

**ACRL Women's Studies Section (WSS)  
General Membership Forum Minutes  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, CA  
Marriot, Cardiff Room  
January 8, 2011, 4:00pm – 5:30pm,  
Submitted by Heather Tompkins, Secretary**

Present: Kayo Denda (Rutgers University & Past Section Chair); Diana King (UCLA & Membership & Past Chair 2008/2009); Connie Phelps (University of New Orleans & Membership Committee Chair & Past Chair 2001/2002); Heather Tompkins (Carleton College); Phyllis Holman Weisbard (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Sue Searing (University of Illinois, Urbana); Carrie Kruse (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Kim Clarke (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities & Electronic Resources and Access Committee Chair); Jane Nichols (Oregon State University & Chair); Sandy River (Texas Tech University & Past Chair 2003/2004); Laura Bonella (Kansas State University); Chimene Tucker (UCSB); Juliann Couture (Arizona State University); Sharon Ladenson (Michigan State University); Pamela Mann (St. Mary's College (MD) & Vice-chair/Chair-elect; Marcia Barrett (UA Tuscaloosa);

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**Welcome and Introductions**

Jane Nichols welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves.

**Announcements from Committees**

- a. Awards Committee (Kayo Denda)** – This closed committee has already met and selected an award winner today.
- b. Collection Development (Sandy River)** – Committee won't be meeting at MW, but they will be reviewing collection development resources on the site and updating
- c. Electronic Resources and Access Committee (Kim Clarke)** – Jane reported that Eresources/Access committee has been focusing on archiving and providing reference women's blogs and other online resources. Also focusing on resources of interest to women and gender students in non-women's studies databases.
- d. Instruction (Diane Fulkerson)** – Jane reported that committee continues completion of the "Information Literacy Standards for Women's Studies."
- e. Membership (Connie Phelps)** – All membership committee members are in attendance at MW. They will be looking at membership statistics and discussing possibility of joint social with some of the smaller subject sections of ACRL. There is a joint social with GLBT Roundtable this evening at Rock Bottom Brewery following membership meeting.
- f. Nominating (Jennifer Gilley)** - Jane reported that the committee has already done its work and there is a full slate for elections this year, with two people in each slot.
- g. Program Planning 2011 (Jane Nichols)** – The program is all set. The theme will be scholarly communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: conversations for change. Presenters include: Danielle

Hidalgo (Instructor at UCSB, Advising Editor, *Spaces for Differences*); Marta Bruner (UCLA, Digital Humanities; Open Humanities Press); Jennifer Laherty (Digital Publishing Librarian, IU ScholarWorks) . Program will start at 8:30 instead of 8:00.

**h. Program Planning 2012 (Pamela Mann)** – The program will come from Monday’s discussion theme: “Digital Natives and the myth of the millennial student” (8:00-10:00 a.m. on Monday morning) ; potential aspects for the program could be characteristics and trends of these groups; demographic shifts of students and academic libraries.

**i. Publications (Jennifer Mayer)** – Jane reported that the committee met virtually; Beth Strickland is the associate editor; the committee recommends continuing the WSS blog; Marcia Ball is the main newsletter editor; the committee proposed a three year term for a blog master (mistress )  
Research Committee (Jennifer Gilley): Marcia reported that the committee is continuing the poster presentation at the Annual Membership meeting. The biggest project that the group is working on is updating the research agenda, a draft of which will be available at Annual. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Jennifer Gilley.

#### **NWSA liaison (Jane Nichols)**

ACRL had previously approved our liaison position to NWSA. Our liaison is Cindy Ingold. Jane distributed some copies of Cindy’s report from the NWSA conference and they are also posted on ALA Connect.

#### **WSS name change (Jane Nichols)**

ACRL board is voting on the proposed name change of the section from Women’s Studies Section to Women and Gender studies Section. wss names changed on web page, publications committee is open to helping with designing new logo; design contest; up to us if we have strong feelings about that

Pamela Mann reported that she was working with the graphics folks at ACRL (Dawn Mueller) on the project of coming up with a new logo, and this work has been going well. One thing we’ll be looking at moving forward is looking at committee charges and evaluating if and how any of the charges need to be changed as a result of the name change.

Sandy River noted how many of the collections web pages already reflected the name change. Erin Stahlberg has already started doing some of this transition work.

#### **ALA white paper on Midwinter meeting (Jane Nichols)**

ALA has put out its white paper on the future of the midwinter meeting. Jane will post this to the blog and ALA connect to begin a conversation about how to engage iWSS activities in terms of the midwinter meeting.

#### **ACRL Plan for Excellence (Jane Nichols)**

ACRL would like feedback from sections and membership committees --main questions for feedback:

- (1) In considering a three to five plan cycle, is there anything you expected to see that is not included?
- (2) Given three goal areas, what activities should be taken?

(3) Anything that is unclear?

ACRL is really interested in feedback as a way to prioritize strategic plan. Jane will put the plan for excellence on the blog: put it on the blog

### **Other Announcements**

**Jane Nichols:** WSS has moved from having a bylaws structure to a governance procedures; Diana posted on blog, will send over listserv; meant to be more flexible; can change more easily;

**Kayo Denda:** Awards committee has been in touch with Megan Griffiths to talk about our award. Starting in 2012, our sponsor (ABC-Clio) will be removing sponsorship of our award. The Awards committee discussed the possibility of campaigning for funds. Awards need to be submitted to ACRL board by early April for approval.

The revised rules for ACRL awards that awards be for the following minimum:

Recognition Award : \$3000

Travel Award : \$1200

Name Honor : plaque (\$100 using WGSS budget to purchase)

We discussed the possibility of lobbying Council to change the rules Phyllis W: we could lobby council to change criteria for sponsored awards, especially the criteria about having a five year commitment from a publisher. Another point raised is that the awards themselves had enough prestige without the necessity of having a \$3000 monetary award attached.

Kayo will investigate options for doing this lobbying and post the report from the committee on the blog.

**Carrie Kruse:** Core Books: Available subjects for interested editors: British literature; American literature; health; sexual abuse; management. Working with Kim to define scope of some subjects. Core books will migrate this year to a different platform. Core books is currently using software hosted by the University of Wisconsin, which they are not going to be supporting in the long term. Library thing is one of the options; what is not known if it will be figured out by the 2011 update. Stay tuned for details!

### **ACRL Communities of Practice Review (Jane Nichols)**

We discussed a draft proposal about the various avenues for ACRL members to connect around communities of practice. ACRL is interested in feedback on the review. Jane gave some history and context for the review document.

We had a lively and wide-ranging discussion about the review, the section, and our current membership. Many attendees expressed that they were not even aware of interest groups or discussion groups.

- Attendees raised questions about the differences between interest groups, sections, discussion groups.: Interest groups cannot sponsor programs, but they are more flexible?
- Do budgetary allocations differ?

- Is there a liaison program similar to one we have available to groups that are not sections?

Points raised about the value WSS brings to ACRL, including:

- Providing avenues for developing leadership skills (ACRL leadership have previously had people who were on WSS Exec),
- As one of the smaller sections ACRL members can get involved with committees right away providing additional opportunities for professional development;
- We're a prototypical interdisciplinary section;
- Programming (including the discussion sessions on Monday mornings of midwinter) are typically well attended (in some cases turnout has exceeded capacity).

There are a variety of ways this conversation can go forward: self study review with the purpose of exploring if a section is the best way for women's and genders studies to connect. Some attendees expressed a desire to talk about this more fully at another time. We could put out a call for feedback among the general membership and then a small group of people could facilitate a discussion among the membership in advance of a self study.

As a field of academic study, there was a sense that an interest group may not provide the number of opportunities for connecting in rich and sustained ways. Some of the academic fields with interest groups also have their own professional library organizations (health sciences and arts, for example.) If people have an interest in being on a task force to explore these questions more, let Jane know.

The meeting was adjourned.