

# **IWCA Board Meeting Minutes**

## **November 8, 2011**

### **Members Present:**

Pam Childers, Frankie Condon, Harry Denny, Kevin Dvorak, Michele Eodice, Dawn Fels, Matt Gilchrist, Susan Griffin, Jackie Grutsch Mckinney, Andrew Jeter, Kerri Jordan, Roberta Kjesrud, Chris LeCluyse, Neal Lerner, Dawn Mendoza, Lori Salem, Steve Sherwood, and Nathalie Singh-Corcoran.

### **I. Introductions**

Roberta began the meeting with a welcome and reminders on how to negotiate the Elluminate forum, and new Board member Susan Griffin was introduced.

### **II. Approval of Minutes from September 2011 Meeting**

The September 2011 meeting minutes were approved. The motion to approve was made by Michele, seconded by Nathalie, and passed with 15 “yes” votes, 0 “no” votes, and 1 abstention.

### **III. Task Force and Committee Reports**

The following task force and committee updates were presented.

#### **A. Conferences and Institutes**

Roberta thanked the Conferences and Institutes Committee for their thorough reports, which have been distributed to the listserv. Main recommendations include recruiting a conference host for 2014 and articulating the relationship between IWCA and the IWCA Conference, the Summer Institute, the Collaborative, and the Gathering.

#### **B. Finance Committee**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Harry spoke about the need for regionals to stop using IWCA’s EIN for tax free purposes. He suggested that regionals need to revise their constitutions to become aligned with or have a clearer relationship with IWCA.

Roberta noted that some regionals that have no EIN are in a kind of crisis. Susan asked about the process for regionals applying for tax-exempt, non-profit status, and Harry suggested that was a conversation that we need to have one-on-one with the regionals. Kevin wondered about the implications of some regionals having their own EINs and others aligning with IWCA to get one.

Harry noted that every regional must file a form 990 with the IRS, and he added that he could post all of the information online.

Harry also reported that IWCA has approximately 610 members and approximately \$83,000. The committee suggests that we continue to investigate the ramifications of becoming an NCTE conference.

### **C. Membership Committee**

Roberta reported that the Membership committee will now have the following standing committees: Two-Year Committee, Secondary Committee, Graduate Student Administrators Committee, and Regional Leaders Network.

Dawn M. shared good news from the Two-Year Subcommittee: 14 proposals have been received for their online conference, and a meeting is scheduled next week for further planning.

On behalf of the Graduate Student Administrators Committee, Matt noted the request that time be established at regional and international conferences for graduate students to meet. Roberta affirmed the importance of this suggestion, and she encouraged Matt to suggest a designated slot during the next Collaborative.

### **D. Professional Development**

Roberta noted that the Web Committee is now a Standing Committee under the new Professional Development rubric.

She reported that Isabelle is working on a model unit on assessment for the members-only section of the website. After the sample unit is developed, we can issue a CFP for IWCA website content, and Isabelle can shift into a more editorial role. Chris invites guest bloggers for general content.

The committee will continue to recruit new technical support and to investigate technological issues, including whether our current web host supports members only authentication and membership services. Harry pointed out continuing problems with the membership site.

Other Professional Development initiatives were also discussed. Roberta reported that Talk Times will be offered as needed but without a separate structure; the Two Year Committee has created a model that others can share. The Research Network Forum will continue under new leadership.

## **IV. Organizational Development Discussion**

Roberta reflected on several organizational development issues that she hopes will be addressed in the future, and she suggested that we might create a 5-year plan to pinpoint priorities. She pointed out that in light of the current economic realities in education and of our organization's growth, we should reexamine our constitution, procedures, organizational structure, and spending priorities. The constitution is dated, with some provisions no longer current, and job responsibilities/descriptions need to be updated. Roberta noted that she and Kerri would begin looking at the constitution. In addition, the committee rubric reflects a smaller organization, while our profession has many talented and willing people who are not involved in IWCA initiatives.

Discussion about the organization's current situation and needs ensued.

Harry remarked that we need to have a conversation about process and how to hash out issues in collegial, civil sorts of ways. He noted the importance of transparency and the value of public meetings. Neal noted our public venues for discussion, such as SIGS at Cs and NCTE. Harry stated that he worries people think the Board is an elite group and that it might look like things happen in a vacuum. Roberta agreed that finding ways to involve members more is important. Frankie asked whether consensus is always needed, and Harry responded that we need civility in academic culture.

Neal asked how members and the board interact. Lori responded that members often want involvement in projects and activities, not in the organization per se. Susan noted that a challenge is money: that little funding is available for participation in conferences and institutes. Kevin suggested that IWCA could collaborate with regionals to organize localized events. Lori said that she feels IWCA could do lots of things, and could get lots of people involved, but we—meaning the board—don't necessarily have clear goals. She asked if we could have that conversation: a conversation about what we're moving toward. NCTE was suggested as a possibly more functional model, but it was also pointed out that they are a different organization with different processes.

Harry asked to make an announcement: he applauded Paula Gillespie, Kevin, and Shanti for handling an ugly anti-gay situation at the NCPTW conference over the weekend. Harry thanked the coordinators for taking seriously the oppression that was evident at one of our conferences.

Harry also asked whether the tax issue should be discussed further. Roberta responded that we might need to schedule a session of some sort for treasurers.

#### **V. Thank You**

Roberta thanked Harry and Michele for their 4 and 6 years, respectively, of service on the Board, and she highlighted several of their contributions and accomplishments. They included substantially expanding the organization's membership, formally connecting the SI to IWCA, developing a sustainable conference/collaborative/summer institute schedule, funding research grants at higher levels, cementing international connections, promoting a stronger emphasis on professional development, developing a clearer understanding of IRS rules and processes, and leaving IWCA with a flush treasury and sustainable budget.

Harry and Michele each offered a few parting thoughts: Harry emphasized the importance of learning how to carve out new territory, of finding new ways of working with one another, supporting one another, and making change happen. Michele pointed to the need for having a vision and finding/creating opportunities to see the vision through.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Michele moved that the meeting adjourn, and Nathalie seconded. The motion passed with 14 "yes" votes, 0 "no" votes, and 0 abstentions, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Jordan, IWCA Secretary