

**CWCA/ACCR Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 11, 2025, 12-12:50pm ET**

**Video conference**

**Present:** Marci Prescott-Brown, Julia Lane, Sarah Gibbons, Gillian Saunders, Jessica Lowry, Liam Monaghan

**Regrets:** Christin Wright-Taylor, Clare Bermingham, Jenna Goddard, Mark Blaauw-Hara

**1. Call to order (Prescott-Brown)**

- Land Acknowledgement: Jessica Lowry (thank you, Jess!):  
<https://syilx.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ONA-Map-Welcome-Cropped-V2.pdf>
- The meeting begins at 12:07pm ET.
- Meeting Engagement Facilitator: Sarah Gibbons
- Meeting Ogre: Julia Lane
- Approval of Agenda (approved)
- Approval of March Minutes (approved)
- “Secretary stand-in” today: Julia Lane

**ACTION:** volunteer to give land acknowledgement at our next meeting? Sarah Gibbons volunteered for the May meeting

**New Business**

**2. Conference Planning update (Prescott-Brown)**

- Marci gave a conference update in Christin’s stead
- Peer review process is happening: deadline is April 25th
- One of the identified keynotes (Francisco) has agreed to present

**ACTION:** if more conference support is needed, Wright-Taylor to reach out to Board.  
Prescott-Brown to connect with Wright-Taylor about the Elder opening for the conference.

**3. Statement on Precarity (Prescott-Brown)**

- Reviewing the precarity statement: [link removed] (notes were added to this document directly, as well as high level here)
- Marci reached out to Stevie re. The statement of precarity -- asking to follow up on what happened post AGM with the statement and feedback from two members who expressed interest. (Hasn’t heard back yet)

- Long term goal: comprehensive survey on cross Canada writing tutoring/support spaces (environmental scan). There is a sense that full time positions are being cut and being replaced with roles that are more precarious, or aren't being cut and existing resources are just being stretched (with an assumption that folks will just donate their labour, which is exploitative).
- Re-structuring is happening and not even being acknowledged.
- Loss of positions causes harm to students and faculty and worsens their experiences
- Also leads to burn out for those working in these centres.
- Potential connection to the informal environmental scan that Matt Rahimian did and shared: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiclfefindmkaj/https://cwcaaccr.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Writing-Centres-Unionization-Status\\_v2.pdf](https://cwcaaccr.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Writing-Centres-Unionization-Status_v2.pdf)
  - Christin Wright-Taylor has also been doing some informal surveying of our community to determine admin support structures. This information can also potentially be helpful (because often what is lacking is the necessary infrastructure for writing centres to thrive).
- Can post the precarity statement and update it as we have additional information (living document style).
- Lowry raises the discussion about the connection between GenAI tools and precarity.
  - Can also create precarity for students when they use GenAI -- can lead to academic integrity concerns, habits of work that don't support them long term (ex. Grad students going to do their comps)
  - As people who understand writing studies as a field, we are the best place to support students to consider the impacts of GenAI tools on their writing process (not referencing "ethical use of GenAI" -- too hotly contested a term)
  - We are positioned well in the university to take on this work, but we need to be resourced, supported, and empowered to take on that work well (ex. paid PD, university-wide admin support, collaboration with the institution's academic integrity office, etc.)
  - We can support students' understanding of GenAI as literacy tools, as it fits within writing process, what the trade-offs are in using these tools as a part of the writing process.
  - Liam suggested two resources (added to a folder with these minutes and linked to statement on precarity)

**ACTION: By the end of April, we need to collectively get into the document and make the changes that have been suggested and then share the document with those who expressed interest in revising at the 2024 AGM.**

**Prescott-Brown will email the board when she is working on the doc, in case anyone is available to revise at the same time.**

#### **4. Membership Fees (Monaghan)**

- Monaghan presented out about the ad-hoc committee meeting about the member fees.
- The conclusion of that meeting was that it would be good for the special session to take a step back (not present solutions at this point), but present the issue as clearly as possible and ask members a) whether they see this as a concern worth solving and b) how they might want to resolve it.
  - Decoupling the member fees and conference fees will allow the board to create two budgets: one for the conference and one for member initiatives. When we have a sense of what that “member” budget is, it can help us to determine what kind of work is feasible to take on to support members.
- The intention of this session and the vote (which should be open to all members, and not just those who attend the special session) is to ensure that we have a clear mandate from members for how to proceed with conference/membership fees so that work can proceed.

**ACTION:** Lane to call another sub-committee meeting to proceed with this work.

#### **Business Arising**

##### **5. President’s Report (Prescott-Brown) (see statement on precarity discussion)**

- I’ve reached out to Stevie re: AGM follow up for Precarity statement, but I haven’t heard back yet. Will follow up again.

**ACTION:** continue being awesome!

##### **6. Treasurer’s Report (Blaauw-Hara)**

- As of April 10, we have \$21,694.66 in our BMO account. Money has started to roll in for this year’s conference! We have no significant expenses or financial concerns.

**ACTION:** continue being awesome!

##### **7. Report from Membership Chair (Lane) (see Membership Fees and Process for funding)**

- Since the last board meeting, an ad hoc sub-committee (Clare, Liam, and Gillian) met to discuss the plan for a special member’s meeting focused on splitting conference and membership fees. Mark (Treasurer) was included in this sub-committee but couldn’t attend at the designated meeting time.

- In brief, we discussed:

#### **Things to create ahead of the special members meeting**

- Slides to present ideas
- Online, anonymous space for sharing ideas/reactions
- Some kind of voting survey tool

Decisions we want the members help to make:

- whether or not to split conference and membership fees
- what kind of structure do we want? (institutional fees, sliding scale (based on what: salary, PD?), pay-what-you-can scale)
- membership benefits
- want to be able to ask what feels like a reasonable amount to pay, separate from how fees are determined
- Liam has agreed to report out from this meeting and raise questions about next steps at the April 11th meeting, since I'll be covering the Secretary role (Thanks Liam!)

**ACTION:** continue being awesome!

#### **8. Digital Media Chair's Report (Gibbons)**

- I added the conference registration information and Maria's photo and bio to the website.
- I added the February 2025 minutes to the website.
- The CWCA/ACCR site plan will renew on April 20, 2025.

**ACTION:** continue being awesome!

**Meeting ends at 12:50pm ET**

**Next meeting: May 16, 2025, 12-1:30pm ET**

**Distribution:** *Marci Prescott-Brown, Clare Bermingham, Christin Wright-Taylor, Mark Blaauw-Hara, Jenna Goddard, Sarah Gibbons, Julia Lane, Jessica Lowry, Liam Monaghan, Gillian Saunders*