

March 17, 2019

In attendance: Bill Clemente, Karen Hellekson, Sherryl Vint, Gary Wolfe, Sydney Duncan, Mike Smith, Sean Nixon, Wendy Wood, Valorie Ebert, Dale Knickerbocker, Jeri Zuli, Donald Morse, Chrissie Maines, Brian Attebery, David Higgins, Skye Cervone

Voting Members: Sherryl, Skye, Valorie, Karen, Bill, David, Wendy, Dale

Minute Taker: Skye Cervone

Welcome to the new officers, Dale (President) and Valorie (1st VP)

On-site Technical: Sean

1. Films should not be in Captiva Rooms due to problems with lights
2. We may need a new projector.
3. We have 13 active and usable projectors. We should buy 1 new one for next year.
4. We have new speakers. They are great
5. We had a bit of a problem with dongles because Registration closes at noon on Saturday, and then they are still out there. One was returned to the President, so only one is missing.
6. We may need a new wifi device.

Program Book: Chrissie

1. Need to update who is on the board in the Program Book for next year.
2. Absence of In Memoriam section did not seem to result in problems.
3. The printer can do a quick turn-around, so the Registration cutoff can be Feb. 22. Everything will go to Chrissie on the 23rd.
4. The Program Book needs to come in tidier shape from the 1st VP. Chrissie and Valorie will collaborate.
5. David and Chrissie will collaborate on author photos.
6. David will send something to the authors about photo specifications.
7. Karen moves to remove the Pocket Program, seconded by Dale, unanimous approval.
8. The book was missing ads, Liverpool UP counter offered, others said they wanted ½ the cost, no one wanted to pay this year.
9. The board authorizes Chrissie to lower the cost of ads, giving her latitude to alter ad prices.
10. The hotel's new map is incorrect. Chrissie will make her own next year.
11. Chrissie would like to be in on the artwork discussion earlier because printing is impacted by the artwork.

Book Room: Mark

1. The Book Room is going well.
2. \$11,000 in sales. We had hoped to do a little better, but it was alright. Mark will be able to give expenses to Bill.
3. We will have about 38 boxes for Better World Books
4. Judy Collins would like to get the archives out of her garage. She will catalogue everything. Mark will store it with the books for now, but we will explore better options.
5. It is possible in 1-2 years we may be able to get a smaller unit, but the av stuff could be an issue, and we will need to see how it goes.
6. Atlanta is a relatively easy move for the Book Room despite the drive (no customs). Toronto would be very difficult for a few reasons. Canadian customs are very difficult. We may not even be able to get books in for sale, as they want the taxes for everything up front. Importing costs for donation from publishers might not even be possible.. Many people told Mark they will not go to Toronto. He feels the business meeting made Toronto seem easier than it actually would be. If the conference were moved to a non-North American venue for a year, having a book room that year would be prohibitively expensive.
7. We are in much better shape storage wise.
8. Mark will write something up about volunteers and a system of reimbursement for next year, and Skye will blast it.

Crawford Award: Gary

1. We had some turnover with the committee, but this is usual.
2. Immediate Past took care of all of the plaques, but the company was not ideal.
3. Gary will take care of all plaques next year, Sherryl will track down everyone, Gary will mail them to Skye, who is in-state, to bring to the conference.

JFA: Brian

1. He will write up a full report, such as budget.
2. Amy Ransom stepped down as an Associate Editor, Taryne Taylor will be joining *JFA*.
3. (Europe) Plan S, anything produced under public research funding must be fully available at no cost (open access), which will impact the journal a bit. What they are doing so far is giving the person who writes the article an electronic copy of their work. We will see what happens moving forward.
4. There still seems to be more prestige for having a print run, so *JFA* will keep its print run. However, for next year, he will pilot issuing European members to an electronic copy of *JFA* at the same cost as North American members and a small increase for physical copies.
5. They put out 4 issues this year.

Technical: Mike

1. Wild Apricot will be due for renewal.
2. Recommendations: moving all Wordpress content to Wild Apricot. Skye and Mike will coordinate to see if it is practical.
3. Investigate using its features more thoroughly, including the store. We may need opt-in features for future emails.
4. The forwarding addresses might be part of why emails are going to spam. We will remove them for the board, people will use their own. If they want more privacy they can set up an account. Valorie will contact the DHs to see what they want to do.

New Conference Themes

1. Alterity: Farah Mendlesohn (first), Homi Bhaba (second) J. Telotte (third); Author: Tanehisi Coates, Guillermo del Toro, Marlon James, James Whitehead
2. Migrations: Author: Sofia Samatar (first), Helene Wecker (second); We will research a scholar and discuss in June.
3. Collapse/Apocalypse: Tom Moylan (first), Jeffery Weinstock (second); Author: N.K. Jemisin, Susanne Collins, Joe Walton

1st VP: Isabella (report sent)

1. The DHs have concerns about the conference location and have sent letters to be read at the meeting.
 - a. From CYA, FTFN, FTV, GaH, IF, SF, and VPAA DHs:
 - i. They request we look for alternative models outside of the current multi-year model, alternating between the US, Europe, and Canada.
 - ii. They request we look at Canadian locations other than Toronto.
 - iii. They request we meet in Europe every 3 years.
 - iv. They wish to correct information about European universities and hotels that was presented at the Business Meeting.
 - v. They believe the benefits of meeting in Europe will offset changes in membership because it would result in greater access for international scholars.
 - b. From the FL DH:
 - i. He is concerned because the ICFA is currently the only conference in the US with a specific home for Fantasy.
 - ii. Many members of the FL division would have difficulty travelling out of North America.
 - iii. He requests the conference stay in Orlando at a fixed location, rather than a moving conference.
 - iv. He requests the board present the membership with three options with specific details.

In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that Jeri, being a volunteer with a full-time job, does not have the time to negotiate with an unlimited number of venues, that negotiating in other cultures is different (even if conducted in English), and that she could not be responsible for signing contracts under a legal system with which she is unacquainted. Additionally, sending someone abroad for the several days necessary for such negotiations would be expensive. Some local person or persons would need to do the necessary research and negotiate terms.

Dale reported that one member of the GFF stated the group would offer assistance were the conference to move to Germany for a year, and that his university would offer free space. Dale responded that the board would seriously consider any proposal put forth by any group or member, that such a proposal would need to include a significant amount of detailed information, but that he would supply a list of what the board would need to know, to then consult the membership in order to make an informed decision.

During discussion, it was suggested the president update the DHs and general membership regularly on this and other important matters, and he agreed to do so.

Sherryl reported that she attended the Council of Division Heads' extraordinary meeting on Saturday and was able to correct much misinformation they had received and to calm the waters somewhat

Mike pointed out that the IAFA was in a position financially to take a risk on losing money on a conference outside North America.

The board agreed that it would give serious and unbiased consideration to any such proposal, and that there was much to be gained by such a move. Whether or not it would be repeated would depend upon its success.

2. The DHs request another drop down menu for donations on the Registration page.
3. The DHs request a drop down menu describing the divisions on the Submissions page.
4. The DHs request a standard form for people who did not get travel funding.
5. The DHs request clarification on the 1st VP's current procedure for allotting travel funding.
6. We will need a GaH DH for next year. We will create a call and appoint in June.
7. Valorie and Mike will consult with the DHs about possibly using Slack for collaborative work.

Miscellaneous:

1. Valorie proposes a standard renewal date for membership to help solve some communications issues with emails sent through the Membership system.
2. David suggests we need a new author membership category to ensure they receive such emails.
3. Registration needs the names of panel participants.

2nd VP: David

1. 30 sessions, 2 dedicated rooms, 4 floating sessions. The Creative Track has good numbers.
2. 121 accepted, after cancelations we had 84 – those are great numbers.
3. They continue to work on the portal, but it is working well.
4. Authors said they would be okay with 4 person reading sessions. David asked them to self-identify in the portal if that would be okay, and only 3 people said they wanted a 3 person panel.
5. Creative Track panels are doing well.
6. David will reach out to authors about their values moving forward in terms of conference decisions and location, such as what would be good or damaging for them.

Treasurer: Bill

He will have a longer report in June, but the organization is in good financial shape, as discussed at the Business Meeting.

Public Information Officer: Skye

1. Skye will put together updated language for PIO description to reflect the social media aspect of the job. We will discuss in June.
2. Our Twitter hashtag was very popular.
3. No major website problems reported.

SCIAFA: Wendy

1. 17 students, 15 mentors participated in the Mentoring Program, and there were 40-50 at New-comer Meetup.
2. SCIAFA is making plans to still have the job talks and panels without Kit Hume, as she is retiring, and that will impact her attendance. They wish to open them up to non-R1s, community colleges, and non-academic jobs.
3. Overwhelmingly, SCIAFA wants to stay in Orlando, even the SCIAFA members who live in Europe. Many members will not be able to attend in Toronto. They are also against June because summer travel is very difficult for graduate students.
4. They want a sliding scale for funding. The idea they cannot ask for help if they can apply from funding elsewhere is a problem.
5. They want more representation on the creative side – such as a Creative VP. They will discuss, draft a measure, and vote at next year's conference.

Registration: Karen

1. 481 attended, 5 on site registrations 2 are pending and unpaid and did not get their packets

2. 19 cancelled after the blackout date
3. 15 did not pick up their packets (more than we normally have)
4. 503 in total, including cancelations. Around 500 is our cap.
5. Many things on the calendar are recurring as a record
6. Karen also agrees there should be one date for registration, will discuss in June
7. We need a few more volunteers, need to stress some ICFA Bucks can be used the year they are earned. This should be stressed to SCIAFA.
8. All merch is \$25

Conference Chair Report: Donald

1. Our cash bars did very little business, which is connected to there being one bartender and very long lines. This is a bit of a problem.
2. We are negotiating with the Airport Marriott and Rosen Plaza.
3. Dale moves we make Jeri Interim Conference Chair, Valorie seconds, unanimous approval. The term will be for at least 2 years, and we will discuss the nature of Conference Chair position in June.

New Business:

The Imagining Indigenous Futurisms Award will move here.

June Board Meeting:

1. June 7-June 9
2. Skye, Bill, Valorie, Karen, David, Dale, Sherryl, Mike, Wendy, and Jeri will attend. The tasting will be at about 5:00/5:30. Valorie and Skye will host the tasting.

Adjourn