

CACLALS Annual General Meeting
May 30, 2016
University of Calgary

Present: Phanel Antwi, Chigbo Arthur Anyaduba, John Ball, Diana Brydon, Paulomi Chakraborty, Jane Chamberlin, Sarah D'Adamo, Margery Fee, Pam McCallum, Michael Minor, Mariam Pirbhai, Henghameh Saroukhan, Jasmine Spencer

Regrets: Brenna Clarke Gray, Dorothy Lane

1. Call to order

2. Agenda approved by consensus

3. Minutes of 2015 meeting: approved (Diana Brydon; second Margery Fee)

The minutes were corrected to show Michael Minor was present.

4. Business Arising:

Sarah D'Adamo asked about the website: how do we wish to use it? What other functions could it play?

Margery Fee spoke in favour of a new website on one of the available platforms.

Jasmine Spencer said that it would be easy to add links or announcements on a new-platform website.

Mariam Pirbhai suggested that CACLALS consider Facebook presence.

5. President's Report

Pam McCallum (for Dorothy Lane) reported that the SSHRC budget will be raised 18% this year, with future increases expected. This is the first time the budget has been raised in ten years.

CACLALS has sent \$1500 (\$1000 + \$500 individual donation) to ACLALS to support the travel of African scholars to attend the triennial conference at Stellenbosch University. She also reported that the U of Calgary journal *ARIEL* has donated \$1000 for the same purpose.

She reported that ACLALS continued to be in a very precarious financial position following the withdrawal of funding from the Commonwealth cultural associations.

There was discussion around the possibility that groups like CACLALS, EACLALS etc. in developed countries could make annual donations to help funding.

Mariam Pirbhai suggested that this might be a moment for rebranding ACLALS.

Phanuel Atwi pointed out that an effective transformation would mean all organizations in ACLALS needed to change their names at the same time.

Chigbo Anyaduba spoke against a name change. There is a “history” of bad names in “Commonwealth.”

Mariam Pirbhai pointed out that we deal with subjects not part of the Commonwealth.

John Ball and Margery Fee are attending the conference in July and could raise the issues.

Pam McCallum reported that our attendance was down for 2016, probably related to the distance of travel, the fact that the ACLALS conference was in July 2016, and the first meetings of ILSA at Congress this year.

Sarah D’Adamo pointed out that ACCUTE attendance was also down for this Congress.

6. Treasurer’s Report (Pam McCallum)

She reported that CACLALS normally balances its budget for Congress. This year we are likely to spend more because of the costs of an invited speaker and an anticipated larger amount of requests for travel funding. We have funds to cover these expenses.

She will investigate where the funds collected for indigenous languages can be donated; she has a contact in the Faculty of Education here who knows about indigenous language teaching.

7. Elections:

President; Mariam Pirbhai elected president-elect (Margery Fee, second Phanuel Atwi)

Quebec representative: John Ball suggested Heike Harking; he will contact her (approved Sarah D’Adamo; second, Phanuel Atwi).

Graduate representative: Jane Chamberlin elected (Mariam Pirbhai; second, Hengahmeh Saroukani)

8. Other business:

Sarah D’Adamo asked about executive representation by region. Would it be more effective and flexible to have people elected from areas of study?

John Ball pointed out that such a change would require a change in the CACLALS constitution.

Phanuel Atwi said there could be new energy in a thematic approach.

9. Adjournment: by consensus