

Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies AGM

13th October 2007 Manchester Museum

Minutes

In attendance: Claire Williams, Niamh Thornton, Hilda ten Hacken, Pat O'Byrne, Ann Davies, Kirsty Hooper, Par Kumaraswami, Carmen Herrero, Mercedes Carbayo Abengózar, Lesley Twomey, Jacqueline Mulhall, Helena Miguélez-Carballeira, Susana Lorenzo, Esther Villegas, Diana Cullell, Ana Magdalena Martins

1. Apologies: Mary Green, Jennifer Fraser, Kathy Bacon, Nuria Triana
2. Chair signed minutes of previous meeting
3. (a) Secretary: Niamh Thornton and Claire Williams to cover work for period of Kathy Bacon's maternity leave, until Easter 2008.

(b) Congratulations to first recipient of the inaugural AHGBI/WISPS Dorothy Sherman Severin Research Fellowship Helena Miguélez-Carballeira of Bangor University.

4. (a) Fees increase was suggested in line with developments in other organisations such as the AHGBI. The fee increase was agreed as follows:

	Current	Increased rate
Full time	£17	£20
Part time	£10	£12.50
Non-staff postgraduate and retired	£7.50	£10

There is an agreed discount for direct debit payments

Different options for those outside of the sterling area were discussed and it was agreed that the committee should investigate Paypal as an option.

(b) Associate membership was discussed. It was agreed that there should be a possibility of an associate membership for those who cannot attend all WISPS activities. Need to be clear on website what this entails. There was a discussion on access to weblist, only members and associate members should be granted access.

5. No postgraduate report – the Postgraduate Officer will be asked to report on new potential members.
6. Website – in October adjustments were made and updates on research added. There is no longer a distributed newsletter; instead there is a news link on the page. Members are invited to submit information.

7. Anniversary volume. Peter Lang originally agreed to publish manuscript, but pulled out after volume was formatted. New publisher (Cambridge Scholars Press) found who can turn it around in a month providing the manuscript is sent in camera ready. The members were asked to agree on a subvention to pay for an editor to format the text; this was agreed. It was also agreed that money from WISPS would be put towards the purchase of 9 copies of the volume for contributors at 40% discount as publishers only supply 4. Ann Davies proposed dedication to Vanessa Knights, agreed.
8. Conference and events
 - (a) 2007: Manchester “Me/Myself/I: The Local and the Particular”. There was much praise and congratulations to Manchester team led by Par Kumaraswami for the conference. It was noted that there was a considerable emphasis on film, with strong keynote speakers who were practitioners as well as academics. Thanks goes to the reception by the Instituto Cervantes. Congratulations to bursary holders Charlotte Gleghorn (Liverpool) and Jacqueline Mulhall (DCI).
 - (b) 2008: For the first time the next conference to be held in Ireland, at Dublin City University. This is to be organized by Pat O’Byrne in collaboration with NT. Theme of the next conference: ‘Transcultural Encounters’. Provisional date is 10th/11th October 2008. Members are invited to suggest guest speakers.
 - (c) 2009 conference to be held in Oxford.
 - (d) 2008 Study day: to be held in Liverpool in February on theme of mid-career development.
 - (e) 2007 Retreat. There was high praise for the last retreat organized in Whitby, which was highly productive. There was some discussion as to whether it should be annual or biannual. A brief explanation was given of the retreat by some members present as a space to reflect on a current project, meet fellow members in a relaxed setting and attend workshops provided. Invitations put out for possible future locations for 2009.
9. Accounts to be forwarded to list in following week. In a healthy state which will be boosted by current conference.
10. Any other business. It was proposed that WISPS members be asked to design new logo and members can vote on favourite. CW and KH are in the process of designing a new leaflet that can be printed off and distributed at workplaces/conferences/events to promote membership.