

CWCA/ACCR Board of Directors Meeting

April 23, 2021

Video conference

Present: Sarah King (President); Jordana Garbati (Treasurer); Stephanie Bell (Digital Media Chair); Frédérique Offredi (Francophone Representative); Jenna Goddard (MAL); Stephanie White (MAL); Brain Hotson (Secretary; Membership Chair)

Regrets: Clare Bermingham (Vice President) (delayed, 1:33pm); Heather Fitzgerald (Past-President); Vidya Natarajan (Conference Co-Chair); Michelle Hartley (Conference Co-Chair); Stephanie White (MAL) (delayed, 1:26pm); Mandy Penney (Conference Co-Chair)

1. Call to order (King):

The meeting is called to order at 1:04 pm EDT.

2. Approval of agenda (King):

Approved.

3. Approval of minutes (King):

Approved.

4. President's Report (King)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1coNCsO_bgEpLrQSETSC8cnKPi8JC6TJMoPLsO0jA0Yk/edit?usp=sharing

- General reporting
 - King - reviewed president's report (see link)
 - called for review of MOU language from Alberta regional group status
 - AGM planning going well. Brian sent out the notice
 - A note about the need for advocacy for professional and permanent directors in light of the prevalence of contract positions in Atlantic Canada.

ACTION: Bell to post AGM info to website.

5. IWCA Summer Institute funding request (e-mail)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UCiVo4_rnbJlp4eC1ihChiEDgJPEN1pwwPPUFyaWA/edit?usp=sharing
[IWCA Summer Institute 2021 - Flyer.pdf](#)

- Bell - can we designate the money for a Candian applicant?

BIRT: CWCA/ACCR support a donation of \$200 CDN designated to a member of a CWCA/ACCR as a national affiliate. Mover: Jenna; Seconder: Stephanie White; Motion is passed

6. Conference 2021 planning (Conference committee - Bermingham reporting)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/173VoPWJQK3umFweQ8Ys0p4EL003s8DF2IGm6Up_PUhA/edit?usp=sharing

- o Bermingham - conference committee working through the conference platform; sorting out changes to presenters and tweaks in the schedule; schedule to come soon.
- o King - question about zoom integration for conference platform. Is it going to work?
- o Bermingham - we've been working on it and it looks like it'll work well.
- o Garbati - I need contact information for keynote speakers to give them money
- o Bell - update on social spaces (see attached link)
- o King - reach out to presenters to get them involved in hallway chats and the social event

ACTION: Bell to recruit social volunteers from presenter list.

7. CWCA/ACCR Anti-Racism statement

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZUZIHmcVTw5xim_Q8hTu6UUnLSToJ0awQMwEyTBigdl/edit?usp=sharing

- King - working group met and gathered feedback and input on which they've revised the statement; request for the board to approve the commitments proposed in the document.
- Offredi - happy to support this. Two comments: in first section regarding the conference, I have resistance to the language of "closed space." This makes me uncomfortable because I am resistant to segregation and the

notion of closed space.

- King - change this language to holding space, and then allowing the groups themselves to decide on whether that space is open or closed.
- Offredi - That helps. The notion of having spaces where some type of people are excluded makes me uncomfortable.
- White - Saying something like “holding a space” isn’t specific enough. Often a need for racialized folx to be able to speak freely and be confident that they don’t have to do the labour of explaining themselves to someone who has racialized them. The concept of “closed space” sounds like it’s informed by what racialized people are saying that they need.
- Hotson - In my experience, closed space is important. Others can be invited in. We can offer the space, and the participants can decide.
- Goddard - This intended to be protected space rather than exclusionary.
- King - protected space is language that might work.
- Bell - CWCR editors can’t fulfil these commitments because can’t compel personal narratives or racialized authors to write. So consider rephrasing to contain these commitments to what the board can commit to.
- Bermingham: Thanks committee. Comfortable supporting this. Shift in language around publishing commitments Note that the language isn’t specific to the blog
- King - Thanks for input and all the effort put into this.
- Offredi: I have a feeling of jumping on the bandwagon in a way. Trying to put my mind in the head of a racialized person and feeling cynical but also potentially feeling like finally we’re taking action at last. I feel torn between these two. Also by focusing on race we’re being exclusionary. Reluctant with last statement about language as a tool of power, there a lots of groups to whom this applies (i.e., class). And the word colonialism sounds fashionable, which makes me feel as though we’re just responding to the pressure of this moment. Reflection for the future - do we want to enlarge this to inclusiveness? Or are we sticking with something driven by the context of current events?
- Bell - we’re too homogenous as a community to make these commitments. We need to promote diverse hiring practices first and foremost. Perhaps a policy statement on this from the CWCA.
- Goddard - consultants echoed this and recommended a diversity review
- Hotson - the goal of this statment is like a vision statement. So the recommendations and commitments don’t have to go into the document itself.

8. Social justice and inclusion board member position draft proposal (Goddard)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sGMrrwWTMYGG3LaOtbX66_uExMca5eBZ/view?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z1XCi1S63ESp4g34oDRq33JC8EQfeWljo_4ouR6yKtg/edit?usp=sharing

- Goddard - a quick update. Info about the consultants in the link. Mandy will circulate a resolution next week. Reached out to 4 consultants: one (Debs) declined; one (Chung) declined and recommended a more comprehensive equity audit because of the whiteness on the board to avoid tokenism and pressure on this one person.
- King: info about costs
- Goddard: I don't have information about that. There's no public-facing info.
- Hotson: usually charge a min. Of 3 hours
- Bell: what about the other option of gathering feedback through a survey or town hall
- Clare: probably will be unproductive and optics not great coming from an all-white board
- King: Vidya is organizing a BIPOC session at the conference and I wonder if that's an opportunity to do some of this work.
- Bermingham looks like there's a schedule conflict for Vidya
- King: I checked with her.

ACTION: Bermingham will reach out to equity officers at UWaterloo to see if they have information.

9. Treasurer's Report (Garbati)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z02RKSAY-cWv9R_ri41yR6UhcAJx20BOQJjvq5SVxok/edit?usp=sharing

- Garbati - automatic deposits turned on so that's saving me work; 75 registrants so far; next task is to prepare a financial statement - do i do two years in one because I didn't do one last year.
- Hotson - put both together because the bylaws and Industry Canada require annual reports.

10. Report from Digital Media Chair and CWCR/RCCR (Bell)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aLLWgt_uAWdd0FKFmfBbrHr_AIWQb1JTTAjyCQsf42o/edit?usp=sharing

- Bell - nothing to report

11. Report from Membership Chair (Hotson)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_DgP9TKWnEnI8Fr9Xov9D25L0YE5uR0cIFE0djCAEvv/edit?usp=sharing

- See report above.
- Hotson - listserv administration needs to be moved. We should consider whether we want to continue having a listserv.
- Hotson - Mass email tool is through mailchimp that's Saint Mary's owned. Board will have to find a new email tool, though Hotson can provide list of names and contact information.
- King: add the listserv discussion etc. to the next agenda

ACTION: Bell to write proposal to switch listserv to community forum.
Hotson the listserv discussion etc. to the next agenda.

12. Report from IWCA

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TCWmvu5pNxyfxs5PXm7a5NP7Zhb-QK4a6f4k75gYkD4/edit>

Why I Left The CWPA (Council of Writing Program Administrators)

<https://asaobinoue.blogspot.com/2021/04/why-i-left-cwpa-council-of-writing.html>

WPA Editorial Board Statement in Response to the Recent Call to Boycott the CWPA

<https://rhetoricity.com/WPA/>

- Hotson - Reported that the IWCA board meeting discussion was mainly taken up with discussion on making the organization more international. IWCA has been an international organization since 2000. Hotson suggested to the IWCA board that the american group become an affiliate of the IWCA the same way as CWCA/ACCR
- CWPA boycott also came up, the substance of which is in above. Hotson asked board members to be aware of these issues.
- Bermingham: something I find frustrating is that any communication from IWCA makes any number of assumptions about context. Asking people to post to the listserv to designate audience, etc.

13. CASDW report (Garbati)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uAkG6LT4EShP8qT1SBHHqF4X1X-xKClf>

[GiTIhjKlj0c/edit?usp=sharing](#)

- Nothing to report

14. Other Business

Offredi indicated that she will be stepping back from the board as well as writing centre work. She thanked the board for being welcoming over her time as a board member. She will step down in May. The board offered her thanks for her work, and that she will be sorely missed for her contribution to the work of the board and in the writing centre community.

Meeting end 2:41 EDT

Next meetings:

May 14, 2021 - 1:00 EST

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3869163462?pwd=OXdZd25GYlpFNURXeG02YmNDd1c5UT09>

Meeting ID: 386 916 3462

Passcode: 1jN745

Distribution: *Stephanie Bell, Clare Bermingham, Heather Fitzgerald, Jordana Garbati, Jenna Goddard, Michelle Hartley, Brian Hotson, Sarah King, Vidya Natarajan, Frédérique Offredi, Mandy Penney, Stephanie White, Michelle Hartley*