

Minutes of NJCEA Executive Council and Board Meeting
Friday, May 30, 2008
McNulty Hall, Room 104
Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Executive Council and Board Members in Attendance:

Mary Balkun, Susannah Chewning, Gita DasBender, Norbert Elliot, Nira Gupta-Casale, Burt Kimmelman, Matt Kochis, Kelly Shea, John Wargacki, and Karen Zielony.

Excused: Ed Shannon, Steven Paul Miller.

Spring Conference

All large spaces are reserved at SHU for March 28. Alternate conference date agreed upon is Saturday, April 04, 2009.

A \$1000 contribution toward the NJCEA Conference is now built into the SHU English department budget by the Dean's Office.

Keynote speaker: Perhaps we should think of a writing pedagogy person. Possibilities are: Sheryl Glenn, Lilian Brannon, Lynn Z Bloom. Shea will be in touch with Lynn Bloom to see if she's interested in coming.

College English Notes

SHU Dean's office has approved funding for another year for \$1600. Fall '07 issue and the Spring '08 issue will both be coming out soon. It would be wonderful to make CEN a refereed journal but we would need outside readers and a board. A position of Guest Editor could be created to help John Wargacki who would be the Managing Editor. CEN should also go online. A full online journal would be much cheaper, and advertising and sponsorship could provide more funding. A concern might be that in the future if no one wants to do the online management of the journal, it would simply go away. But printing the journal entails an expense that will certainly increase with time. Wargacki suggests that we should start about thinking about the first peer-reviewed journal in fall '08 and subsequently move toward an online journal while maintaining the print version. So we would gradually phase out the print version. Volunteers to help Wargacki with the process of CEN becoming peer-reviewed and online: Burt, Norbert, Kelly, Karen and Matt.

Fall Roundtable

Possible dates: Saturday, October 18 or Oct. 25. Gupta-Casale suggested hosting it at Kean University.

Possible topics:

- * E-learning for the composition topic, E-literature or Digital Poetry as the literature topic.
- * Place of politics in the classroom as related to academic freedom.

Topics for the roundtable will be confirmed at the fall board meeting.

Graduate Student Essay Contest

We should create guidelines for legitimate graduate student essay contest submissions. Balkun suggested that solicitations for judges could be made during reception at the spring conference when faculty from various institutions are present and can consider volunteering for the position of judge. DasBender suggested that policies for judging should stipulate that judges cannot read submissions of their own students.

Balkun and DasBender will create guidelines for the graduate student contest selection committee and guidelines for the writing submission.

Director for Communication

This person would be the Web Manager for NJCEA but the position would be paid one, perhaps about \$250 per year. DasBender will confirm Wargacki's stipend for running CEN and offer the web manager a similar stipend. Ken Ronkowitz is a possible candidate for this position.

Establishing NJCEA as a Non-profit

Becoming a non-profit would mean that we would have to justify ourselves to NJ Secretary of State's office, establish by-laws, find a well-meaning bank officer to help us or hire an accountant. Should we start soliciting external funding? Do we want to do that? A sponsor could support roundtable, conference, website, journal, graduate student, and so on, and they could write that off if we were a nonprofit. We could hire an accountant (one-time, maybe \$500), and that might be the way to go. A Bank of America person could help, too. There should not be too much reporting back to the govt. The committee that will research the process of moving into non-profit status will include: Mary Balkun, Norbert Elliot, Gita DasBender, Susannah Chewing.

CEA liaison

We should set aside funds to send the liaison to the CEA conference. The liaison stays in contact with the conference chair of the CEA and attends the meeting of CEA liaisons. Aruna Sanyal is our CEA liaison this year, and she should perhaps attend the fall meeting, be in receipt of the minutes of our meetings, and attend the CEA with a copy of the CEN.

We will fund the trip up to \$500, based on the approval of the board.

Sept Board Meeting

Possible date: Friday, Sept. 05, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at SHU, TBA.

Agenda item:

Set up contacts (faculty, graduate students) in various schools so that they can be liaisons to their faculty and students to drum up interest in the conference, in the graduate student essay contest, etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

/s/ Gita DasBender

NJCEA Secretary/Treasurer