

**Minutes of the Sexuality Studies Association Annual General Meeting**  
**May 31, 2023 - 2:00pm EST**  
**CLH G, York University, Toronto**

Chair: Ryan Conrad

Members present:

- Mac Stewart
- Bessy Polykarpou
- Melanie Fishbane
- Ryan Conrad
- Gary Lee Pelletier
- Ricky Varghese
- Patrick Keilty
- Ummni Khan
- Andi Schwartz
- Cornel Grey
- Ian Liuja Tian
- Natalie Kouri-Towe
- Shawn Suyong Yi Jones
- JT Tremblay (took minutes)

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Ryan Conrad, Chair, introduces the Meeting Agenda.

Ryan moves to approve the agenda.

Ricky seconds.

No discussion.

Unanimous approval of the minutes.

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Approval of 2022 minutes

Ryan moves to approve the minutes.

Patrick seconds.

Approval count: 5

Abstention count: 4

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Chair's Report (Ryan)

. Five years of work on the Board of Directors with a focus on professionalization and organization building: launch of a bilingual website, launch of an awards program, move to national banking platform, efforts to move to membership management software, incorporation of the SSA into a legal entity (with board insurance).

. Ricky Varghese taking over as chair of the Association.

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Report from the Vice-Chair and Incoming Chair (Ricky)

- . Thanks to Ryan for his work for the Association over the past five years.
- . Ricky expresses a wish for greater diversity within the Association, and for opportunities to welcome sexuality scholars working outside of Canada.
- . Ricky won't be affiliated with an institution as of September (when postdoc at TMU ends).

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Treasurer's Report (Patrick)

- . Budget is stable and sustainable around \$30,000. Expenses are roughly the same as income.
- . Increase in membership this year.
- . Major expenses: legal fees for incorporation as nonprofit, 519 space, keynote honoraria, conference management tool, fees for Federation, emerging scholar award, web hosting
- . Recommendations: payment processing system so members can use credit cards, keep Interac e-transfer, close PayPal account when possible, keep an eye on expenses versus income.

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Secretary's Report (Suzanne), relayed by Ryan

- . Developed a calendar with annual tasks, reviewed and refined list of annual change over tasks, lead the process for moving forward with a payment processor and MMS.

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Membership Coordinator's Report (Islandia), relayed by Ryan

- . Association membership has bounced back from low membership after two years of virtual conferences, total of 81 members.
- . Members primarily Canadian, with a small contingent of international scholars from North America, Europe, and Australia.
- . Institutional Sponsors down slightly.

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Program's Coordinator Report (Gary)

- . Gary expresses gratitude to the Program Committee.
  - . Total of 88 participants in the SSA program this year: 13 panels, 3 roundtable discussions, 2 plenary panels, 1 keynote event (the only off-campus event this year).
  - . Issue of bilingualism at SSA and structural inability to support Francophone presenters.
  - . Program Coordinator position idea, with "onboarding" structure.
- . JT raises a few points regarding bilingualism: planning the translation work (budget, timeline), designating a coordinator of French-language programming who could engage in outreach with scholars in various provinces, including Quebec.

- . NKT volunteers as area coordinator for 2023 and proposes targeted invitations, considering that Montreal universities are not integrated, language-wise.
- . Cornel proposes bilingual panels, and reaching out to specific senior faculty members.
- . Ryan denounces full-time faculty members who shows up to their own panel and then leave.
- . Melanie proposes a sit-down breakfast or lunch with mentors, or pairing mentors with mentees.
- . NKT suggests an outreach taskforce to facilitate conversations with established scholars.

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Communication Officer's Report (Camille), relayed by Ryan

- . Twitter and Facebook reactivated this year, migration to MailChimp mailing list with close to 600 contacts, average of 5,000 website visits a year

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Ryan announces 2023 Award Recipients

Academic Leadership Award: Dr. Ummni Khan, Carleton University

Emerging Scholar Award: Melanie J. Fishbane, Western Univeristy

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Board of Director Elections 2023-2024

Nomination for Vice Chair (2-year term): Dr. Cornel Grey (Western). Acclaimed.

Treasurer (2-year term): No nominations

Communications Officer (2-year term): Self-nomination by Melanie J. Fishbane. Acclaimed.

Membership Coordinator (2-year term): No nominations.

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New Business:

- . Post-Conference Survey in the works to get feedback on the return to in-person conferences
- . New Sponsorship tier for community organizations. Ryan moves that the SSA create a new tier for community organizations to be institutional sponsors (at \$250). Seconded by Patrick. Passed unanimously.
- . Cornell brings up the possibility of a book award (or first book award). Ryan hesitates to award money to scholars with full-time employment. Ricky suggests awards for scholars with books in progress.

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Congress 2024 at McGill

Motion to adjourn: Ryan

Seconded: Patrick

Voted unanimously

Ryan Conrad  
Gary Lee Pelletier  
Patrick Keilty  
Bessy Vasiliky  
Ricky Varghese