

**Minutes of the Executive meeting of  
Women in Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies,  
University of Northumbria, 2 September 2006.**

Present: Par Kumaraswami, Jennifer Fraser, Lesley Twomey, Ann Davies

1. Welcome to Ann as a new committee member from the President.
2. Apologies: Kirsty Hooper, Claire Williams, Susanne Meachem, Pat Odber, Kathy Bacon
3. Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes approved as an accurate record.
4. Matters arising: all to be dealt with under relevant agenda headings.

Postdoctoral bursary AHGBI/WISPS

Proposal from WISPS had been approved. To be included as news at AGM.

**5. Conference 2006**

PO had provided copies of the draft conference programme. In discussion it was noted. There were no plenaries. It was suggested Dorothy Severin be asked to convert her paper to a plenary as her topic covered new technologies and primary sources. LT to action.

It was noted that the conference had achieved its aim of attracting a different clientele and this was to be welcomed.

Panels:

Gender and Translation (PK)

Choc-Lit (KB). Could this be moved to Saturday 4pm as a parallel session to allow space for a plenary?

Women LA and Left (PK)

Renaissance and Early Modern (LT)

Spanish Literature and society

Cuban culture. Could one of the papers in the Latin American panel be moved across to replace Ann Davies?

Panel moderators: These might be the session organizers where appropriate or other could be chosen nearer the time.

**6. Bursaries.**

Applications were examined and it was decided to approve the following applications: Hilde Ten Hacken (to be asked about conference fees. These would be awarded if there was no other source of support),

Emma Gatland.

Birmingham postgraduates should apply for conference fees and these could be considered and several applications allowed.

Organizers asked to consider a panel on language teaching. LT to approach Hilary Rollin, Margaret Clarke, Susana Lorenzo, and others to ask them to consider arranging this.

**7 Finance**

AD reported the bank account was now working and that cheques had been sent to the Burn. There were three signatories but there had been further delay because CW's paperwork had been lost by HSBC. The bank account was not to be transferred to Co-op and the situation to be reviewed after the account had been operating normally again for one year. There were still problems. There had been no statements on the a/c since October. Statements had been requested and were not forthcoming. They had

been promised in 10 days' time and this would allow AD to compile the end of year report and also see what was happening with the account. AD was thanked for taking back over the role as Treasurer and sorting out the financial problems.

There were still cheques and membership forms from 2005-6 to be handed over. It was agreed LT would ring AL to collect these in Sheffield.

#### **8. Review of system for updating membership list**

Renewal now taking place on line with copies to Secretary, Treasurer, Web secretary and the new system allowed faster update of the members list and web interests.

**9. Another call for members to step forward to take on the important roles of Vice President, Secretary and treasurer.** LT to action.

#### **10. Anniversary volume**

Peter Lang had been approached and the volume was almost ready. Papers had been peer reviewed.

#### **11. Postgrad items**

##### **Study day**

PG study day to be organized at Birkbeck in February 2007 by JF. LT to write to HO inviting her to lead: Women in academic life.

Language teaching study day: Margaret Clarke to be approached to lead a panel at WISPs conference and the topic for a study day could develop out of it.

##### **LIST**

LT to forward the list as held at present. This would allow JF to contact PGs advising them of forthcoming events.

Letter to departments reminding them of WISPs existence for female PGs.

#### **12 Newsletter**

Do we want to keep it? Decided to suspend it as it is difficult to get contributions. KH had done a brilliant job on it. KH to be asked to consider a message board for members news as this would require less structured content.

#### **13 Retreat**

LT organizing at Sneaton Castle: 30 June-2 July. To be led by Professor Mary Mellor, Director of Postgraduate Studies at Northumbria.

PK to forward the info sheet about the Burn. LT to produce an info sheet on writing/guidance/travel/ countryside etc.

#### **14. Postdoctoral bursary AHGBI/WISPS**

Proposal from WISPS had been approved. To be included as news at AGM. studies. Info to be ready for the conference with a tear off slip to get members to commit to it early.

**AOB NONE**