

Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies  
Minutes of the AGM  
Held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford

Those present: Claire Williams (outgoing President), Niamh Thornton (Vice President), Sarah Bowskill (Web Officer), Helena Miguélez Carballeira, María Liñeira, Diana Cullell, Lucía Villares, Claudia Pazos Alonso (Conference Organiser), Kathy Bacon (outgoing Secretary)

1. Apologies for Absence: Mary Green (outgoing Treasurer), Carmen Ramos Villar, Carmen Herrero (outgoing Member without portfolio), María Jose Blanco, Hayley Rabanal, Par Kumaraswami, Isabel Santaolalla, Kirsty Hooper, Ellie Woodacre, Jennifer Fraser, Helena Buffery, Lesley Wylie
2. Acceptance of Past Minutes  
Last year's minutes were accepted (proposed: Claire Williams, seconded: Sarah Bowskill).
3. Statement from the President
  - a. The Dorothy Sherman Severin Fellowship 2009 was awarded to Ana Vives, by a selection committee consisting of Claire Williams, Kirsty Hooper and Phil Swanson of AHGBI. There were 9 applicants. KH administered the process, and has offered to continue this – many thanks.
  - b. The logo competition was won by Margaret Clarke - £50 prize cheque will be sent. Thanks to SB for uploading logo and re-designing web site so well.
4. Treasurer's Report  
Accounts were presented. Healthy balance in finances. High membership rates. Increase of 35% in members paying by standing order – the preferred way. Slight decrease in number of paid-up members – people are being chased and are re-joining. About £500 was awarded in postgraduate bursaries for the conference this year, split between 4 people: Eva Bru, Constanza Ceresa, Lorna Dillon, and Lena Siemon – all gave great papers, well done.
5. Postgraduate Officer's Report  
EW has emailed all known postgraduates, but our list was inadequate, so EW has been networking well today to gather more contacts. Facebook group set up. Has liaised with WIGS counterpart about doing a joint study day. Thanks to EW for all her hard work.
6. Web Officer's Report  
Website has been redesigned including new logo. Future developments will include a postgraduate section. Web package renewed for 2 years at a cost of £100, a significant saving on the previous cost. The content of the website depends on members telling SB about their achievements – please let her know. Also please let SB know if you are not receiving the emails, so she can make sure the list is up to date.
7. Proposed changes to Constitution and Job Descriptions  
Intention to bring constitution in line with current practice and up to date. Amendments to the constitution were passed unanimously (proposed: CW, seconded: KB). See attached documents.

8. Ratification of Exec posts
  - a. Web Officer – Sarah Bowskill (proposed: CW, seconded: NT)
  - b. Postgraduate Representative – Ellie Woodacre (proposed: CW, seconded: María Liñeira)
  
9. Elections to Exec posts. There was one candidate for each post and all were elected unopposed.
  - a. Vice President. Helena Miguélez – proposed: CW, seconded: Diana Cullell
  - b. Treasurer. Jennifer Fraser – proposed: CW, seconded: Helena Miguélez
  - c. Secretary. Lesley Wylie – proposed: KB, seconded: NT
  - d. Member without portfolio. Helena Buffery – proposed: CW, seconded: SB
  
10. Conferences and events.
  - a. Dublin conference 2008. Very successful, all finance now settled. Publication to come out of it (see 11b)
  - b. Oxford conference 2009. Amazing conference – huge thank-you to both the conference organisers and their team of postgraduates for all their hard work. 75 delegates registered in advance, at least 5 more have registered on the day, including many international delegates. Feedback from CPA: both she and XdR have enjoyed the task, but would have welcomed more input, especially in terms of finance. Suggestion that experienced team members could put together templates/guidelines for future organisers. Also noted high ‘staffing’ needs for such a large conference – in this case there was internal funding to enable postgraduates to help, and secretarial support from the institution. Will probably make a profit – could this be used for some purpose related to the conference, eg a publication? CW expressed our gratitude to the organisers for such an excellent event.
  - c. Future events
    - i. 2010 conference to be held in Swansea, joint with WIGS. WISPS organisers will be Sarah Bowskill and Mary Green, and they will circulate further information shortly.
    - ii. Study Day/Retreat. CW invited volunteers to organise these and suggested that a similar appeal should be made by email.
  
11. Publications
  - a. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volume. NT and KB are co-editing a volume on ‘The Noughties’. The CFP is on the website, proposals have been invited by 6 November. Once proposals are in, publishers will be approached, and the hope is to publish by the end of summer 2010.
  - b. Transcultural Encounters Volume. Publication of papers on this theme from the Dublin conference. Editors: Pat O’Byrne, Gabrielle Carty and Niamh Thornton. Articles have mostly been submitted and are currently going through the editorial process.
  
12. AOB
 

CW handed on the mantle of President to NT and passed on her thanks to the outgoing exec.