

## SSA AGM 2015

3 June 2015, University of Ottawa, King Edward Building (KED) B005

- Nathan called meeting to order and introduced executive members (regrets: Margot Francis and KelleyAnne)
- Nathan added call for committee members to agenda and asked someone to move to approve; Sheila Cavanagh moves to approve; Mary Bunch seconds; motion passes
- Cait moves to approve minutes from last year's AGM; Melissa seconds; motion passes
- Nathan discussed the SSA over the past year, we had a number of people leaving last year, many ambitions for the year, some realized, some not; we were able to have two keynotes this year; we wanted to start fundraising and apply for not-for-profit status, we now have fundraising committee, we have completed a not-for-profit application and should get word of that soon; membership fees last year made us marginally sustainable, more funding would allow us to do more (i.e. translation, food for mornings and lunch, maybe a book prize or other events); we didn't succeed in properly integrating consultations with Queer Indigenous Studies Committee (QISC), while we had much decolonizing content, the transition process made the role of the QISC not entirely clear; we have put together an excellent conference and had a great social and community event; Nathan planned to stay for two years, but informed steering committee he will step down after today; encourage everyone to run for committees and steering positions
- Melissa discussed future plans: we're looking towards a longer conference which will allow us to have someone help with program coordination, half or full day event for all sexuality studies programs coordinators to discuss post-secondary sexuality studies curriculums, common challenges, etc. this would help bring greater awareness of SSA; we're going to have more regular steering committee meetings (at least quarterly); we will streamline internal communication lines; we are at a critical moment of growth, so part of the strategy of coordinator meeting is to get faculty members more involved; grad student involvement is great, means we're at the cutting edge of the field, but we have to find ways to get more faculty for long term sustainability; welcome suggestions about how to achieve this; high conference fees of congress makes it difficult for us to meet our mandate to involve community members and artists;
- Nathan read KelleyAnne's report \*\*
- Dan gave the report from the programming committee: thanks committee members and Melissa for suggesting last minute changes to program; we had 87 paper submissions and 5 panel submissions; we accepted 74 papers and 4 panels; most submissions were from grad students, 6 from assistant professors, 3 from associate professors, and 1 from a full professor; we had one independent scholar; we had 3 submissions from BC, 2 from Alberta, 19 from Quebec, and 42 from Ontario; internationally we had 3 submissions from the US and 1 from the UK; Anglo-chauvinism continues to be an issue, we need to figure out how to incorporate bilingualism into the association; one of the challenges is that responsibility for adjudicating submissions and communicating with people who make submissions is that this work falls on the francophone members of committee; this year we said presenters could present in English or French or English and French; this is a social justice issue in terms of who can come and engage; last year the programming committee worked closely with QISC, this year we didn't, they weren't closely consulted on the CFP, didn't consult properly for paper adjudication; we had an agreement that programming committee and QISC would work closely together
- Katrina gave the report for the Communications Committee: changed email service to google group, have 5 new members, mostly used in September, October, April, and May; 641 members

for Facebook group, we post about twice per week; we tripled our number of twitter followers this year;

- Regarding bilingualism: we should ask for volunteers to work on this; very few people are showing up for the French sessions; longer breaks between panels would be great
- Melissa: do we need a bilingual coordinator on exec?
- Nathan: the communication committee has offered to write letter about lack of accessibility at Congress this year (paint fumes, elevators)
- Olga gave the report on the Community, Culture, & Action Committee: we had 2 members and me, now only 1 and me; this posed significant challenges to what we could accomplish; we wanted to have an accessible event and a community panel discussion; we wanted to go to community organizations and work with them to create an anti-oppressive, trans inclusive, community event; the strike in Toronto resulted in a shortage of email communication, so this didn't materialize; we partnered with the social committee for last night's event; we found community organizations (PFLAG, Rainbow family services, AIDS, burlesque) to work with and the event was inclusive fun; there are things we wanted to do and hope to do a panel discussion next year, which will require stronger and earlier communication with community members; asking for discounts for presenters in exchange for advertising is something we could do for next year; earlier communication could allow us to put together a grassroots event around what local community members think is important;
- Amy gave the report on the secretary position: there are no major issues to report and I will continue in position for next year
- Tamara reported that the social event last night went well; it was a nice event and we had food
- Melissa (on behalf of Margot Francis) gave the report for the Queer Indigenous Studies Committee: Margot is outgoing QISC chair; we formed the committee to work with the exec to integrate de-colonial analysis into the programming (i.e. through programming, our selection of key notes, CFPs); this wasn't achieved; exec should find a way to do this more effectively; Amber, TL, and Jessica are all resigning; TL and Margot are happy to discuss the positions with the people who take them
- Mary Bunch: it's great that people are taking responsibility for decolonizing work not being done, but this is a problem every year; we need to rethink the way decolonizing work is done in the organization;
- Melissa: if we keep QISC, we need a QISC representative on the programming committee; regular steering committee meetings will also help us all communicate with each other more effectively
- Mary: a lot of Indigenous people are already precarious, we don't want to ask them to do more work
- Melissa: the meeting is going late so we've asked all panels to start 15 minutes later
- Nathan: called a vote to adopt the SSA constitution, Dan Irving proposed we pass, Katrina seconds, Peggy abstains, everyone else approves, the motion passes and the SSA constitution is approved
- Melissa: we have 4 open committee positions (programming, QISC, Chair, Treasurer); we circulated a call and are accepting nominations from the floor; we had one response for treasurer; reese simpkins nominated himself for program coordinator; Sheila is thinking about taking the chair position, but needs time to think about it (the position requires a lot of time; a lot of the issues the SSA is facing are about the neoliberalization of the university; we need to have an honest discussion about what we can do; if we are part of Congress, I question what kind of decolonial work we can really do; this association is most necessary for grad students, if I

were to be chair, I would not agree to recognize all the visioning hopes; I would do my best, but otherwise we will have annual apologies)

- Nathan: we are discussing whether being affiliated with Congress still makes sense; there is also the possibility of joining with another association, or having semi-annual meetings
- Melissa (on governance): we need to think about the constraints; we need to figure out how to build a sustainable SSA; having a program coordinators meeting would help; maybe we should disaffiliate from Congress; we could have our conferences in the U.S. and Canada in cities we actually want to go to; we could consider joining with the WGSFR; they have a huge budget and are potentially interested; it's too much to ask junior faculty members to be chair; we can work with Marc Stein on faculties in North America, circulating calls and exec positions to all these scholarly programs; we need to find out how to get more faculty members involved; we need a more formal transition process, suggestion is we have named positions (i.e. outgoing chair should be a position, chair-elect is vice chair who becomes chair in second year); I will serve as vice-chair for two more years if a chair comes forward and would then consider moving into the position of chair; past program committee chair is another position we should have; we need to recognize people's continued service; for the Treasurer position, Charles III came forward; he is well qualified for the position and is beginning sexuality studies as a second career; he hasn't had any previous involvement with the SSA; if we accept his nomination, KelleyAnne will work closely with him;
- Mary Bunch: I'm worried about having money cross the border with an unknown person; concerned about having anyone join and about the kind of precedent this might set; maybe we should find a Canadian expert to support a the treasurer;
- Sheila: we could have Canadian and American counterparts;
- Melissa: I will introduce a motion to accept him as Treasurer, if we vote no we can allow him to serve in supporting capacity; Melissa introduced a motion to approve his nomination, reese seconded; the motion failed; Nathan introduces a second motion to accept him in a secondary capacity to work with a Canadian counterpart; Shelia seconds; the motion passes with 2 abstentions;
- Nathan introduces a motion to accept reese's nomination for the Programming Committee; Mary seconds; the motion passes (with reese abstaining)
- Nathan closes the meeting