

## **The Canadian Sexuality Studies Association Annual General Meeting – June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 – 12-1pm**

Minutes compiled by [garyleepelletier@gmail.com](mailto:garyleepelletier@gmail.com) on Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> via zoom audio recording.

### **Attendees.**

Dan Irving  
Ryan Conrad  
Mark Lipton  
Patrick Teed  
Patrick Keitly  
Rebecca Sullivan  
Carol Dauda  
Emma McKenna  
Ricky Varghese  
Gary Lee Pelletier  
Cait McKinney  
Natalie Kouri-Towe  
w/Congress President Gabriel Miller for beginning of meeting

### **Summary.**

This SSA's AGM took place online via zoom. Congress was cancelled for 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The president of the federation Gabriel Miller was present for the beginning of the meeting to answer questions and discuss the current state of affairs.

### **Content.**

Dan, as chair, began the meeting as well as facilitated it. He explained the purpose of recording the AGM was for SSA archives and not identify theft...😊 . He also went over zoom meeting protocol.

Agenda Item #1 - Approval of AGM agenda, which was sent out by the steering committee in an information package prior to the meeting.

Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda for the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the SSA be approved by the membership. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #2 - Approval of minutes from 2019 AGM, which were also sent out in the information package.

Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the SSA held at UBC be adopted. Motion passed.

### Agenda Item #3 – Announcements

- 1) Federation President Gabriel Miller attended and addressed the members briefly. He started by reading an equity statement by the federation on racism, anti-black racism, and police violence, which pledged the federation's commitment to working on their eradication. He discussed how reimbursement funds from congress had already been processed on May the 21<sup>st</sup>, and so all members who have paid should have received automated email confirmations of their reimbursements by now. If not, SSA members are encouraged to email [congress@ideas-idees.ca](mailto:congress@ideas-idees.ca) with any concerns. Gabriel also explained that when it was announced that Congress was cancelled for 2020 in April the federation initially went through a process to try to take the event online. But when concerns were voiced about equity as well as the additional strain on members that a reformatting of Congress would cause, the federation realized the best move would be to cancel the conference altogether. Gabriel went on to describe how looking forward to Congress for 2021 and 2022 presents two main challenges: contingency planning in the context of Covid-19 and how to move forward the conversations around equity, colonialism, and anti-black racism that had been planned for 2020. Gabriel cited, for example, the incident of racial profiling that occurred at UBC in 2019. He insisted that there needs to be a broader conversation about how we use this platform (Congress) to contribute to the world in meaningful ways, as well as discussions around ensuring that certain barriers are removed or prevented re: people's participation in congress. He expressed that these conversations are ongoing and need to involve the federation, all the associations, and the hosting university, and that members should stay tuned for more information as the conversations continue to unfold alongside Covid-19.

Rebecca asked where the University of Alberta falls in communications regarding the aforementioned brainstorming around contingency plans for next year. Gabriel responded that UofA has been involved in every step of the federations' reflections thus far. He added that UofA are partners in both "tracks of the conversation" and will be fully involved in all of the announcements being made about Congress 2021 moving forward.

Rebecca followed up with a problematic experience she observed at UBC, which was the institution's refusal to provide any kind of shuttle service, thus making it extraordinarily expensive and difficult to get onto campus. She felt UBC was not held accountable for its actions that led to a very poor congress experience for our association, as well as contributed to the active racial violence on campus.

Gabriel acknowledged this challenged UBC had and expressed that one of strengths of the bids put in by University of Alberta for 2021 was around transportation – specifically free access to public transit in Edmonton (though he admitted he needed to confirm that...). He also mentioned they had provisions in their bid around childcare as well. Going forward he'd like there to be some Congress standards applied across all hosting

institutions, where possible, so attendees can know what to expect. He said he would surely take Rebecca's feedback back with him to the federation.

- 2) Dan recapped an initiative that the past SSA secretary (Ali Greey) tried to launch. It was a writing group called "Writing Together." Unfortunately no one showed up for its launch, and Dan surmised that was likely due to the stresses of the present moment. The initiative is being held off for now, but it was meant to be a space where people could gather to do units of writing and check in with each other around progress. Dan suggested that we revisit this in the Fall as it is a neat idea to build community between conferences.

Rebecca added that one of the issues might have been the time zones as well: "The most convenient time in Toronto is not the most convenient time for everyone else in the world!"

- 3) Dan highlighted the amazing job that Mark did on the fabulous conference proceedings. Though we couldn't meet and partake in the fabulous program that Carol and volunteers put together, the program is up on the SSA website (which members can put on their CVs!). If you require any edits to it please contact Mark at [doctormarklipton@gmail.com](mailto:doctormarklipton@gmail.com)

#### Agenda Item #4 - Steering committee executive reports:

- 1) Chair's Report: Dan explained how we continue to grow as an organization, and this year's amazing and diverse program is evidence. He mentioned that work must still be done on developing more scaffolding for queer of color scholarship and representation of indigenous and decolonizing research. This is work we must continue to do as we conceptualize better and safer ways to operate a conference (one that is potentially online) for next year. He ended by encouraging faculty members who can to buy a sustaining membership to the SSA.
- 2) Vice Chair's Report: The vice-chair chairs the awards committee and so Ryan explained some updates to the awards process that was made. There was some confusion with the emerging scholar award about how to self-nominate and so some late self-nominations occurred. This was chalked up to first year confusion no doubt, but in the future forms will be/have been updated. Now when members people submit their proposals to the conference there will be a question about whether or not they want their paper to be considered for the award, which also makes clear that members have to submit it in advance of the conference.
- 3) Program Coordinator's Report: Dan gave the report for Carol. There was a lot of interest and the SSA received a lot of submissions. The statistics show that we are growing annually (2018 – 55 presenters in Regina and 2019 had 96 presenters at UBC). This year there were 98 presenters set to present. A special thanks to Carol for all her service and talent.
- 4) Treasurer's report: Mark noted it was his last term as treasurer. He scrolled through expenses to give members a sense of the funds coming in and coming out of the budget.

He mentioned how PayPal is particularly expensive, and that's where a lot of funds are eaten up, which is something to consider for the future. He also mentioned that the budget will probably be just under 35,000 dollars for end of this fiscal year (2020). A lot of growth has occurred due to membership and ad revenue. He concluded that a copy of the treasurer's report is archived in the SSA dropbox and will be passed onto the subsequent treasurer. He also mentioned that he and Rebecca had discussed the goal to get the budget up to 50,000 dollars – a good place to be for maintaining the association. Mark reminded everyone that the steering committee told members that they would not have to pay next year if they paid this year, so that incoming revenue will not be able to be relied upon, hence why a goal of a 50,000 budget can come in handy. With prompting from Rebecca, Mark explained how some associations apply for legal status and move from legal status to not-for-profit status and to charitable status. Though the SSA is no where close to that, he did check into the paperwork needed if we ever wish to go that route. Rebecca added that such legal financial designations could enable the SSA to become eligible for things like Canada summer jobs and other grants and programs – so something to think about....

- 5) Communication Report: Patrick explained there is not much to update, aside from the exploration of moving the SSA to some integrated email process like Mailchimp (which costs money though...).

Agenda Item #5 - Award winners. The Thomas Waugh essay award went to Emma McKenna for her paper "Civil Regulation of Sex Work in Toronto's Cabbagetown, 1987. Emma was present at the AGM. The academic leadership award went to Ricky Varghese, who also was present.

#### Agenda Item #6: Steering Committee Elections

- 1) Treasurer: Patrick Keltly self-nominated. No nominations from the floor. He was successfully acclaimed.
- 2) Program Coordinator: Cate McKinney self-nominated. No nominations from the floor. She was successfully acclaimed.
- 3) Secretary: Gary Lee Pelletier self-nominated. No nominations from the floor. He was successfully acclaimed.
- 4) Local Area Coordinator: This local coordinator must be stationed at the hosting institution for Congress (so University of Alberta for 2021). Dan turned to the membership to see if anyone had any contacts/ potential options. He explained how the candidate would work closely with the program coordinator and the chair to find places for social events off campus, as well as to the association a heads up about the accessibility of certain buildings on campus, etc.

Agenda Item #7 - Queer/Indigenous chair. Dan explained that a motion passed by the SSA steering committee to have this position receive an honoraria was unanimously passed. The exact wording was sent to members in their information packets.

Motion: Be it resolved the steering committee moves to amend the SSA's constitution by striking queer and indigenous chair position from the elected officers. The steering committee will be further charged with developing and implementing a new indigenous liaison position to coincide with the annual SSA conference. This new position will include an honoraria to be set by the steering committee. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #8 - New Executive Position: Membership Coordinator. Dan explained how this motion would empower the executive to create a new executive position that would be one that would track membership as well as recruit.

Motion: Be it resolved the steering committee moves to amend the SSA's constitution by adding a membership coordinator to the elected officers that comprise the steering committee. The steering will be further charged with developing a complete job description and soliciting someone from the general membership to fill this position following the 2020 AGM. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business.

Dan explained how the new executive will have to discuss Congress contingency plans, pending the pandemic, which is at the top of their agenda. The membership will be informed as the federation releases new information regarding the formatting of the next Congress.

Ryan chimed in that normally at congress the incoming steering committee meets as a group with the outgoing committee, and since that can't happen he wanted to make a footnote to be sure that meeting happens later online at some point.

Carol made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Patrick. Motion passed.