

SSA Congress 2017
5th AGM
Location: Ted Rogers School for Management
SSA Meeting Minutes – 28 May 2017

Land acknowledgement from Chris Packard

2:30pm, Call to order, welcome:

Mark Lipton, Interim Treasurer

- Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting
- Seconded: Sheila Cavanagh
- Motion to approve agenda as amended
- Seconded: Tom
- Both motions carry unanimously

Presentation from Thomas Chase & Andre Magnon, re: next year's Congress at the University of Regina (2018), theme for Congress 2019 is "Gathering diversities"

The University of Regina is offering limited financial support for graduate students to attend, eligible members are encouraged to apply.

Mark Lipton offers emphatic thanks and appreciation for all those involved in the Sexuality Studies Association, including all outgoing members of the executive & those involved in organizing and executing Congress 2017.

Outgoing chair's report: Sheila Cavanagh

Sheila reports that Congress 2016 in Calgary was a huge success

- 4th SSA Congress meeting, keynote & two co-sponsored films, events co-sponsored w/ gender & women's studies, three full days of presentations (up from two full days the previous year). Much positive feedback was received.
- More senior scholars are encouraged to get involved in the SSA.
- Sheila had to step down as chair for emergency medical leave on July 20, 2016 – expresses thanks and gratitude for Rebecca Sullivan who stepped in as Interim Chair at a moment's notice and assisted with the planning for this year's Congress
- Also thanks & acknowledgement to reese simpkins, program chair; Rachel Berman who was local area coordinator; Mark Lipton who came on board as treasurer; Chris Packard, indigenous studies coordinator
- Sheila returned to the Executive in December as outgoing chair, providing support to the interim chair and the executive when/where possible
- Success of meetings owed to executive members who stepped up & assumed additional responsibilities in Sheila's absence

Interim chair report: Rebecca Sullivan

- Flagging areas that required attention: administrative systems; executive management (decision-making processes, clarification of duties); governance (operating policies)
- A significant challenge was a lack of access to finances & bank accounts for most of 2016-17.
- Special thanks to Mark Lipton & reese simpkins for support with planning, organization, and fundraising.
- Thanks to Buddies, Bonham Centre, Ryerson criminology department, Congress for support.
- Notes that when she assumed the role of Interim Chair in the summer, her role was confirmed by other executive members on e-mail and renewed in December on a conference call.

Report of former vice-chair: Melissa Autumn White

- Wanted to stress a serious concern with the lack of recognition that she received for all of her labour put into organizing this year's meeting.
- Was asked to conclude due to time, but Melissa asks that everyone please take note of the full report and letter of resignation appended to the minutes

Report of outgoing program committee chair: reese simpkins

- Largest, most diverse conference to date
- Special thanks to the program committee

Report of queer indigenous committee chair: Chris Packard

- Working on a bibliography of primary and secondary sources (open, unfinished google doc)
- Indigenous, queer & gender studies as a key priority area for Congress 2018 in Regina.
- Thanks to scholars presenting this year on queer indigenous studies

Report of Local Area Coordinator (Rachel Berman)

- Unable to attend, but wishes to report that all things are running smoothly

Report of Interim Treasurer (Mark Lipton)

- Emphasizes that he was officially appointed on a conference call with all official members of the executive present when the association was in a time of need.
- PayPal access is now officially available
- The organization is now in a positive financial position, with banking and payment accounts secured.
- Next step is formalizing and streamlining accounting reports.

Conclusion of executive reports

Discussion:

Rebecca:

- To a question on the floor, she notes that the budget is not printed because of printer errors – budget will be made available via email upon request.
- Adds that we feel confident about the financial situation of the association, bank account is growing every year

reese:

- Emphasizes that those owed money will be repaid now that we have access to accounts and cheques.
- reese offers a public apology to Melissa – takes responsibility that she wasn't acknowledged in the initial program, and this was rectified in the subsequent printing

Mark:

- On behalf of the Executive Committee, reiterates gratitude to Melissa for all of her past work for the association

Alissa:

- A member from the floor says that they attended vision/planning exercise for women's/gender studies association this morning and that they are interested in being more involved with SSA; finds that there are tremendous parallels between WGSRF & SSA.
- Question: what about a partnership/amalgamation with WGS in order to collaborate, pool resources, draw senior colleagues into conversations – many similar things between associations.
- Question: Is it possible to formalize a liaison position between the two?
- Rebecca has been in conversation with Anne Braithwaite re: relationship with WGSRF. Any formal partnerships require a tremendous amount of administration to ensure equity across associations. Rebecca acted as LAC for both associations last year. The biggest problem has been related to administration and the timeline of organization. Also, as SSA grows, membership is no longer naturally aligned with WGSRF. Multiple interdisciplinary connections with Film and Media Studies, Political Science, Criminology, Literature, and others.
- Congress has an interdisciplinary fund of up to \$1500 if the event is organized with another association—but better success if the association partners with different organizations instead of the same one every year. Rebecca reiterated her interest in continuing open communication with WGSRF, and dedication to transparency and explicitness in coorganizing at a much earlier date; while mindfully nurturing the uniqueness of each association.
- **Alissa:** Suggests that we lose connections and membership when two associations are maintained, but recognizes the challenges of the position & the administration involved.
- **Mark:** Must table the conversation for now – will be discussed by the executive and there will be opportunities for further discussion
- Motion to table: Mark Lipton
- Seconded: Chris Packard
Motion carries

LJ:

- A member from the floor (LJ) requested to switch from using PayPal based on conversations from previous years.
- Mark and Rebecca respond that they are looking into e-Transfer as a possible option, but any financial payment system has similar problems with legal/preferred names.

Ryan

- A member from the floor (Ryan) recommends that we use membership software.

- Rebecca thanks members for all of these suggestions. “In a capitalist society if you don’t have a lot of money, you can’t get a lot done.” Executive is attuned to these issues and is working on improving membership and payment systems.

Taryn:

- Point of discussion from the floor (Taryn) surrounding keynotes at lunch without time for food acquisition
- Reese noted that this year we extended lunch and added 15 min breaks between session. Re: round table—there was supposed to be food provided; the round table was a last-minute addition, and the catering order was not delivered. Programming Committee wants lunch break to be 90 minutes and ensure that lunch-time programming is kept to a minimum.
- Rebecca commented on concerns in the international community about safe travel for queer/trans/racialized academics. SSA asserts its solidarity and is looking for ways to provide public support.

Respectful Conduct Framework

- Sheila Cavanagh advised membership that Congress has no respectful code of conduct policy in place, despite search for material to prevent call-out / harassment in the association when it occurs. Executive asked Sheila to put together a recommended code of conduct to govern our association and incorporate into the constitution. Asks: if members have examples of effective pre-existing codes, please email those codes to Sheila. If there is something in particular you would like included in the code that would provide a safe, accessible, comfortable association, please let Sheila know. This will be a critical part of the constitution.
- Mark advised that in the absence of an association code, we fall to the rules and regulations that guide our host space.
- A member from the floor (Zoe) suggests that these requests should be issued more broadly through email networks and the website. Executive agreed.

Elections

Rebecca Sullivan is acclaimed as Chair for a 2-year term.

Dan Irving is acclaimed as Vice-Chair for a 2-year term.

Mark Lipton is acclaimed as Treasurer for a 2-year term.

Carol Dauda is acclaimed as Program Coordinator for a 2-year term.

Dai Kojima is acclaimed as Communications Coordinator for a 2-year term.

Chris Packard is acclaimed as Queer Indigenous Chair for a 2-year term.

Allyson Mitchell is acclaimed as Secretary for a 2-year term.

Claire Carter is acclaimed as Local Area Coordinator for a 2-year term.

- A member from the floor (Ela) suggested that the position of program coordinator is labour intense, perhaps appoint two people.
- Rebecca noted that there is a committee that helps with vetting and program management. We need a program coordinator supported within the executive and have some tasks removed from their plate. Job descriptions will be rewritten to become more equitable. In other executives the vice chair is also a program coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

