

Consortium of Doctoral Programs in Rhetoric and Composition
DRAFT Minutes from the Annual Caucus, March 19, 2014, at CCCC, Indianapolis, IN

The meeting of the Consortium of Doctoral Programs in Rhetoric and Composition was called to order by the Chair, Joyce Neff, Old Dominion University, at approximately 1:40 p.m. Professor Neff introduced the Executive Committee, then asked Kris Blair to introduce the guest speakers and the topic for discussion: Digital and Multimodal Scholarship. The four presenters were Joe Moxley, Professor of English, University of South Florida; Kathie Gossett, Assistant Professor of English, Iowa State University; Liza Potts, Assistant Professor of Writing and Rhetoric, Michigan State University; and Susan Delagrange, Associate Professor of English, The Ohio State University at Mansfield.

Highlights of Professor Moxley's presentation included a number of examples to show the ways the academy in general and rhetoric and composition in particular are moving toward entrepreneurial and crowdsourced models of scholarly publishing, citing scholars such as David Blakesley, Michael Palmquist, and Cheryl Ball. Moxley noted that increasingly the tools of production are within the hands of scholars in the field. To document this process, Moxley highlighted his own work with the WritingCommons and MyReviewers and addressed the question of what types of skills do we provide graduate students, or "what types of gear do future mountaineers need?"

Professors Gossett and Pott's joint presentation overviewed their NEH funded work on fostering born digital dissertations in the field (not merely dissertations saved as .pdf and uploaded to a repository). Their work thus far has included an NEH workshop and a whitepaper, and the overall focus of their presentation was on the fact that while the technological capacity is there for creating digital dissertations, the curricular and policy infrastructure is not. As a result, how do rhetoric and composition faculty make arguments at the local level, and who should have control over the form a dissertation takes?

Finally, Susan Delagrange spoke of the possibilities and constraints of tenure and promotion policies in providing incentives and rewards for digital and multimodal scholarship, focusing on her own experiences producing an award-winning digital book. For Delagrange, digital scholarship intermingles research, teaching, and service; thus faculty and administrators must have a more capacious understanding of what constitutes scholarship. Delagrange cited sources such as the MLA Taskforce Report on Tenure and Promotion and called for more direct commentary from the CCCC, perhaps in the form of a position statement to acknowledge the academic labor and intellectual rigor of digital scholarship.

Questions after the panel included issues of preservation, how to foster open access, and the importance of collaboration.

Business Meeting

Joyce Neff welcomed consortium members and guests to the business portion of the meeting. She invited Executive Committee Officers to share reports:

Treasurer: Helen Foster, University of Texas, El Paso. Professor Foster was not in attendance. Professor Neff reported that there are limited funds that need to be confirmed in order to

support various initiatives, including the planned migration of the Consortium website to a blog-based interface.

Visibility Project Liaison: Louise Phelps, Syracuse University/Old Dominion University. Louise Phelps was not present but provided a written report about the Cross-Generational Taskforce. The Taskforce will meet on Saturday and is planning a 2015 Cs workshop on long-term career planning and mentoring; a consortium member (Kris Blair) is also a member of the Taskforce, and there exist important liaison opportunities between the two groups to foster greater involvement in both the CCCCs and the Consortium.

Assessment: Wendy Sharer, East Carolina University. Professor Sharer was not present at the meeting but has indicated she is not able to continue with the assessment survey project; a call for volunteers/interested members should occur to sustain the project and to review the multiple years of data collected. Cindy Selfe suggested Michael Harker of Georgia State University as a possible replacement. Joyce Neff and others formally thanked Professor Sharer for her substantial service to the Consortium.

Web Site and Listserv - Andrea Olinger, University of Illinois. Andrea Olinger was not present at the meeting; however, her written report included the following overview: Olinger added 29 more journals to the list of journals in rhetoric and composition, for a total of 61. The listserv has 159 members (many of whom are no longer official representatives but who presumably are still interested in listserv conversations). Although the listserv was not active between October 2009 and April 2013, since then, members have used it to discuss issues related to the job market and post notices of job openings. In her absence, the group formally thanked Olinger for her service and congratulated on her new position at the University of Louisville.

Because Olinger's report also queried about who would be responsible for the migration of content to the WordPress blog and the maintenance of the listserv, discussion ensued, and Kris Blair, BGSU, will work in Fall 2014 with a graduate student to migrate content to WordPress and also shift the listserv to BGSU. This also coincides with Gail Hawisher's announcement to step down as a member of the Executive Committee. The group also thanked Professor Hawisher for her longstanding service.

Nominations for the Position of Assistant Chair

Joyce Neff invited nominations for the position of Assistant Chair from the group; suggested nominees included the following:

- Patrick Berry, Syracuse University
- Libby Miles, University of Rhode Island
- Ryan Moeller, Utah State University
- Jim Ridolfo, University of Kentucky
- Pam Takayoshi, Kent State University (declined)
- Kate Vieira, University of Wisconsin

Other continued discussions included the possible archiving of the large volume of print Consortium documents held by Janice Lauer, Purdue University, and the need to work with NCTE/CCCC about maintaining these and other historical documents. Discussion included the

question of the resources that are provided to the Consortium as a standing group and the need to engage Joyce Carter, CCCC Program Chair, in future conversation about archival preservation needs. Related topics included the need to have a Consortium member elected to the CCCC Executive Committee, determining whether the NCTE/CCCC has available server space or library space at headquarters in Urbana, whether there would be funds from the organization (even a grant) to digitize the materials.

In addition, there was discussion of the need to have updated, accurate data about doctoral programs. Paul Matsuda noted that it's not possible to collect data about everything and encouraged focus on purpose and audience. Rather than duplicate efforts to collect and represent data about doctoral programs, the question of whether the Consortium might link to and potentially maintain the *Rhetoric Review* summary of doctoral programs and how members should update this information. Amy Kimme Hea agreed to speak with Theresa Enos about this possibility.

Theme for 2015 Meeting and Panel

Carrie Leverenz suggested surveying the consortium members, asking them what they want to work on. Cindy Selfe suggested a session devoted to how to compare job placement numbers and graduation numbers among programs. Some data are not consistent in terms of what schools are reporting. How do programs develop a series of metrics for describing placement? Who would we ask to participate if this became the topic? A related topic is the job market and how programs need to more actively prepare grad students for a professional as opposed to academic career path. Kevin DePew discussed the types of program and student self-assessment in his program at Old Dominion, asking of students: What are your goals as a PhD student? Were your goals fulfilled? Some members suggested the need to not schedule presenters but to make the session more workshop-oriented; this would likely encourage participation and shared resources. The Chair, Associate Chair, and Assistant Chair will continue to solicit and develop topics for both the meeting and the annual panel session.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m., with Cindy Selfe and others thanking and congratulating Joyce Neff for her service as Consortium Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristine Blair, Associate Chair
Bowling Green State University