

Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies

AGM

Horton Grange Conference centre
University of Birmingham

14 October 2006

1. The meeting opened at 16.05 with a welcome from the President.
2. Present: Alison Ribeiro de Menezes, Pat Odber, Susanne Meachem, Lesley Twomey, Kirsty Hooper, Raquel Lourenço, Hilde Ten Hacken, Par Kumaraswami, Claire Williams, Jacqueline Mulhall, Sarah Bowskill.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Marta Vizcaya, Mercedes de Grado, Ann Davies, Kathy Bacon, Jennifer Fraser.
4. Minutes of the last AGM were approved and signed.
5. Matters arising: following a comment on the possibility for associate membership in WISPS, it was agreed that information be circulated about the possibility.
6. The President's report was divided into two parts: achievements of the past year and forthcoming events:
 - She noted that the retreat in Glenesk had been an enjoyable experience, though not very well attended because of its location, the timing. A study day in Sheffield run by ABJ, AL and CVL had addressed professional development.
 - For the future there was a forthcoming study day on 23 February, led by HO on 'Women in Academic Life'.
 - There were flyers for the Summer retreat at Sneaton Castle, Whitby for those interested to take.
 - The job of President had been satisfying. There was a solid base of members, with new members coming in. It had been a delight to take on the job for 2 years.
 - CW proposed a vote of thanks to PK. Under her leadership, both the membership and the sense of community had grown. This was seconded by LT. The President was briefly overcome by emotion.
 - CW also proposed a vote of thanks to Ann Davies who had stalwartly stepped in as Treasurer. Seconded AM.
7. There was no Postgraduate officer report but postgraduates should contact Jennifer Fraser if they had any queries.
8. In the Web officer's report, KH noted that, whilst the newsletter had raised the profile of WISPS members, it was notoriously hard to get in news for it. It was

decided to adapt to a Bulletin Board format on which members could post news. The members' page was due an overhaul. The format was to be maintained and new information on members would be added. PK thanked KH for her work.

9. Anniversary volume. The project was drawing to a close and would be a showcase for work of members. It had been peer reviewed and the ms was shortly to go to Peter Lang, who had requested the full text.
10. 2006 Conference. PO and SM were thanks for their work and for a successful conference.
11. 2007 conference: to be held in Manchester, Oct 2007.
12. Study day. Details and registration form to be circulated via JISC list.
13. Writing retreat: LT announced that the conference centre had been booked for Sat to Monday to allow for easier travel. Whitby offered pleasant walks, beaches, jet jewellery and more! Details to be circulated via the JISC list.
14. Postgrad bursaries: These were fellowships with finance to support one research project and would include mentoring to be input by WISPS. They had to be bid for against a set of criteria designed to support researchers where there were high teaching loads and no regular sabbaticals. The award could be used to buy out teaching. The scheme was approved at AHGBI in 2006.
15. Membership fees. It was proposed by LT, seconded by CW that these remain the same, £17 full time academic, £14 for those paying by DD, £7.50 postgraduate membership.
16. Election of executive posts
President: Nomination received from C Taylor for CW. Seconded PO. Elected.
VP: PK proposed Niamh Thornton. LT seconded. Elected.
Secretary: PK proposed Kathy Bacon, CW seconded. Elected.
Treasurer: No nominations were received. KH proposed and it was agreed that nominations would be posted via the JISC mail using a poll facility.
As KB had accepted the post of secretary, there was a vacancy for member without portfolio. KH proposed C Herrero, seconded AL. Elected.
17. AOB. Query if WISPS had links with WIFS, WIGS. These were currently moribund. One or two speakers on French topics had responded to last year's IGRS conference.
18. AM asked whether a WISPS meeting space was required at Aberdeen in April.
19. PK thanked LT as outgoing Secretary.

The meeting ended at 4.40 p.m.