

## **CACLALS Annual General Meeting**

Saturday May 26, 2018

University of Regina, SK

Meeting Convened at 4pm

Chaired by: Mariam Pirbhai, CACLALS President (2017-2019)

**Present:** Mariam Pirbhai, Henghameh Saroukhani, Asma Sayed, John Ball, Brandi Estey-Burt, Farah Moose, Daniel Coleman, Jesse Arseneault, J. Coplen Rose, Terri Tomskey, Veronica Austen, Prabhjot Parmar, Rubelise Da Cunha, Lena Schneider, Tamara El-Hoss, Shalika Sivathasan, Sara Rozenberg, Ranjini Mendis, Diana Brydon

1. Call to order
2. Agenda approved by consensus
3. Minutes of 2017 AGM
  - Spelling correction on Wilfrid Laurier (John Ball/Jesse Arseneault)
4. President's Report (Mariam Pirbhai):
  - Mariam Pirbhai reported that one of the major transformations to this year's organization has been the introduction of the new website which launched in September 2017. There has been increased engagement with members because of the website and through our new social media presence (twitter). The possibility of a facebook page was also broached.
  - Mariam Pirbhai noted that our membership has increased by approximately 30% (in part due to the website). Members were also reminded that we now have 1, 2, and 3-year options for membership renewals under the new membership system.
  - Mariam Pirbhai reminded the AGM that Congress/CACLALS 2019 will be in Vancouver at UBC (June 1-7, 2019) and encouraged everyone to come. The theme will be "Circles of Conversation."
  - Mariam Pirbhai drew attention to the upcoming ACLALS 2019 conference "The Uncommon Commonwealth" (Auckland, July 15-19) and, again, encouraged members to attend (closing date for proposals October 30, 2018).
5. Treasurer's Report (Henghameh Saroukhani):
  - Henghameh Saroukhani confirmed the healthy renewal and uptake of members this year as we have seen a \$1760 increase in membership revenue (although multi-year renewals are included in this number).
  - Henghameh Saroukhani reiterated the continued support of *Ariel* with our readings and luncheons and wanted to thank them on behalf of CACLALS for their contribution to these events
  - The web design and website constituted the highest cost on this year's financial statement (at approx. \$3000).

- Henghameh Saroukhani noted that there were only 4 claims for travel funding at last year's CACLALS. She encouraged members to apply for funding as we have room in the budget to consider more recipients.
- In total, Henghameh Saroukhani noted that the budget was very healthy indeed. Removing the one-time charge of the web design, our net total is up \$841.
- Henghameh Saroukhani also noted that she cautions against posting the financial statement (prepared each year by the treasurer) online (to be viewed publicly) as we begin to fill out our web archive. This is for security reasons and to protect against phishing.
- Lastly, no donation was made this year to ACLALS as we are reviewing our funding scheme with them. Daniel Coleman inquired about our relationship with ACLALS in terms of funding and Diana Brydon noted that donations were only meant for supporting scholars from less well-funded institutions as they made their way to ACLALS in Stellenbosch. Henghameh Saroukhani will be following-up on ACLALS donations.

## 6. General Business

- a. *Membership fee increase*: The AGM was in favour of fee increases. Asma Sayed noted that CACLALS has the lowest association fees in Congress while Prabhjot Parmar voiced the view that the 20-25% increase was indeed reasonable. Asma Sayed suggested having a prompt to sponsor students as graduate life becomes more precarious. Terri Tomsy suggested that CACLALS have a ranking system with fees linked to salary brackets (see MLA). John Ball suggested we could save money on ordering food during the conference. Diana Brydon thought it would be wise not to exceed ACCUTE membership fees. Mariam Pirbhai will follow-up with the Federation to see if members can get multi-membership discounts.
- b. *Executive duties*: Mariam Pirbhai outlined the importance of laying out the duties of the Executive in a more detailed manner, and also proposed a new list of executive duties to be added to the existing executive duties under the constitution. (See Exec. Committee Duties Proposal #2). Veronica Austen reiterated the view of many by noting that these changes should be bylaws and not constitutional changes. J. Coplen Rose suggested that social media guidelines might also be useful to create as CACLALS expands its social media presence. Diana Brydon echoed the importance of such (detailed) guidelines for the future. Members agreed unanimously to include the executive duties (as bylaws) with the following amendments: remove "daily updates" of website management from Executive Committee Duties #2. (John Ball / Ranjini Mendis)
- c. *CHIMO newsletter*: The AGM voiced support for the continuation of some form of the newsletter as it helps foster community with members and enables a platform for book reviews, news of members, obituaries etc. Mariam Pirbhai noted the need for manpower required

in reviving the newsletter. As a number of members questioned the need for a physical newsletter, Diana Brydon offered a blog as an alternative (where members can opt in or out of updates). Hengameh Saroukhani suggested calling this the CHIMO blog and featuring it on our website. Ranjini Mendis requested that the CHIMO archived issues be given more visibility on the new website, and Pirbhai said she would see how this might be arranged in future updates to the website. Pirbhai noted that the addition of a blog or other regular feature would have to fall under additional executive duties (see Exec duties proposal), and a consensus was not reached as to who would write and maintain this blog.

- d. *Indigenous Language Revitalization Fund*: Mariam Pirbhai voiced the problem of finding recipients for the fund in the past. Hengameh Saroukhani noted that there is currently \$525 for the fund available. Daniel Coleman pointed out the importance of language in the field and the desire to acknowledge the significance of this fund. Asma Sayed suggested the money be used for a graduate student award (having to do with language revitalization). Diana Brydon voiced the views of a number of members to terminate the fund and possibly use the money for a workshop for graduate students in the realm of indigenous language support. Veronica Austen suggested liaising with ILSA to find an appropriate recipient for the current funds. Prabhjot Parmar volunteered to ask colleagues working in the field of indigenous language revitalization in British Columbia if they might need the \$500. Motion to terminate the fund was approved by consensus.
- e. *Creative Writing Initiatives*: Mariam Pirbhai noted that evolution of CACLALS into an organization that supports both critical and creative enterprises is worth pursuing, noting that this year's CACLALS included two such creative/critical events (the Grad Creative Writing event and the Creative Writing workshop on "writing place"). The need to look into more creative writing initiatives will be on agenda items in the future and members are encouraged to offer ideas in support of new initiatives.
- f. *Member research areas*: The AGM agreed that member research areas should be expanded. Terri Tomsy offered to create a google document as a way to elicit ideas for new research areas from all members. The conversation then turned to the much-debated (and dated) CACLALS name. Mariam Pirbhai noted the need for ACLALS (and affiliated associations) support for a name change. Pirbhai also noted that she has been in conversation with the chair of the European branch of ACLALS who has also expressed dissatisfaction with the current name. She also mentioned that graduate students, potential members as well as those being invited to CACLALS events are finding the name to be a hindrance to their support of CACLALS. A formal motion was put forth to continue in the effort to change the

name of CACLALS in collaboration with other ACLALS branches.  
(Veronica Austen/Diana Brydon)

- g. *Travel Reimbursement policy*: The AGM agreed on the new bylaws for travel reimbursement concerning the President and Secretary-Treasurer, with the understanding that this should be revisited every three years to ensure the budget stays balanced. John Ball suggested that CACLALS includes support for the graduate members of the committee as well (up to \$500 for each graduate exec. member to use if needed). Motion was passed to approve the travel reimbursement bylaws for President, Secretary-Treasurer and Graduate Exec. Members. (J. Coplen Rose/Diana Brydon)

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

- Thanks were given to outgoing members Jane Chamberlin, Heike Harting, and Brenna Clarke Gray
- Nominees for 2-year terms of Asma Sayed (BC/Northern Territories) and Jesse Arsenault (Quebec) were put forward and unanimously acclaimed. Shalika Sivathasan was nominated from the floor for the graduate student rep position and unanimously acclaimed.
- Incoming members are in italics below:

Current Executive:

- President – Mariam Pirbhai (Wilfrid Laurier)
- Secretary-Treasurer – Henghameh Saroukhani (SMU)
- Prairies – Terry Tomsy (UofA)
- Atlantic – John Ball (UNB)
- Ontario – Mariam Pirbhai (Wilfrid Laurier)
- Quebec – *Jesse Arseneault* (Concordia)
- British Columbia and Northern Territories – *Asma Sayed* (KPU)
- Colleges – TBA
- Graduate Student – Shamika Shabnam (McMaster) [serving until 2019]
- Graduate Student – *Shalika Sivathasan* (York) [serving until 2020]

8. Other Business:

- Multiple members at the AGM voiced their concern about the high cost of the conference dinner, with the request that a more affordable venue be selected for Vancouver

9. Motion to Adjourn by consensus (5:30pm)