

CACLALS Annual General Meeting

Monday May 29, 2017

Ryerson University

Present: John Ball, Jane Chamberlin, Pamela McCallum, Michael Minor, Mariam Pirbhai, Henghameh Saroukhani, Dorothy Lane, Guy Beauregard, Jason Sunder, Amanda Perry, J. Coplen Rose, Brandi Estey-Burt, Brenna Clarke Gray, Susie O'Brien, Asma Sayed, Brian Lefresne

1. Call to order

- Due to the Executive transition, Dorothy Lane began the meeting with a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their work during the past 4 years

2. Agenda approved by consensus

3. Minutes of 2016 AGM approved by consensus

4. Business Arising:

- Mariam Pirbhai raised issue of updating website and increasing social media presence (suggested looking to EACLALS as model)
- Brenna Clarke Gray offered to update website; suggested using Squarespace (\$18/month); also recommended blog
- Dorothy Lane reiterated the importance of revitalizing the blog as a flexible mode of engaging with members and updating important information (member publications, CFPs, job advertisements etc.)
- Henghameh Saroukhani suggested having the potential of a published member list online to encourage networking; Brenna Clarke Gray mentioned that some members would be uncomfortable with this; issue to be discuss at a later date

5. President's Report:

- Dorothy Lane reminded members that the **next Congress** will be at the University of Regina/First Nations University of Canada; the theme is 'many diversities'. Dorothy also asked members to think through how to push and problematize this theme for the CFP
- Jason Sunder suggested that the theme sounds progressive but is problematic, especially when thinking of unproductive discourses around multiculturalism
- Guy Beauregard drew attention to the institutional paradigm around issues of diversity and suggested Sara Ahmed as a generative speaker who could work to challenge the theme further
- Pamela McCallum suggested partnering with ACCUTE to potentially bring Sara Ahmed; headline names such a these would encourage more to come to Regina; Pamela also recommended that the committee should be proactive in terms of asking speakers instead of waiting for other organizations

- Mariam Pirbhai supported the idea that creative writers should be drawn from a local level (especially in Regina), and that it would be productive to bring a group of writers together on a panel; Mariam will organize the CFP
- Dorothy Lane encouraged everyone to come to Regina!
- Susie O'Brien suggested Denise Balkissoon (Globe & Mail) for Big Thinking
- Dorothy drew attention to **ACLALS 2019 (Auckland, July 15-19)** and encouraged members to attend

6. Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

- Pamela highlighted the large refund from CFHSS; this had to do with UofC food charges being lower than normal
- In general, Pamela noted that more money was spent than received (\$1,000 shortfall); however the budget is healthy at \$20,000. Guy Beauregard highlighted that indeed this means the institution is healthy
- John Ball & Mariam Pirbhai asked how grad students know and claim travel; Amanda Perry noted she could not find the forms easily
- Jason Sunder recommended putting the forms online (fillable pdf)
- John Ball also recommended putting a notice on the CFP to remind grad students about the funding; and note, as Jane Chamberlin suggested, that they will be notified when their paper is accepted
- Susie O'Brien, Pamela McCallum & Henghameh Saroukhani recommended a note saying that students traveling the longest distances will be given priority
- Dorothy Lane reiterated that CACLALS is a privileged association within ACLALS and that we should be promoting donations to other member associations
- Brenna Clarke Gray suggested that we place the donation tab on the website in order to direct attention to it throughout the year
- Asma Sayed also recommended promoting donations from senior scholars as a means to support junior academics
- Pamela McCallum noted that *Ariel* sponsors the CACLALS lunch and that the Executive should consider keeping this connection alive

7. Committee Vacancies/New Members: (all positions were accepted with consensus or carried forward)

- Deepest thanks were given to outgoing members for their hard work and dedication to the organization and field: Dorothy Lane, Pamela McCallum, Susie O'Brien and Brenna Clarke Gray
- Brandi Estey-Burt's term as Graduate Representative has ended; she will send out calls for interest to give others an opportunity to join; she may possibly return to the post herself with the full support and enthusiasm of all members
- Brenna Clarke Gray offered to help with the website transition
- Suggestion to include 'contract academic faculty' representative for future Exec.

New/Current Executive:

- President – Mariam Pirbhai (Wilfrid Laurier)
- Secretary-Treasurer – Henghameh Saroukhani (SMU)
- Prairies – Terry Tomsy (UofA)
- Atlantic – John Ball (UNB); John Ball agreed to extend term
- Ontario – Mariam Pirbhai (Wilfred Laurier)
- Quebec – Heike Harting (Montreal)
- British Columbia and Northern Territories – Phaniel Antwi (UBC)
- Colleges – TBA
- Graduate Student – Jane Chamberlin (serving until 2018)
- Graduate Student – TBA

8. Other Business:

- Pamela McCallum offered her thanks to Dorothy Lane for her 2 terms as President of CACLALS and Hyacinth Simpson who served as the local representative at Ryerson and who organized the session with d’bi Young
- John Ball expressed his thanks to both Pamela McCallum and Dorothy Lane for their wonderful and dedicated work for the past 4 years
- Mariam Pirbhai raised the issue that the CFP deadline is too early for CACLALS (currently December 31); this encourages would-be presenters/members to submit to other later deadlines (i.e. ACQL); Guy Beauregard agreed that a later date would make CACLALS more competitive; Michael Minor raised the point that grad students need to know about their funding early on however (i.e. March)
- New deadline (agreed by members): CFP=January 15; RESPONSE=March 1
- Presentation by Mariam Pirbhai & Susie O’Brien for the Graduate Student Presentation Prize. WINNER: Amanda Perry (New York). Runners-up: Brian Lefresne (Guelph) & Jason Sunder (Western)

9. Motion to Adjourn by consensus