

NeMLA Fall 2022 Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, November 5, 2022, 1 pm EST

Zoom/web conference

Executive Board in Attendance

Joe Valente
Modhumita Roy
Victoria Ketz
Bernadette Wegenstein

Board of Directors In Attendance

Esther Alarcon- Arana
Christian Ylagan
Justine Dymond
Kathleen Kasten-Mutkus
Yves-Antoine Clemmen
Laurence Roth
Maria Matz
Francisco Delgado
Julia Titus
Thomas Jay lynn

Non-Board Members Present

Executive Director, Carine
Associate Director, Ashley
Graduate Assistant, Jiwon
Graduate Assistant, Kailey

Board members absent

Tiziano

Call to Order: Meeting begins at 1:05 pm EST

I. Executive Director's Report

Carine welcomes everyone, introduces Yves-Antoine Clemmen who has replaced Olivier Le Blond

A. Approval of Spring 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

1. Motion to approve by Laurence roth, seconded by Victoria Ketz

B. 2023 Niagara Falls Convention

1. ED Mardorossian discusses Niagara Falls as our venue
2. We have two hotels, one cheaper option for grad students
3. New Art exhibit through UB for CFA students
4. Undergraduate Forum
5. Involving high school students for mentoring
6. Overflow, NeMLA is always growing, more than a dozen sessions drew over 30-40 abstracts. Additional space at the Sheraton and Culinary Institute (they have classroom spaces, and also booked an Irish cooking class)
7. Cultural Events
8. NeMLA Staffing -
 - a) Introducing Kailey and Jiwon, Claire, Samadrita, Callie, Solon
 - b) Fellows - work exchange for registration and membership covered
 - c) Restructuring TA/Staff positions
9. UB/NeMLA Partnership
 - a) Both admin host and local host. Two special events speakers are faculty at UB, Theresa McCarthy and Rinaldo Walcott
 - b) The dean of CAS will be invited to introduce conference
 - c) Will encourage local students to audit for free
10. NeMLA Website revamped - Thanks Callie!
 - a) Shared our videos from last year, the graduate videographers did a great job
11. Database - Budgeted to add functionalities to database
 - a) Want to sell swag/add legacy gifts in order to fund advancement campaign, fund staffing outside of UB funding
12. In-person vs. Virtual/Hybrid
 - a) We are discouraging this, but there are difficulties with visas
13. Sessions/abstracts/second sessions
14. Event site
 - a) Hotel - Ashley mentioned how board members can book rooms, and the system will give them a \$0 price at check out
15. A/v
16. Covid
17. Special Events
18. Undergrad forum - Carine discusses the benefits of this, and how impressive the students are
19. Book Awards
 - a) The creative fiction book has drawn a lot of attention
 - b) Laurence Roth - Patrick suggested how we might be able to connect creative fiction book award with a specific press to help with publishing
20. Workshops - we are charging to encourage attendance

- a) 3 workshops
- 21. Job Clinic and Mentoring - Please sign up for slots
- 22. Seminars
- 23. Spring board meeting - wednesday evening exec board meeting, please forward items you'd like them to discuss

C. Financial Review

1. Projected budget -
 - a) How much does the board want to move toward digital publications instead of physical printing
 - b) Broken down staffing into 3 graduate positions
 - c) Smaller food and beverage/minimum - will probably look closer to \$75 k than \$45 using budgeted money for attrition
 - d) Printing - Local printer is retiring, so it's a good time to scale down
 - e) Awards are same amounts,
 - f) adding dissertation fellowships, hire a grant writer (to be discussed). Carine would like someone to help us write grants toward long-term, rather than annual
 - g) Should summer newsletter be virtual as well?
2. Question from Tom Lynn - Will we have printed programs? People can choose to go green in registration, but we haven't pushed it. We can make it so they need to request a printed program
3. Christian Ylagan - Should we print half the usual? Don Ramon, we should maybe phase it out. Universities require it, a pdf could fulfill this. Carine: doing both, continue to ask individuals, but also cut printing by half. Conference members have been gracious in the past. We can recycle programs with recycle station. Ashley: we can ask at registration desk if people WANT program, rather than giving everyone a copy. Tom Lynn: He enjoys the physical program, he feels attached to it as a souvenir. It is valuable when rushing between sessions to know where to go Victoria: is there a way to force people to choose during registration process? Make it more visible? Julia titus: I second ashley's idea, asking people if they want physical copy, but default to digital. This is a nice solution, it allows those who want it to have it, and we don't have huge waste. Carine: we don't need a vote if we don't get rid of it altogether

D. Other Business

1. Join summer fellowship Committee
2. If board members have non-informational blurbs for newsletter, please share them
3. Check dates
4. Grant writing vs. future planning - vote on budget for \$20,000 to hire to develop long-term solution for future, build foundation for independent status from host university if it came down to it

a) Discussion: Justine Dymond: it seems like a good investment
Maria Mats: same thing, a great idea
Joe Valente: if we do endowment, it should be bigger than \$20k
Carine: this isn't for endowment, but to hire to prepare for something like an endowment
Joe: \$20k seems high for that. Is it possible if initially budgeted amount is insufficient, to add more
Carine: yes, Joe: If they're merely consulting to teach ED how to do it, then \$10k is healthy payment for that service
Joe: for \$20k they should set it up for you, Joe will talk to JoAnn, Maria Matz: we have created an endowment in the department, the university helped us set it up. You may want to start there.
Carine: I worry that since we're not wholly UB, UB might see it as channeling money away from UB
Laurence Roth shared
<https://managementconsulted.com/education-consulting-firms/>

5. Offering accreditation

a) Victoria Ketz - Humanities are losing out without accreditation as funding is redirected toward departments with accreditation. If we set up accreditation standards, it will help the field and our members. We can draw from members to do on-site reviews, a professionalization opportunity. Accreditation is an external body that comes into an institution and does a periodic review (3-5 years). They say these are the standards in our fields. Does this department follow these standards? It's a way to insist that a department meets the standards of their fields.
Justine: I have never heard of this for humanities. We have netchi (?), but what would be the benefit for a humanities department?
Victoria: the institution wants to be accredited. We would get outside feedback, it's usually very positive. It brings in more money, more staff. It supports faculty for professionalization opportunities, funding for conferences, helps us create something better for students.
Justine Dymond: I can't see my institution putting any money forward for an english department to get accredited, because there's no licensing, but my institution doesn't have grad students.
modhumita: I can't see my institution doing anything like it. The deans and upper admin have set their priorities, and no accreditation or outside groups insisting we need more resources will convince them otherwise, unless they can latch on something negative to take away more resources. Everything else has been ignored.
Kathleen Kasten: There's a library collections component in chemistry accreditation, is that something we can advocate for? I can see it being a challenge as well. Is that something we want to get into?
Victoria: It would have to be a super comprehensive review. Institutions cutting back resources, accrediting can help make case to keep certain publications. I believe the larger

institutions will be the first to join. Carine: there is a difference between accreditation and review. A review is 'i will tell you what to do' accreditation is 'i'm going to give you this badge, and help you' Admin are always happy to spend money, its a matter of how. We are creating an evaluative body not made of just business mentality people. Our whole set of values are being eroded. If we could create an outside body that could accredit outside institutions. I'm interested in it to reinstate things like shared governance, and other things that matter in the humanities in a way they don't for STEM fields. If we use the right messaging for the right reasons.. It may not work. We'll do more research, find out cost and benefits. Keep having this conversation. Laurence Roth shared english language accreditation group: <https://cea-accredit.org/>

II.

- A. Past President's Report Bernadette - Nothing to report on my end.
- B. President's Report Joe Valente - We have tour set up for special collections, very happy with our 2 speakers and special panel on the work of the keynote, anne enright. She is marvelously accomplished novelist. I hope people avail themselves of Niagara Falls. I will ensure our guests will be on the maid of the mist, it's something else
- C. Vice pres - Modhumita - Thoughts for Boston: Keywords like "solidarity." I have invited Tifini Yanique to be speaker. For other address, ricky sollanger, brilliant voice for reproductive justice. Bruce robins at columbia, Carine: please encourage people to nominate for the board
- D. Second vice pres, Victoria Ketz - We won't have a lot of planning to do because that was the year we went online, so I'm going to focus on cultural events. The money has already been promised. I've been working on getting campus excited. Regarding cultural events, I have reached out to colleagues who are early American historians to do walking tour of old cities. The Mexican consulate has decided to do an event with us. I will continue to work with other cultural attaches. I have a tentative theme of "Revolution" moving the margins, I'd like to invite Julia Alvarez, but it might be expensive. I'm asking feedback for who our theoreticians, i'm thinking benjamin frasier, but i'm open to anything
- E. Laurence Roth - This has been an uneventful reporting era for us. We've been having difficulty finding reviewers, we've reached out to the board for help. Thanks to the board members who have helped us.
- F. Tom lynn - Looking forward to niagara falls. The report is out for british studies and global anglophone studies, in both areas we have a wide range of topics. An embarrassment of riches. British was a little bit lower compared to last two years, but global anglophone was significantly higher, 34 approved. We have sessions from (areas) We're like to continue attracting sessions on even more diverse

areas. We are sponsoring Rinaldo Walcott with (other sponsors). It will be very exciting.

- G. Julia Titus - Good to see everyone. This year the convention is smaller, but we have several double sessions, especially in Slavic studies. We now have 7 session, more than doubled from last year. We'd like to see even more panels in russian lit. The other new area is Translation studies, we have 3 sessions on translations now. This will be something that maybe we can have board sponsored sessions on this in the future. My other interest is Music and literature, and it will have a double session. We are joining forces with British studies and diversity to sponsor rinaldo walcott. It is wise to have less events to accommodate smaller convention center. Lots of interdisciplinary sessions on Russia. The slavic presence in boston will be stronger yet! Carine: We could provide funding for books, anthologies, collections that emerge out of a session. People could apply for funding, give nemla credit for contribution. Esther, Laurence, Julia in support.
- H. Creative Writing, Maria Matz - I think publication support is a wonderful idea. It will bring more members to NeMLA, help members to get published. I'm still learning how to navigate this area, its very new to me. Carine has been wonderful. We have 1 more session than last conference, but less proposals. Area special event supporting keynote speaker. If you have a book or know anyone who has published a book, you can bring that book to NeMLA. It will be a great opportunity to get visibility. Small presses specifically
- I. Cultural Studies - Kathleen - I want to add my support for the publishing award. Sessions are very interdisciplinary, bringing together multiple formats. Lots of second sessions. Race was underrepresented last year, and this year as well. We may want to try more board sponsored sessions. Special session we will support screening of the film "Niagara"
- J. French and Francophone - Yves-Antoine Clemmen - We've been trying to grow the presence of french and francophone, 33 proposed, 22 made, 28 session total, 173 submission, 140 have been accepted. In the last 5 years, the median is 30 sessions, so we are on par, even with smaller venue. Sessions cover wide range of topics, geographic areas. Notably, trauma literature has been particularly well-represented. 8 of 22 sessions are cross-listed. Special event, Dr. Yohann Ripert a scholar of francophone history author of _____. Carine: in the past we have had a morning yoga session for members, this is something Yves has done, we will get you to bring yoga back to nemla!
- K. Italian Studies - Tiziano is absent
- L. Professionalization - Jina is ill
- M. Spanish and Portuguese - Esther - Looking forward to being in person. 57 sessions, 12 panels have requested second session. We have a lot of geographically combined sessions, 9 session are social justice issues, lots of focus on LGBTQ and racism. Special event Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro, professor, poet, collaborator for Afrofemina, very proud to have her. She writes and is an activist, discusses racism, lgbtq collective

- N. US, Transnational/diaspora - Don Ramon - Good to see everyone, 44 proposed sessions, 38 accepted. Migration and identity that received 30, popular topics in _____. Sponsoring Theresa McCarthy, Rinaldo Walcott. I'm very happy with the health of this field, and looking forward to seeing it grow. Thank you to Carine for your support. Carine: I have to thank you! yOU'VE BEEN PATIENCE PERSONIFIED
- O. Francisco - 43 session proposals, 36 accepted. Jina and christian are delightful to work with. Numbers are down, but that could be venue. We have 2 sponsored sessions, one on resilience in contingent faculty positions and another in _____. It is also nice to have Haudenosaunee speakers since we will be on seneca territory. CAITY caucus is seeking new representation in March, If you know anyone who might be interested in running for the position. They can contact me at FDelgado@bmcc.cuny.edu
- P. Diversity
- Q. GSC Christian - Dana resigned as president, which created a little bit of a succession issue, so 3 positions will be open next year. If you know any grad students interested in doing some work for us, please let us know. We have 2 sponsored sessions, publishing mentorship, managing milestones, navigating grad student curriculum. Travel awards, we have met with carine and ashley to improve the processes for that award. We have another meeting next week on finalizing amendments. Interest in travel award is going strong, steadily rising. Looking to maximise ways to spread budget for travel awards. Looking to give out more awards at slightly scaled back amount.
- R. WGSC - Justine Dymond - Big thank you to Carine, you helped tremendously in vetting our sessions. We saw a little drop in number of sessions proposed. Final of 25 sessions, with 6 double sessions, 37 more sessions which we cross-listed. 62 down from 75-ish last year. We have two caucus sponsored sessions: roundtable on mentoring, resilience failure and academic integrity, panel on beyond crisis. Sponsoring Rinaldo Walcott. Sessions are interesting in range, interdisciplinary, multicultural. A couple sessions on arab or muslim women. A lot of interest in trans studies. This year there is interest in archival studies as well. This will be my last year as board rep. We will be electing secretary and board rep position next year. If you know of anyone who is interested, please send them our way. I communicated with carine last year, we had a mentoring breakfast and business meeting, which was too long, so this year we will 2-hour block 1 hour each for mentoring and business meeting. Like idea of award from book emerging from sessions. This conference has always been incredibly generative for me. Nurturing that would be great. We have a new secretary and everyone else has rotated into next position, so there is good stability, good communication.

III. Additional Business

- A. Carine is grateful to the board, would like to recommend all area directors take a look at their sessions. We don't want to run 2-paper sessions, if you could

familiarize yourself with sessions which might require a collaboration, in case they fold.

- B. If you have anything coming out of this meeting, send thoughts for spring agenda to Carine. We will start agenda now.
- C. Tom Lynn - I want to second and third, without your help, carine, we couldn't be nearly as successful.

Motion to adjourn Tom Lynn, seconded by Laurence Roth at 3:18