

Meeting of the NJWGSC,  
Carnegie Library, Stockton State College  
June 12, 2008

Present: Karen Alexander (Rutgers), Alicia Groatman (Rowan), Wendy Kolmar (Drew),  
Lisa Mastrangelo (College of St. Elizabeth), Sally McWilliams (Montclair State), Ellen  
Mutari (Stockton), Arlene Holpp Scala (William Paterson)

- I. Continuing (a.k.a. "old") business
- A. Welcome

**B. Annual Report (Sally)**

The annual report is attached. Sally highlighted the creation of the travel fund for NWSA being awarded for the first time this year for the Cincinnati conference.

Sally and Arlene proposed that the annual report be institutionalized and presented each year at the summer meeting

Sally also reported on the current state of the consortium finances:

The consortium took in \$13,500 this year from institutional memberships and \$1000 from conference registrations. Expenses for the year were approximately \$6100; and we currently have \$24,000 total. Sally will send out a separate budget report to the list by 6/17/08.

Sally raised a question about conference expenses and about whether we should set a budget for the conference as the Drew conference was more expensive than the previous year's conference. The co-chairs will discuss this prior to the Fall meeting.

**C. Conference Debrief (Arlene)**

Arlene said that the Drew conference had gone very well and thanked Deb Liebowitz and Wendy Kolmar for their work coordinating it.

1. Evaluative criteria for submissions

The group revised a draft document presented by Arlene of criteria for paper submission and judging. The revised draft is below:

**Criteria for Papers Submitted**

- Papers and projects produced by undergraduate students at New Jersey two- and four-year colleges and universities are eligible.
- Papers must show evidence of feminist or gender or queer or multicultural or intersectional perspectives [we agreed to look at NJ Project language and to consider further revision of this bullet; Wendy will see if she has the NJP's language and share it with the co-chairs].
- Papers must be under 25 pages in length. Creative submissions (poetry, art, photography, etc.) will be accepted accompanied by an analysis of no fewer than three pages.

- Campus faculty selecting papers are urged to be attentive to student diversity.
- Submissions must be vetted and submitted through the committee designated on each campus.
- Student presenters are expected to present their papers/projects at the conference; student presenters must provide a substitute if they cannot attend due to extenuating circumstances.

#### **Criteria for Judging**

- Each year there will be a total of five cash awards, including one for a Promising Scholar. Each award will be \$200.00.
- There will be no more than one award per institution.
- The NJWGSC Judging committee will consist of four faculty, with no more than one faculty member from any one institution. The committee will be selected with attention to institutional diversity.

Lisa Mastrangelo will write a draft description of the selection process, based on what was done this year maintaining blind review throughout as much of the selection process as possible. She will also include a definition of “Promising Scholar.” We discussed this term and came to a sense that this probably means “work at the introductory level” but weren’t sure that gave us a full enough definition for institutions to work with. We also debated how papers being considered for the “Promising Scholar” award should be identified and read. Should institutions designate them or the judging committee? Should the papers be pulled out and read separately?

We agreed that criteria for selection and the distribution of awards should be clearly described in the conference program.

Next conference: Probably at Raritan Valley on April 3, 2009; paper submission deadline would be Feb 9.

| Follow-up action: finalize the criteria for judging at the Oct. meeting.

#### **D. Webpage: TagOnline proposal (Sally)**

Sally talked about the web site proposal from TagOnline, a woman-owned business. In general everyone thought the proposal looked good. Sally will go back to the company and ask the questions about the proposal that various people raised. She will communicate her findings via the list, so we can move ahead with this project in a timely manner.

#### **E. Speakers’ Bureau (Arlene)**

Arlene proposed that the consortium maintain a Speakers Bureau list on the web site. It would list speakers available both for scholarly/research talks and for pedagogical/faculty development workshops. All arrangements for the talks would be made between the speaker and the university. The Consortium would update the list regularly and review the list once a year. We agreed to set a minimum recommended fee of \$250 (to be negotiated between individual speaker and requesting institution). We agreed to list people’s areas of research expertise as well as workshop topics rather than specific talk

topics. Arlene will start to develop the list by sending a message to the NJWGSC list inquiring for recommended speakers.

**F. Assessment Follow-up (Sara Martino)**

Ellen reported that Sara is doing assessment at Stockton using a questionnaire that measures degrees of sexism and of feminist identification. Preliminary results were shared with those in attendance; please contact Ellen Mutari if you would like a copy of this handout.

**II. New business**

**A. Election of new co-chair**

Lisa Mastrangelo was elected by acclamation to replace Sally McWilliams as co-chair. Arlene thanked Sally for all of her work on the consortium. Lisa's term will run Sept. 2008 through June 2010. Arlene is in her second year of her two-year term.

**B. Vote on proposed treasurer position.**

We adopted, with some emendations, the proposed addition to the by-laws below which creates the position of treasurer.

**Section V. Other Positions in the Consortium**

**A. Selection and Term of Treasurer**

1. The Consortium Treasurer will be sought from the general membership and will serve for a two-year renewable term.
2. Duties will include, but are not limited to: handling the deposits of any funds received by the Consortium and the payments of all financial obligations incurred by the Consortium (e.g., conference speaker's fees, awards to student-presenters at annual conference, etc); preparing budget reports for each meeting and as directed by the co-chairs; preparing the year-end budget report for inclusion in the annual report; updating the Consortium's tax status on an annual basis.

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[note: the numbering of sections in the by-laws will need to be updated if we add this section on Other Positions; i.e., the current V. is "Committees"—thus it will become section VI if we accept this new article, etc]

**C. Election of new treasurer**

As the language we adopted says that nominations will be sought from the membership, we will vote on the nominee(s) for treasurer at the October meeting. Sally agreed to serve as Acting Treasurer until a treasurer can be elected.

**D. Benefits of Institutional Membership**

Sally asked what the benefits of paying an institutional membership should be and whether we should distinguish between the benefits for institutions that pay \$500 and those that pay \$1000. We agreed that the former would get two free registrations for the conference and the latter four free registrations. The conference program and the web site will list the contributing institutions as Member Institutions (\$500) and Sponsoring Institutions (\$1000).

### **E. Rutgers Film Reviews Database Project**

Karen Alexander distributed: information about the latest issue of *Signs*; the CFP for the MAWSA conference at Rutgers; and the CFP for the Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship.

Karen described the proposed film reviews database project, which would collect 300-word reviews of films, primarily documentaries, for classroom use. The project will be run by Rutgers graduate students with faculty oversight and will be housed either at Rutgers or at the University of Chicago through *Signs*. The database would be full-text searchable. Films included would be primarily new releases. Karen asked if we thought the proposed database would be valuable and if people in the room would be interested in contributing reviews; people agreed it would be a valuable teaching resource.

### **E. NJWGSC and student opportunities**

#### **1. Internship**

Possibility of creating an internship with the Consortium working on mailings, the conference, the web site and other projects. Would there be enough hours? Would there be enough interaction with the co-chairs given that the Consortium has no permanent home or space. Suggestions, during discussion of the next topic, that the internship might involve work with student campus organizations around the state.

#### **2. Liaison with WGS student organizations**

We talked about listing campus organizations on the web site and potentially providing funding for student-organized activities, especially if they involved collaboration between two or more campuses.

### **F. Fall meeting and ½-day conference**

Bergen CC will host the fall meeting in late October. As a result of the above discussion, we decided to invite student women's organizations to the fall meeting so that they could meet each other and begin a conversation. So the fall meeting will focus on involving and organizing students within the consortium. We also discussed, as a possible topic for the spring, having a discussion about the presence of women of color faculty and students in the consortium, in women's studies leadership and classrooms. We will talk further about how that discussion should be focused.

Arlene and Lisa will contact the membership with the October meeting date. Sally thanked Ellen Mutari for arranging this meeting at Stockton.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.