

IWCA Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2011
Hosted by Harry Denny at St. John's via WIMBA.

Members Present:

Dennis Bennett, Pam Childers, Frankie Condon, Francis Crawford, Mary Deane, Harry Denny, Kevin Dvorak, Michele Eodice, Chris Ervin, Dawn Fels, Matt Gilchrist, Shareen Grogan, Magnus Gustafsson, Claire Hughes, Andrew Jeter, Kerri Jordan, Roberta Kjesrud, John Nordlof, Bobbi Olson, Steve Sherwood, Nathalie Singh-Corcoran and Lisa Zimmerelli.

I. Approval of Minutes from September 2010 Meeting

Minutes of the September 2010 meeting were presented for approval. Chris moved to approve the minutes, and Frankie seconded. Roberta called the vote. Approval passed with 16 “yes” votes, 0 “no” votes, and 3 abstentions.

II. Anti-Racism Position Statement

Frankie presented an Anti-Racism Position Statement draft for approval. She explained the history of the statement’s creation, noting that the Anti-Racism SIG first met at the Houston IWCA conference, has continued to meet at each subsequent IWCA conference as well as at some regional conferences, and that the SIG has approximately 50-60 active participants. An active listserv and a number of committees have also been created. Anti-Immigration legislation in Arizona sparked the group’s increased concern about institutionalized racism, and a subcommittee crafted a position statement in response. Bobbi Olson, Andrew Rihn, and Frankie composed the statement with input from listserv members and from attendees at the IWCA Baltimore SIG.

The SIG would now like to take the position statement forward for Board endorsement as an IWCA position statement, and then take the statement to NCTE.

Discussion related to revising the statement draft ensued. Michele noted that for NCTE, the statement’s SIG origins needed to be removed, to reinforce that the statement comes directly from the organization. Roberta affirmed that references to the SIG should be removed. Pam asked that the statement use the term “school” rather than “university.” Michele requested that the description of IWCA as “an NCTE affiliate” be added. John asked whether the emphasis on Arizona’s legislative actions was useful, and Roberta asked whether that material might date the statement. Frankie said that the SIG had discussed that issue and had decided to intentionally anchor the document in specific examples; she also said that the SIG was fearful that the issue might seem less critical without that anchoring. Michele suggested that the historical context be treated more like a lit review, and Roberta affirmed that suggestion.

Harry asked about the timeframe, and Frankie said that the Cs deadline is March 11th.

Michele moved that the Board endorse the statement with revisions and have the revised statement taken to Cs¹. Harry seconded and asked for confirmation of the date by which revisions would be completed. Michele suggested March 1. Pam asked whether revisions would be sent to the listserv for approval. Frankie said the revision would be sent out by the end of the week.

Roberta called the vote. The Anti-Racism Position Statement was endorsed pending minor wording changes. The motion was approved with a vote of 18 “yes,” 0 “no,” and 2 abstentions.

III. Task Force and Committee Updates

The following task force and committee updates were presented.

A. Professional Development

Roberta reported that the search for an IWCA Editor has stalled after the first request for applications received no response. The problem appears to be how to frame institutional support, which is hard to come by, and the position description is being revised accordingly.

Chris announced that the next Talk Time will be on March 2nd, with the session built around Jared Featherstone’s music video/reflective piece. Roberta suggested that the following Talk Time might emphasize budget issues for writing centers at two-year institutions.

Pam asked whether Talk Times are asynchronous, and Chris explained that they are not; rather, they are conducted similarly to Board meetings. The problem of archiving WIMBA sessions, which takes a lot of expensive bandwidth, was also discussed. Chris noted that at least the content is available to look at, even if the conversation is not recorded. Nathalie asked whether screen capture software, such as Cam Studio might be an option. Chris said that it might be; it works with short video lessons. Nathalie pointed out that Nicole had recorded a 45-minute citation workshop for free. Chris said he would see if this would be an option, and Roberta endorsed the importance of archived materials.

B. Research Network

Feedback from the first Research Network Forum (in Baltimore) has been passed on to the leaders for the upcoming RNF in Atlanta. The next phase will be to coordinate an online research network to make peer feedback available for scholarly work. Chris and Shareen are leading this initiative.

C. Regional Leaders Institute

Roberta explained that phase two of the Regional Leaders Institute is being

¹ In reviewing these minutes, Roberta noted that we later discovered the statement should be submitted to NCTE rather than to Cs.

implemented. The first RLI was held in Baltimore, and the second will be held at the Collaborative in Atlanta. There, the group will pick up where they left off to develop 5-year plans for regional initiatives and professional development for regional members unable to travel. Shareen, Kevin, and Roberta are leading this initiative.

D. Mentor Matching Initiative

Roberta reported that Dan and Karen are ready to build a subcommittee after having their initial proposal affirmed by the Board. They need east, central, two-year, and K-12 representation. (Both Dan and Karen are from the West Coast.)

The following responded to a request for suggested subcommittee members:

- Pam, Frances, and John said they would be willing to serve
- Andrew said he would find a K-12 representative
- Dawn noted her east and central connections
- Shareen said that she is willing to mentor for online centers
- Matt asked about mentors for assistant directors.

E. Consultant/Evaluator Initiative

Michele reported that a survey has been composed, piloted, and revised and will soon go out to IWCA members only. The survey will ask members if they would value a consultant/evaluator program or service, how it might help, etc.

Michele emphasized that this is not an accreditation project. The leaders (Michele, Pam, Steve, Kevin, and Frankie) envision consultant-evaluators leading self studies, doing site visits, and writing reports for centers. Dennis asked whether this would be like a program review, and Michele replied affirmatively. She explained that it would be like the service offered by WPA, but that with our own infrastructure, we could send appropriate team members out to various kinds of institutions. Pam offered the disclaimer that the program would depend on survey responses, and Michele agreed that there would have to be appropriate interest.

Chris asked whether Michele might address, for those new to the Board, the overlap with the WPA evaluator service. Michele did so. She explained that it took a while for WPA to invite writing center representation for their evaluator service. Even though they are available, writing center representatives are not often called on, because people asking for evaluations believe the writing program administrator can address writing center issues. Michele stated that, as an NCTE affiliate, we should do our own evaluation and consulting work; she added that we don't gain by having representatives designated to work with WPA but never having them called upon. In addition, there is no financial gain for IWCA through our connection with WPA.

Roberta thanked everyone, especially Michele, for their work with the initiative.

F. Membership Sub-Committees

Roberta reported that she has promoted the Two-Year Task Force to official

Subcommittee status. Dawn Mendoza will serve as chair. They are currently piloting a mentor matching program for the two-year community.

Roberta also reported that a K-12 Subcommittee has been created and will be chaired by Andrew Jeter. Andrew reported that the subcommittee has not quite started up yet, but he has been exploring possible directions. Specifically, he has been considering the different kinds of centers (literacy, writing, reading, etc.) that the subcommittee might represent, as well as the possibility of a peer-to-peer evaluation program. He suggested that K-12 issues could make a good Talk Time emphasis, although scheduling might be difficult, due to the working hours of the K-12 community.

IV. IWCA Collaborative Update

Nathalie announced that registration is open for the 2011 Collaborative. She noted that the space is smaller this year. She also announced that Bedford St. Martin's and Pearson will support the Collaborative in exchange for table space. Specific amounts have not been committed, but the publishers are planning to support the morning coffee and evening happy hour.

V. Additional Updates

The following updates were also presented.

A. Election

Roberta reported on Executive Board election plans: the election will be conducted electronically during the second week of March.

B. Board Meeting Schedule

Roberta suggested that we conduct Board meetings every other month, with the next meeting in April. She noted that the IWCA SIG at Cs is an open meeting, not a Board meeting.

C. Report Requests

Nathalie will soon be requesting reports from task forces and committees.

D. Finance Committee

Roberta explained that the Finance Committee would be reconstituted, and that the committee would be charged, in part, with addressing the financial circumstances of regional organizations.

VI. Adjournment

Matt moved that the meeting adjourn, and Bobbi seconded. The motion passed with 17 "yes" votes, 0 "no" votes, and 0 abstentions, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Jordan, IWCA Secretary