

**Minutes of the Executive meeting of
Women in Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies**

University of Birmingham, 25 February 2006

Present Par Kumaraswami, Pat Odber, Susanne Meachem, Jennifer Fraser, Kathy Bacon, Claire Williams, Kirsty Hooper, Lesley Twomey

1. Welcome to new committee members from the President.

2. Apologies: Anja Louis

3. Matters arising

- Moneys are owing to IRS and for fees and expenses. See financial issues for resolution.
- LT to circulate publishers re conference: response from 3 companies. To do earlier this year.
- Conference 2006, Birmingham brought forward from 2007. North East for 2006.

4. Postgraduate Issues

- AHGBI database: responsibility is PO. JF to liaise.
- Postgrad bursaries to cover travel and conf fees: 3 available. LT to update and send to organizing committee. To be submitted before next executive meeting.

5. Study day

- ABJ, Carmen Villar Lobos, AL. Letter of thanks (LT).
- Covered: how to get published, networking, conference going,
- 14 attended, mix of new and existing members good.

7 Finance AL not present

Bank has not approved signatories. Mandate signed on several occasions. WISPS cannot pay in or access account for payment. Other organizations have had similar problems. Fast solution required given that members will be renewing from 1 April. Bank account to be transferred to Co-op.

8. review of system for updating membership list

- Renewal to take place on line with copies to Secretary, Treasurer, Web secretary. LT to advise update to members and update the forms. Cheques to be posted, or bank transfers to be organized at same time. Direct debitors also should update their research interests so that the web can be updated.
- Database & teaching resource: useful links to be added for professional development
- WISPS newsletters has some links.
- Agreed not to pursue massive number of links to other organizations

9. Postdoctoral bursary

- Proposal from WISPS well received.
- Bursary of £1500 to £5000 to be agreed.
- Discussion of involvement of different organizations SLAS, ACIS.

- Mentoring of projects to be done by WISPs. This should involve project management, monitoring reports, as well as friendly support.
- System to be devised under which mentor should be named.
- PO agreed to respond to AHGBI on the bursaries

10 Rental of Mailing List

Approach from BSS. Agreed to keep the list private. Any requests to be fielded by KH. Suggested they could sponsor a member to join and then they could circulate via the list or (preferably) that they simply forward announcements via KH.

11. AHRC review of research

WISPS had been approached: yippee! along with other organizations for Hispanists. Members to be nominated to include a rising researcher, KH and a senior researcher, LT, to attend two consultative meetings

13. Anniversary volume

- Tamesis had rejected the volume as too disparate. AD, PK and CW had revised it thoroughly and added strong papers from the 6th annual conference, including the autobiography of Laura Freixas: 12 papers, 3 Portuguese. Peter Lang had been approached and shown interest, and the volume was almost ready. Suggestions were made that Instituto Camoes & Instituto Cervantes could be approached for support. Title: *Making Waves*.
- Editorial Board appointed to peer review papers.
- Launch could be at Birmingham conference as the turnaround is 3 months.

14. Study day

- November 2006. Sequel to last study day proposed: after the first job, what next? aimed at early career researchers. Lisa Shaw, Isabel Santolalla to be approached to contribute.
- Spring 2007: language teaching study day: Margaret Clarke to be approached to lead. To address issues of language teaching, lectoras, keeping research going, number of hours, marking strategies (using time effectively).

15 Newsletter

- Do we want to keep it? Hard to get contributions. Decision to keep it going. KH to devise a structured grid for people to fill in. JF to circulate P/Gs so that they can contribute research plans, introductions.
- Next newsletter: Easter

Retreat

8 attended at the Burn. Positive feedback.

Next to be held at Sneaton Castle, Whitby, 30 June-2 July. Cost £80.

AOB

1. Increasing profile of WISPS. Canning House invitation to a symposium to address Women in L America. CT, NT, TP to be approached
2. WIGS president interested in sharing professional development sessions with WISPS.
3. Expenses to Anya but will have to wait for them.

16. Conference 2006

- PO and SM declared their pleasure in welcoming the conference to Birmingham.
- Conference to be held in Horton Centre: costs £85 for 2 days. £65 P/G; £45 for one day. £35 P/G.
- 3 bursaries available. LT to update the document and forward to PO and SM
- Instituto Camoes could be approached for a Portuguese bursary. PO to approach.
- Invited speakers could be Yolanda Soler, Instituto Cervantes, Manchester; Birmingham dept to sponsor two Portuguese speakers; Lucia Graves to be approached. CW to liaise with PO.
- Conference title: Gender, Language and Power: to attract a different range of colleagues but also hold the current attendance steady.

Panels (and colleagues to be approached re: organization):

Linguistics (Jane Beswick)

Gender and Translation (PK)

Life-writing (KB)

Women LA and Left (PK)

Political history (MT-LT to approach)

Renaissance and Early Modern (LT)

Round tables: 1. Language teaching? (HR); 2. Feminist critical practice

Call for papers asap. Deadline 1 June

PG applications to be made by 1 June and discussed 30 June at next executive meeting.