

Minutes of the Executive Meeting Held 21.2.04 in Newcastle

1. The meeting opened at 11.01 am
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from L. Haywood, Nuria Triana Toribio, Jan Gilbert.
Minutes of the previous committee meeting were approved

3. **Matters arising.**

- *Study days*: A discussion took place over the decision to transfer funding away from study days and on to postgraduate bursaries. It was felt that there was nothing now to hold the organization together between conferences. It was suggested that the decision to abandon study days is replaced by a request to AGM to reconsider and to approve holding one study day in the Autumn (to be members only). This should take the form of discussion of one issue relevant to female academics, such as equal pay, as well as involving a round table or seminar paper.
- *Newsletter*: A discussion took place about the need to focus on benefits for members of joining WISPS. It was decided that the idea of a newsletter should be taken forward. This would include:
 1. Members' publications
 2. Members' newpage: new posts, promotions etc
 3. Postgraduates to write up about their PhDs
 4. Calls for papers
 5. Review of conference
 6. Book review section
 7. Forthcoming publications - from publishers: publicity.

Action: LT to contact publishers re publicity.

Action: LT to inform members and request items of news for 1, 2, 3

First newsletter to be distributed following conference and to include review of conference. It should be sent as an email attachment, strictly members only. Later the newsletter would go on the website- second quarter.

- *Publication of conference papers*: Discussed whether to take this forward and decided that each executive member should contact a journal to request special edition.

Action:

VK: Spanish Cultural Studies

LT: Romance Studies

AD: European Film Journal (?)

JW: BHS

- Also to explore the possibility of an anniversary book to celebrate 5 years of WISPS.
Action: LT to approach Ellie re Boydell in the first instance. Once a publisher has been established then editors to be requested. AD offered to be co-editor for Spanish. Co-editors for Portuguese and Latin American will be required. Introduction should be from the President.

4. Cambridge conference

The organizing members had provided a full report for which the committee wished to thank them.

Discussion points were:

1. Lunchtime bar. Action: LT was instructed to approve this if there was no cost to WISPS. If there were such a cost then it was felt that a lunchtime bar was unnecessary, provided that other refreshments (tea/coffee/juice/water) were provided.
 2. Volunteers for chairing panels
The committee made the following suggestions:
 - Film session: Ann Davies to chair
 - Golden Age: Dorothy Severin to be asked to chair
 - Carrie Hamilton/ Susana Lorenzo to be asked to chair
 - Consumption: Claire Williams to be asked to chair
 - Medieval: Jane Whetnall to be asked to chair
 - Constructing feminist identities: Par Kumaraswami to be asked to chair
 - Influences: Alison Sinclair (at AHGBI on same day) to be approached to chair
 - Female protagonists: Jill Ingham to chair
 3. There was a discussion about the potential for new members given that many papers are to be given by non-members. Action LT to forward WISPS form and 'Why you should join?' to LH/JG for distribution to those non-members, since whilst it is an open conference, it is also an opportunity to increase membership.
 4. There was concern expressed about the high number of papers included from the US since the purpose of the conference was to act as a showcase for members' research. It was felt that it was an opportunity to contact colleagues from the States and to hear new ideas.
 5. Also. discussion about the approval given a last year's AGM for the inclusion of members' only sessions at the conference. It was agreed that for this year, these could be round table events which used two of the 'open slots on the programme: Wed 17.30 and Thurs 10.30. The first of these could be an open discussion of issues for women academics teaching in HE. One of the senior members, if attending to be asked to chair.
The second could be issues in research. LT to approach Dorothy Severin to lead the research round table. (I will do this after I have feedback on the proposal from the conference organizers: LT).
5. **Postgraduate bursaries.** Cost to WISPS: £233. All three approved. To be retained as at least 2 to allow for variation from year to year as costs may be more expensive in other years. £200 approved for Prof Weissberger's costs

6. **Email list.** Approved. Action: LT to set up. This will include former members who do not renew and can be used for conference circulation. US colleagues' requests for information to be included.
7. **Collaboration with WIFS/WIGS.** WISPS has proposed a triannual conference with the above for which we would each cancel our own conference. We are waiting for the response of the organizations. This will not be before May.
8. **Update of mission statement.** Amended and approved. Attached. To be approved by AGM before going on website.

AOB

1. Proposed edition of a selection of WISPS papers to celebrate the fifth anniversary. Ellie Ferguson to be approached first re Boydell interest.
2. Direct debit forms and renewal forms to be brought by AD to the AGM. Renewal form to be updated to include a tick box for approval of inclusion on email lists and database. Action: AD
3. Support for secretary for one year will be required due to LT sabbatical. This should take the form of a post of membership secretary. All agreed Nuria should be asked to stand again as Chair, as her sabbatical has intervened during her period of office. Members will need to be circulated with details of the post of Chair so that all is done fairly. Action LT: to request details of the post of President for circulation from NTT. VK indicated she has stepped in for one year as VP but would be standing down.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm