

Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
Executive Committee Meeting
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford
5 June 2009

Present: Claire Williams, Mary Green, Sarah Bowskill, Ellie Woodacre, Cláudia Pazos Alonso, Xon de Ros

1. Apologies for Absence

Niamh Thornton, Kathy Bacon, Carmen Herrero

2. Acceptance of Past Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted. No matters arising.

3. Statement from the Chair

CW welcomed new committee members. CW reported that the logo competition was won by Margaret Clarke, who will be awarded her prize at the AGM in October. The website has been updated and redesigned (magnificently) by SB – see next item.

4. Web Officer

SB has been offered a new web package which is cheaper (£42 + VAT) than the current one (£58.80), offering fewer mailboxes (which we do not use) and more webspace. The Meeting agreed that it would be worthwhile to move to the new package, which will also entail a discount of 5% if we sign up for two years.

5. Postgraduate Representative

EW will liaise with her predecessor, Jennifer Fraser, and KB in order to access an active list of postgraduate members. As there are currently only six registered postgraduate members of Wisps EW will use the AHGBI members list to try to recruit new members. EW will set up a Wisps page on Facebook and advertise it via the Wisps mailing list.

6. WISPS Constitution

CW and KB proposed some changes to the Constitution, to reflect our practice over the last few years. The changes affect a) the date for payment of subscriptions, b) distribution of tasks and term served by committee members, and c) the descriptions of the officers' roles. The suggested changes were circulated for comment and were agreed in principle, with a few amendments. The documents will be circulated to the whole membership before being voted on at the AGM in October.

7. Vote for New Committee at AGM 2009

- a. Confirmation of Web Officer and Postgraduate Rep: As these members stood for election at the 2008 AGM in their absence, then the other opponents stood down, EW and SB took up their roles without officially being elected. Their elections to the posts will be ratified at the next AGM.
- b. Posts up for renewal: The President will be succeeded by the Vice President. Other posts becoming vacant are Treasurer, Secretary, and Member(s) without Portfolio (depending on who becomes Conference Organiser). The vacant posts will be advertised so that elections can take place at the upcoming AGM.

8. Conferences and Events

- a. Dublin 2008: All accounts are settled. The publication of selected papers from the conference has been secured – see item 11.
- b. Oxford 2009: XR and CPA have the organisation well under control. 68 speakers' papers have been accepted and registration/booking forms are available on the website. There will be two plenaries and two keynote events. The timetable will be

available from early July. Sponsorship has been secured from the Instituto Cervantes and the Instituto Camões to pay for some of the guest speakers. Other bids are still pending. The conference should be self-funding once fees have been received. The Conference Staff at Lady Margaret Hall are to be thanked for their efficiency.

- c. Postgraduate bursaries for Oxford 2009: The deadline for applying for bursaries will be 3 July 2009. One application has been made so far. EW to contact other Wisps PGs to draw their attention to the opportunity for funding. CPA and CW will form a sub-committee, if necessary, to award two bursaries.
- d. Future conferences: CW to approach WIGS to see if they are interested in a joint conference, possibly in Swansea.
- e. Plans for Study Day/Retreat: CW to organise an event for 2010.

9. Accounts

MG reported that the balance of the Wisps account is just under £2000. A growing number of members are setting up Standing Orders, which is a much more practical way of paying subscriptions. Many members still need to update their standing order to reflect the new date (1 October) and amount. Mailings by MG and KB have helped remind members that their membership will lapse after six months, if they do not pay their subscriptions. MG wondered whether it would be worthwhile to invest some money in a high interest savings account. MG to check whether this is viable, considering that Wisps is a voluntary, non-profit-making organisation. MG will also find out our position regarding tax, should we decide to invest some money.

10. Membership

KB reported via email that the current membership stands at 58: 49 full members, 3 part-time, 6 postgraduate/retired/not in post. A recruitment drive is needed. CW to prepare a flyer, downloadable from the website, that members can distribute at conferences. Associate members from outside the UK are welcome. They will have access to the mailing list but not voting rights.

KB and MG to discuss ways of streamlining the registration process, which currently involves the Secretary, Treasurer AND Web Officer.

11. Publications

- a. The publication of selected papers from the Dublin 2008 conference has been secured with Cambridge Scholars Press. The volume, entitled *Transcultural Encounters*, is due to be published in late 2009 or early 2010. Pat O'Byrne, Gabrielle Carty and NT were thanked for their hard work in securing a publisher and for their editing skills.
- b. Tenth Anniversary Volume: NT will organise a team of editors for a tenth anniversary volume.

12. AHGBI/WISPS Dorothy Sherman Severin Research Fellowship

CW reported that nine applications have been received by Kirsty Hooper, who is administering the Fellowship this year. The selection committee of CW, KH and Phil Swanson (Current President of the AHGBI) will meet at the end of June to discuss the applications and award the Fellowship.

13. AOB

There was no other business.

14. Date of next meeting

The next ECM and AGM will take place during the conference in Oxford, 2-3 October 2009.