

NJCEA Minutes May 19, 2011

In attendance: Maria Plochocki, Jennifer Delner, Nira Gupta-Casale, Mary Meeks, Rachael Warmington, Arundhati Sanyal, Crystal Coble, David McClure

Meeting was called to order at 1:21 pm.

No minutes from the previous meeting.

The treasurer's report was sent by email. It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Ayes were in favor.

Conference Report-We don't have the definite attendance figures. The approximate number is about 70.

No reports on CEN.

David spoke about the disorganization and the fact that some members are good at what they do, but others would not be able to replicate their work.

He would like to form committees to handle some of the responsibilities of the events.

Discussion was brought about how to increase the schools participating in the NJCEA. Rachael brought up that we do send out information to schools throughout the state but don't get much response from many schools in NJ.

Some people have asked what NJCEA will do for them. Discussion ensued that they can get published in CEN; it is good to belong to a professional organization. Rachael suggested there be more creative presence in CEN. There doesn't seem to be much clout for CEN. Nira suggested that perhaps people think it is too local. John Wargacki is in charge, but there is not much other input in the magazine.

How can we give CEN more clout? Electronic form, or perhaps a more substantial publication, may be helpful. It was generally agreed that CEN needs a makeover to make it more appealing to the academic population for which it is geared. This led to discussion that the website may need to be upgraded. Perhaps we could start a Facebook page.

There is a board listserv, but it is out of date; it should be updated to avoid email issues.

Nira questioned if there is a funding issue about getting CEN more updated and substantial.

Timing seems to be an issue, since we don't meet very often. Maria suggested we reach out to people during the semesters instead of just May and August.

To get more colleges involved, it was suggested to consider moving the conference to different schools. SHU is a good location and it works very well, but it doesn't solve the problem of getting more schools involved. Now is perhaps not the best time in our organization to try moving the conference around.

The Fall roundtable does move to different locations.

An idea for the roundtable from Maria: Discussion of meaningful assessment. Last year we discussed e-portfolios. How can we make assessments work for us instead of just "rhetoric of accountability" forced by the administration. Culture of assessment. A second idea that comes from a colleague Discussing Diversity in Academe.

Nira brought up that there is usually one topic on literature, one on composition, and they are usually clear-cut, defined topics. Discussion of diversity in literature may be a bit staid. World literature is a more contemporary topic. What is global literature? What is our training in global literature? Is there faculty development in global literature?

Technology in the composition course. How is it used, how do we incorporate it without “selling out.” Teacher assessment, especially in the secondary schools. Is the standardized testing adequately preparing students for college?

Differences in standards and expectations in the composition classes across schools. Can writing and English courses be taught online?

It was moved, seconded and agreed on the two topics of global literature and standards and expectations in composition (which would include assessment).

October 22, 2011 is the tentative date for the Roundtable. By mid-July get information to Crystal about locations. David will look into the Elizabeth campus, Crystal will look into Rutgers.

August 26, 2011 at 3 pm is a tentative date for our August meeting at UCC, with our board dinner after the meeting.

Deadlines for the 2012 conference. The first CFP should go out at the end of October. Keynote speaker suggestions should go to Aruna. This year should be a literature or creative writing person.

Crystal spoke about the roster that will be distributed and about the tone of emails that have been going out. Emails should go out to the person they are intended for, and not necessarily out to all the board. If there are issues, deal with them professionally.

Meeting was closed at 2:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Crystal Coble