

Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American Studies

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Liverpool University, 8 December 2004

Present: Par Kumaraswami (President); Claire Williams (Vice President); Ann Davies (Treasurer); Jill Ingham (Graduate Rep); Kirsty Hooper (Web Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from Lesley Twomey.

1. The minutes of the previous executive meeting of 28 June 2004 were approved, with the following comments:
 - a. *(Item 3)* AD confirmed, in response to a query from CW, that according to the Inland Revenue, our income is not taxable (being mainly from subscriptions). There is therefore no financial advantage to WISPS in being affiliated to a particular institution.
 - b. *(Item 6)* KH agreed to find out whether autoreply levels could be altered, in order to avoid the problem of accidentally replying to the whole list when hitting <return>.
 - c. *(Item 11)* It was agreed to approach Louise Haywood and/or Jan Gilbert for a list of e-mails of the attendees of the 2004 conference, in order to set up a non-members' conference mailing list.
 - d. *(Item 12)* CW agreed to approach Anne Cullen about collaborating on a new WISPS logo.

2. Study Day. PK circulated a rough programme. All but two of the speakers have accepted; PK will pursue those remaining. It was agreed to publicise the event as soon as possible; LH will need numbers by January 10th.

3. Vth Anniversary Volume. AD: we have received 7 definite contributions, but only one with a Latin-American focus. It was agreed to set a second deadline (probably the

date of the Cambridge study day) to encourage further contributions (with particular reference to L-Am). It was also agreed that after this deadline, targeted invitations might be sent to ensure the most comprehensive possible coverage. It was decided that although further discussion about the language of contributions and the referencing system was needed, a final decision could only be made in conjunction with whichever publishing house takes on the project. PK agreed to approach Dorothy Severin about writing a forward.

Studies in European Cinema. AD has approached SEC about a 'Women in Film' special edition, in collaboration with WiGS. The editors are happy and a slot has been reserved.

4. Conference 2005.

- Sara Brandellero (Oxford) has agreed to organise the conference. Provisional dates: Fri/Sat 14/15 or 21/22 October 2005.
- It was agreed to send out 2 CFPs, the first with a deadline of Friday 8th April and the second for Friday 10th June. Programme to be published by end July. KH and CW to be WISPS liaisons.
- Committee to enquire into funding for international speakers (eg British Academy 44th Americanists Fund; Instituto Cervantes).
- It was agreed to try out the idea of a general theme for the conference – precise theme TBC, but suggestions include 'Dialogue' and 'Tools and methodologies'.
- Offers of venues for future conferences received – Easter 2006 (Durham); 2007 (Birmingham/Belfast).

5. Website. KH reported that the website is now fully functional. More links to members' homepages (staff or personal) would be very welcome. Medium-term plans include the setting up of searchable databases of members' research interests and publications (ie a WISPS e-library).

6. Postgraduate Items.

- JI reported concerns re: a lack of postgraduate involvement in WISPS. It was agreed to address the problem of recruiting postgraduate members initially through a direct mailing before the conference, inviting abstracts and publicising bursaries.
- AD agreed to draft a blurb on bursaries for the website.
- JI agreed to extract names of supervisors and postgrads from the AHGBI database. JI and PK to pursue contacts.

7. Publicity and Membership

- AHGBI have given us permission to use their list for publicity purposes. SLAS have agreed that we can use their newsletter, but not their mailing list. PK to pursue ACIS and AIL for confirmation.
- The question was raised of which committee member is responsible for maintaining membership records. AD to approach LT re: clarification of duties.
- It was agreed that all Exec members would blanket bomb friends about recruitment, with the aid of the flier circulated by PK and the forms from the website.

8. Writing Retreat

- Planned to take place in summer 2005. Venues proposed so far: Liverpool U mountain hut (too basic?); 'The Burn', Aberdeen (PK to pursue); a barn in Norfolk (CW to pursue); Educational field trip centres (KH to pursue).
- PK proposed Rowena Murray (Strathclyde) as facilitator. It was agreed to look into the possibility of inviting somebody from the AHRB to talk about grant proposals.

9. Changes to Mission Statement. It was agreed to present the revised mission statement to the AGM for ratification.

10. Newsletter. KH agreed to begin collecting information, with the aim of publishing the newsletter by the beginning of Semester 2.

11. Membership Issues. It was proposed that the current distinction between Staff and Non-Staff Postgraduates for fees purposes was unsustainable. It was agreed to establish a single postgraduate membership fee.

12. Developing International Links. It was agreed that further discussion of potential links with Feministas Unidas, the Asociación Internacional de Literatura Femenina Hispana and similar organisations be postponed until next year.

13. Research and Teaching Databases. KH agreed to pursue the possibility of creating a WISPS e-library of links to works electronically published elsewhere, and also to look into the viability of incorporating databases on the website.

14. Next Meeting. To take place in Edinburgh in April.

END OF MEETING