / Association canadienne des centres de rédaction (link to slides) (Bermingham)
   - Carried
   - Attendance document (link)

3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the 14ᵗʰ Annual General Meeting** of the Canadian Writing Centres Association / Association canadienne des centres de rédaction (link) (Bermingham)
   - Carried

4. **President's Report** ([Report](#)) (Bermingham)
   - Bermingham expressed appreciation for conference planners and board, as well as outgoing members of the board.
     - Bermingham recognized the work of Julie Tran (Student-Member-At-Large), who created a Peer Tutor group and Jordana Garbati (Treasurer). Garbati has volunteered so much time over the years and kept the finances of CWCA/ACCR transparent and organized.
     - Bermingham also expressed appreciation for the BIPOC Caucus, and for Sheila Batacharya, who has been the conduit between the Caucus and the Board.
   - The current iteration of the **CWCA/ACCR [Statement of Commitment to Antiracism](#)** was initially presented at the 2021 AGM; following this, the BIPOC Caucus invested much time in the document, which was approved in January 2022. The board and BIPOC Caucus have had discussions about how to action the items, fill the commitments, and continue to review/revise the document, as it is intended to be a living document.
     - One of the commitments in the Statement was to hold a **session** on how writing centre faculty, staff, and peer tutors can advocate for antiracist writing pedagogy and assessment with faculty and administrators. Sarah King led an organizing group; the session was held on May 3, 2022 and featured a group of panelists.
   - **Advocacy: IWCA CFP**: In response to the CPF issued by IWCA in early 2022, Bermingham brought concerns by the board and BIPOC Caucus regarding the theme and the language in the CFP. IWCA eventually re-issued an "un-CFP", and Bermingham expressed the board and Caucus' gratitude for responding to the concerns.
   - **Advocacy: standing up for the integrity of writing centres:** the CWCA/ACCR board sent a letter [link removed] to SMU administration following the university's decision to restructure the writing centre and terminate the Director of Academic Learning Services, Brian Hotson. The letter was written and signed by Writing Centre faculty across Canada; there was no response for SMU's administration.
   - **Strategic Planning**: although "strategic planning has been on the agenda for CWCA/ACCR for several years, the process was paused due to the pandemic.

2022-23 will see this work commence. A working group made up of Bermingham, Bell, and King, as well as 2 members of the BIPOC Caucus, will map out a plan/process for strategic planning in regards to what data will be becollected, the modes for doing so, and the timeline.

5. **Treasurer's Report** ([Report](#)) (Garbati)
   - Review of the 2021-22 fiscal year-end statements.
     - Garbati reports that CWCA/ACCR is in a very strong financial place.
     - CWCA/ACCR supported the 2021 Summer Reading Circle (speaker fee for Felicia Rose Chavez).
     - No travel grants issued this year; Garbati recommends that CWCA/ACCR issue student bursaries and travel grants in 2022-23.
     - Garbati recommends that the next Treasurer should meet with an accountant for a "Notice to Reader" to have someone official look at our finances; the cost is approximately $2000.
   - Be it resolved that CWCA/ACCR waive requirement for public audit by accountant.
     - Carried.

6. **CWCR/RCCR Blog Editors' Report** ([Report](#)) (Hotson)
   - Editors: Stephanie Bell, Julia Lane, Liv Marken, Holly Salmon
   - Achievements: published 18 posts in 2 volumes; will publish poster sessions on blog.
   - CWCR/RCCR is looking forward to expanding its editorial group in the next year! Hotson encourages members to publish: there is an editorial process, but it's not a reviewed journal. Editors will work with you to develop and edit your submissions.

7. **Regional Affiliates' Reports**
   a. Alberta Writing Centres Association (AWCA) ([Report](#))
      - Held a symposium made up of a coffee house chat and a presentation called Respecting Indigenous Voices on April 22, 2022.
        - Topics under discussion were a) social justice in the writing centre, b) academic integrity, and c) return to campus/modes of delivery.

- AWCA currently has 23 participating institutions and 66 individual members.
  b. British Columbia Writing Centres Association (BCWCA) ([Report](#))
    - *No verbal report*

8. **Elections** ([addendum link](#)) (Bermingham)
    - Nominees' biographies ([addendum link](#))
        - Treasurer: Mark Blaauw-Hara (acclaimed)
        - Francophone representative: Tessa Troughton (acclaimed)
        - Student member-at-large: Mohsen Hosseinpour Moghaddam (acclaimed)
        - BIPOC Caucus: ex-officio representative on the CWCA/ACCR board from the BIPOC Caucus

9. **New Business:** Discussion re: 2023 conference (includes chat; all comments copied and pasted directly from chat)
    - Lane: just want to say that I like the idea of CWCA limiting travel due to the worsening climate crisis and the impacts of travel on that.
    - Natarajan: It would be terrific to have the hybrid version, for reasons connected with access and climate and finances.
    - Blaauw-Hara: The sessions were very well organized and the communication with the membership (how to log on, which sessions where when, etc.) was excellent.
    - Taguchi: virtual can allow for more staff who do not have institutional funding to join
    - Marshall: Agreed, Julia. Virtual conferences make it easier for me (others?) to be able to attend. Funding for travel, especially outside of the province, is getting harder to secure.
    - Marshall: CWCA does virtual conferences well!!
    - Bell: I really miss hanging out in person with everyone. In theory, hybrid sounds ideal. In practice, I think tech at the institution will be troublesome.
    - White: I learn best in person, and make better connections and have richer conversations. I appreciate the need to limit travel and the need to be accessible to those who can't travel, but I really miss in person conferences!

- Elise: I appreciate the virtual conferences but wonder if the 8-hour day x3 days is necessary (that is, I've heard of other conferences that do virtual panels once a week for several weeks, to lessen the conference burnout!)
- Heather: likes the in-person as it allows people to carve out time to attend. Possibly a hybrid?
- King: I too miss in-person conferences. Maybe an in-person event in alternate years? or every three years?
- Bell: I agree, Elise. the virtual conference opens up more opportunities to schedule conferences differently. I would go for a conference "month" with Friday afternoon sessions through May or June etc.
- Stubley: As a newcomer, equity concerns with internet access. It's also tougher to build relationships .
- Bell: Hybrid could include live streamed keynotes
- Le Jeune: I like the idea of hybrid. I think trying to find out how to do it will also help us in our work life.
- Hotson: our revenue is greater for a virtual conference
- Blaauw-Hara: Or one day fully virtual, two days fully f2f (or maybe just streaming big things like keynotes)?
- Troughton: I like the idea of meeting in hubs with a virtual conference
- Bell: hybrid would also require that session mods represent comments coming in online
- Kaul: Definitely, virtual is more accessible for me but I find it impossible to do any of the social stuff online. I also like the idea of hubs, or some virtual and some material components.
- Blaauw-Hara: +1 with difficulties building relationships in online
- Fitzgerald: I have really noticed that too @Amanda! Easy to stay connected, harder to create connections
- White: My heart is sinking at the idea of not doing in-person conferences with you all! I really miss the connections.
- Bell: I think we try hybrid
- Troughton: hi-flex
- King: For hybrid we will need volunteers for local hubs so think about whether you could do that!
- Bell: by hybrid I meant 1 in-person conference with virtual access to sessions

- Fladd: @Tessa: Hi-flex will limit our location options. It will need to be physically located at an institution with the appropriate in-room tech setups.
- Hotson: consider streamlining/making more systematic the conference process (for example, the handoff from one conference committee to another. What has been lacking is the discontinuity from one year to the next

10. **Open forum for members** (Bermingham)
- Hotson: appreciates the "CWCA/ACCR" as the term is more inclusive; encourages members to use full name, rather than just "CWCA".

11. **Adjournment** (Bermingham)
- Meeting adjourned at 3:56pm EST.

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Next AGM, May 2023

Location, TBA