

SSA Congress 2018
6th AGM
Location: University of Regina, First Nations University, 2nd Floor
SSA Meeting Minutes – 29 May, 2018

Land acknowledgement from Rebecca Sullivan

1:10 Meeting call to order, welcome:

Rebecca Sullivan (RS), Chair

Rebecca Sullivan outlines protocol for meeting and introduces members of steering committee.

Steering Committee:

Rebecca Sullivan, chair

Mark Lipton, treasurer

Claire Carter, local area coordinator.

Thomas Waugh, community culture and action chair

Dan Irving, vice-chair

Carol Dauda, program coordinator

SSHRC Congress Report from president elect, Patrizia Albanese

- Greetings.
- Expresses excitement for new role. Reflects on new approach & direction within SSHRC federation, an approach that is more responsive to member needs (of course with fiscal limitations).
- Describes intention to continue cultivating positive relationship between SSHRC and Ottawa (federal government).
- Announces that SSHRC has applied for connection grants, they were renewed for 3 years and also topped up a little bit.
 - All of the money in this grant, \$40,000 will go toward graduate awards who are first time presenters at CONGRESS (beginning next year).
 - Acknowledges this amount is not a lot of money, but is at least a step in right direction.
- Reminds SSA members that there are consultations coming up:
 - Role of humanities in social sciences. To ensure the importance of this research is adequately valued.
 - SSHRC is interested in getting feedback via phone or email.
- Indicates a working group is being formed on the future of CONGRESS:
 - To evaluate what is working and what is not working.
 - Acknowledges that memberships fluctuate depending on location of CONGRESS.
- Reflects on the success of Regina CONGRESS. President of university mentions how the community is embracing us at CONGRESS. Have heard accessibility is better here than in Ryerson. City of Regina warm and welcoming, especially with regards to signage, commute

to hotel, etc. Expresses thanks to the University of Regina. And reiterates request for feedback on what is working and what is not working at Regina Congress.

- Opens up to feedback from SSA AGM members and questions.

Rebecca Sullivan responds:

- Thanks Patricia for changing approach to relationship change, undoing of adversarial relationship.
- Expresses importance of CONGRESS in making attending conferences for more than one association affordable in terms of time and money.
- Emphasizes the importance of making Congress as affordable possible. Should not be syphoning money off of CONGRESS for “big thinking on the hill [Ottawa: federal government]”
- Repeats feedback against taking money from CONGRESS to fund initiatives in Ottawa.
- Asks if SSHRC has a small association representative.

Patrizia Albanese responds:

- Indicates no longer a small association representative. Was not viable financially. Now meetings conducted via teleconference.
- Describes that SSHRC has decided to have an association rep, an institution rep, and to create a committee structure which draws in people to work with these people. Emphasizes this structure shaped to engender more engagement with membership to ensure different voices represented.

Mark Lipton:

- Asks question about graduate student funding.

Claire Carter:

- Indicates it should be mandated for the local host to absorb costs to foster graduate student attendance.

Patrizia Albanese responds:

- \$40,000 will be allocated for this. Hasn't been announced how it will be distributed. Acknowledges is a “pittance” vs. \$500,000 provided by University of Regina for this role.
- Asks for student reflections on their experiences at Congress Regina.

Levi Hord:

- Expresses wish to have had better access to/know more about networking.

Patrizia Albanese:

- Expresses interest in formally opening up between associations. Also indicates interest in open up a new system (app) to communicate across the associations.

reese simpkins:

- Suggests SSHRC having *a first time attendee guide even to first time attendee graduate students register and get oriented.*
- SSA members present overwhelmingly agree with reese's initiative.

Rebecca Sullivan:

- Commends first time attendees for coming.

Patrizia Albanese:

- Concluding remarks

Rebecca Sullivan 2018 AGM Chair's Report:

- Acknowledges immense role of Chris Packard as Indigenous chair
- 70 Paid members: Usually people pay membership if people are going to conference. Less than last year, much higher than was expected for Regina.
- Suggests people remind colleagues to tell them to come to the small conferences.
- Good news: getting more and more regular and sustaining memberships.
- Reminds members to fill in google membership form. Need to fill out a form and need to pay. If you haven't done both insufficient. Then have to pay congress registration and conference registration. Describes how every year steering committee has to put out multiple emails to remind individuals.
- Reminder to pay (1) membership through SSA website (2) Congress registration (3) SSA conference registration.

Important areas of growth/ Management

- SSA in a great place, level of scholarship is fantastic, attendance is terrific.
- Work that needs to be done, we need to improve our communication systems, improve twitter, website etc.
 - Membership and submission systems. First year experimenting with Google Forms:
 - They have worked. Don't see any reason to buy into a large scale membership system. We no longer have to do the manual work of inputting the info into the forms.
 - Engage volunteer labour. We need help and when you sign up for help you have to do it. Don't volunteer if you can't commit to doing the work.
- Investing in the viability of charity status: It's complicated, not sure if it's viable.

Mark Lipton:

Speaks to charitable status viability. It is possible to apply for charity status, however there may be problematic implications in terms of what can be done politically once have charitable status. It's also expensive and a lot of work.

Suggests if anyone knows a lawyer willing to do pro-bono work, volunteer them. Also requires hiring of a book keeper. This also takes up to a year [of administrative wait time] once submitted. None of SSA members competent to fill these forms – need a lawyer. Suggests tabling this issue for a year or two until finances more stable and check in about interests then. Right now advises not

worth it or viable. WGSRF has charitable status. May present a cautionary tale to SSA following this path. Hesitant to spend money on charitable status at this point. Have reached out to small scale organizations to consult what they've done. If become charitable organization someone will have to fill out the charitable receipts. That's additional work for the treasurer.

Rebecca Sullivan:

Agrees don't have the financial cushion to say we will lose money on Regina and build it back up next year. Charity status depends on finances.

Charitable status issue tabled for discussion next year.

Rebecca Sullivan 2018 Conference Report

- Acknowledges program committee.
- Approximately 55 presenters. Higher than expected.
- Received close to 80 submissions.
- Issue of concern: almost all international applications pulled out due to lack of funds due to broader problems with academic funding, these problems were beyond SSA control.
 - Indicates received a lot of requests to pay for graduate student funding, often in entire amount.
- Indicates Vancouver will be great opportunity to rebuild international membership.
- Notes on success of collaborative initiatives
 - Kim TallBear keynote partnered with ESAC funded through Congress
 - Andrea Ritchie keynote partnered with DSAC through Congress funding.
 - Emphasizes the success and visibility of Ritchie's talk: "Winning Congress twitter!"
 - "Prairie Sexualities" session partnered with WGSRF
 - "Neither straight nor flat" screening, partnered with FSAC & WGSRF
 - Second year in a row partnering with FSAC. A natural fit for partnering. Already in conversation for partnering again.
 - WGSRF dance party
 - Continue to look for different collaborative initiatives.
- Upcoming conferences:
 - 2019 University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC).
 - 2020 Western University (London, ON).Just announced. Both are exceptional opportunities, don't wait to register.

Mark Lipton: Treasurer's Report

Became treasurer a year ago. At that time were locked out of accounts (no passwords). Things are in order now.

Made \$4,000 from membership this year.

Fewer people registered: %10 less than last year.

Fewer graduate students attended and more faculty attended. This was consistent with financial goals. Want graduate students but need money of faculty.

Average payment was \$57 CAD

This year added an institutional membership.

First members is Mark Bonham Sexual Diversity Studies (MB-SDS) at U of T.

One of mandates is outreach to MB-SDS because they have a full time administrator.

Could be excellent opportunity.

Bank account as of February 2018, \$10,628.82 (slightly higher now).

Keep in mind, still haven't paid Congress for costs.

Expects to end up with small profit (about \$12,000). Will be able to report that at the next AGM (2019, Vancouver).

Main priority is to stabilize accounts (\$25,000 goal) and systems. Once financial goal is reached, can imagine different events and initiatives. Things look positive from this financial point of view.

Claire Carter:

Proposes, following WGSRF's lead, establishing a minimum faculty membership fee and offering an opportunity for faculty to donate travel for graduate students.

Rebecca Sullivan in response to Claire Carter:

We do have an option where faculty members can pay \$100 or elect to pay \$150 (with \$50 donation). But this additional \$50 is not and cannot be earmarked for graduate travel. Indicates desire not to set up a grad student fund, find it viable, and make it defunct. Indicates the labour of setting up this initiative is an issue. Predicts another 3-5 years before can earmark a fund to do that.

Mark Lipton:

Concludes presentation.

Rebecca Sullivan returns to chair's report:

SSA 2018 AGM Elections:

Reports last minutes concerns from our Communications Officer and Secretary

Unsure if they can meet their responsibilities.

Nominations from the floor

Two year terms

Commitment to attend the 2019 and 2020 conference.

UBC local area coordinator needed (not appointed).

Continuing Appointments

CHAIR – Rebecca Sullivan (to 2019).

VICE-CHAIR – Dan Irving (to 2019).

TREASURER – Mark Lipton (to 2019).

PROGRAM COORDINATOR – Carol Dauda (to 2019).

INDIGENOUS CHAIR – Chris Packard (to 2019).

SECRETARY appointed Ali Greey 2018-2019 (one year term).

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: Ryan Conrad is appointed unanimously for one year term (to 2019) to work with Mark Lipton and Rebecca Sullivan.

There is an exodus issue in terms of positions, but there is a succession plan in place.

Dan Irving has agreed to stand as PRESIDENT for 2 years.

Mark Lipton has agreed to continue as TREASURER, in principle to renew (included in the constitution).

Chris Packard is stepping down from INDIGENOUS CHAIR. An important role for SSA.

Rebecca Sullivan has committed to clean up the constitution. Takes an institution a while to formulate responsibilities. Once templates are in place, succession is easier to do.

Rebecca Sullivan Templates:

Indicates intention is to template procedures so that everything doesn't need to be redone each year. Looking for a tech-savvy person who could do this, one who would enjoy templating. Programming committee coordinators needed.

With regards to accepting abstracts, the impetus is to say yes, though certainly peer-reviewed.

Kaitlyn [last name? O?]:

Asks if coordinator could be more than one person (a co-position).

Rebecca Sullivan:

Worries that this dynamic won't work. Often makes work more difficult for one person, when the other doesn't fill their responsibilities.

Carol Dauda:

Reflects on how google forms helped with the labour and template.

Rebecca Sullivan opens floor for Other Business:

- Join the sexuality studies facebook group.

Ryan Conrad:

AGM minutes are missing from previous meetings.

Mark Lipton in response to RC:

Have been uploaded to the cloud space.

Ryan Conrad:

Expresses urgent need to move away from PayPal because it requires gender markers.

Emphasizes that this transition has been requested 3 years in a row.

Expresses deep disappointment in the attendance at panels. More presenters than attendees.

Brought colleagues from US at considerable financial cost, low attendance – they are very unlikely to return. Expresses urgent need to boost attendance.

Rebecca Sullivan in response to RC:

Indicates has been investigating possibilities for this, all systems require gender marker and/or higher fees. Indicates have included in google form "please tell us pay pal name we need to associate with."

Mark Lipton:

Problems of switching systems = labour, need two signatures to change banks. Would recommend get out of Alterna with a bank that can allow instant e-transfers e.g. TD Bank. The google form is really important. Any financial institution demands dead names and pronouns. Because previously locked out of bank and did not exist record of membership – also raised difficulties.

Tom Waugh:

Raises issue of Francophone participation in Regina Congress. Distance was difficult in Regina. Hope can put an effort into UBC to back to at least return to where we were in previous conferences. Need to solicit QC panels? Tom volunteer to participate and encourages proactiveness on this initiative.

Rebecca Sullivan in response to TW:

Quebec has conference ACFAS (sp?). Must make desirable because so much amazing scholarship in QC. Acknowledges problems with template (not bilingual). And acknowledges Tom Waugh's assistance in preparing bilingual call for abstracts.

Mark Lipton in response to TW:

Once have outreach materials translated, then can begin outreach.

Tom Waugh in response to ML:

Networking can happen to foster Francophone attendance.

Mark Lipton:

Emphasizes importance of maintain degree of Indigeneity.

Katelyn O(sp.):

Suggests considering Francophone involvement and outreach for determining collaboratives for future.

Mark Lipton to all SSA members present:

If you are attending other associations' conferences make these connections. We are happy to do the outreach if you do the introductions.

Kevin L. (sp?):

Question about logo.

Ryan Conrad:

Recommends establishing a graduate student paper award, no financial, but in name. Have to think about how to get people to engage and attend presentations. Ryan offers to encourage people to engage and attend presentations.

Concluding remarks by Rebecca Sullivan
Meeting adjourned by Rebecca Sullivan at 2:40.