



# Caribbean Studies Association

## CSA Secretariat

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## Minutes of the Business Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Update
2. President's Report
3. LOC Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Programme Chairs Report
6. Election's Committee Report
7. CTEF Report
8. New Business
9. CSA – Nassau 2017

#### 1. Welcome and update

Welcome by President (2015-16) Carole Boyce Davies.

She encouraged everyone to use social media for all CSA information. Updates will be posted there.

She spoke passionately about yesterday's visit to Ecole Mixte de Duleard, a remote village where school children were treated to food, crayons, books and backpacks. This project was all in an effort to give back to Haiti and was a project of undergrad students from Ohio, Cornell and Florida International universities.

Mala Jokhan, CSA Secretary, was unable to come and is replaced by Joy Cooblal.

The minutes of the last Business Meeting are available on line.

#### 2. President's Report

Delivered by President (2015-16) Carole Boyce Davies

She referred to the President's Report that was presented at the Executive Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June. This report will be posted on the CSA website.

She spoke of the New Orleans conference which was described as traumatic. Following which she embarked on a mission to set the organisation on a more professional pathway that would leave it stronger.

Reference was made to the points made at the Executive Council Meeting and the Newsletter of June 2015, such as:

- respect the deadline for paying dues
- a more advanced online system for proposing papers and panels needed
- enhancing languages of the Caribbean
- better leadership transfer
- develop performance track and visual arts
- doubling the CSA membership
- conference proceedings to be developed for the selection of papers
- enhancing the Secretariat function and the appointment of a Director
- recognising CSA members who have achieved excellence

She spoke of the need to update and regularise CSA operations with specific mention of the Website (updated), the conference submission process (new process implemented), the financial system (the process has already began in keeping with the 501C3 status and the hiring of an Accountant. Final details are expected at the beginning of the new fiscal year) and the Newsletter (member highlights added and greater circulation on social media via #CSAHaiti2016).

A conference account was opened with funds from registration fees to the sum of \$56,000.00 to manage conference expenses. The advance dues payment schedule was successfully implemented and 775 persons had registered at the start of the conference.

As is the President's function to find funds, many big organisations were approached but sponsorship came only from the following:

- Kellogg Foundation
- Cornell University (Africana Centre and Dean's Office)
- Cornell University Einandi Centre
- Smithsonian Institute of Arts Related Events
- Green Foundation (Miami) of Arts Related Events
- FIU- African Diaspora Studies
- College of Charleston ( Office of the Dean)

The total received was US\$113,500.00

The wearable art expo and the Gingerbread House exhibition were sponsored by the Smithsonian.

The conference was well publicised. Press releases were sent out via news agencies in Haiti, Trinidad and in the Miami Herald, via letters and were also sent to journals and departments of African Diaspora and Caribbean and Latin American studies for circulation.

For the first time an Education Day for locals was added to the conference. It was attended by 300 teachers and 200 residents all with an interest in education.

The President thanked everyone for a successful conference and an amazing Cultural Night. She reminded all that the Angela Davis event was via ticket only.

### 3. LOC Report

Presented by Local Chair Pierre-Louis

Sponsors were sought and the committees wrote to all the Ministries, banks and the private sector. Although things are hard, they raised US\$35,000.00 and are expecting other donations.

Funds were spent on the following:

- transportation for the “tap tap” buses
- meals for student volunteers
- logistic personnel
- artists for Cultural Night
- performance on Opening Night
- the Marriott for cocktails
- photographer

There are outstanding payments to be made for banners, t-shirts and the sound system.

He stressed that the committee worked very hard to get good prices. They tried to showcase Haiti differently and focus on its rich art, culture and history. He said that the newly renovated Gingerbread House tour was free as well as the Tap-tap service to go there.

He thanked the committee for their work and pointed out that programme design and the printing of the programme was done in Haiti.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Dwaine Plaza

Reports from the previous conference in New Orleans;

- Revenue from registration & membership fees: US\$134,043.00
- Expenses: US\$131,570.00
- There was not a lot of external funding. CSA funded most of it
- Subsidies for groups who applied. Many conferences do not do this
- Funds were carried over. By June 2015 the balance was: US\$75,949.00. Down payments were made from this
- Cultural Night was paid for (food and band). There was a cash bar
- The police, venue and local cooks were hired

In the past we did not have to pay for food at Cultural Night. Last night we had to pay for food. We should be told in advance when there is not going to be complimentary food so that we can be prepared.

An active Secretariat is needed if its functions are to be expanded and enhanced. It would take additional funds to do this.

A motion was moved and was seconded.

### 5. Program Chairs Report

Presented by Angelique Nixon

- There should be changes in the calendar system to improve the functions of the organisation for more professionalism
- The structure of the conference changed each day. A thematic challenge.
- There was communication on line with the membership and the programme
- One site visit and one fact-to-face meeting
- Emphasis placed on multilingualism. Four languages represented including Kreyol
- There were over 800 submissions
- Challenges with Paypal. There were delayed responses with messages and requests
- Challenges with communication with the LOC
- There is need for an improved way to submit papers
- Off site sessions were an added challenge when managing a growing programme
- Translation was one of the largest costs to the conference. Translation cost was US\$22,000.00. More budget allocation needed.
- Constitutional change may be required to include other languages than the 3 that currently exist
- There was great participation. Thanks to Carol's management, the translation service, the volunteers and the Marriott staff

The President complimented the Programme Chairs and thanked Angelique publically for her contribution for managing new systems as well as managing 800 submissions.

The Report was moved and seconded

### 6. Elections Committee Report

Presented by Keithley Woolward

- Elections took place on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016
- The post of VP was to be filled. There was one candidate. Elected is Yolanda Wood
- There were 2 open seats on the EC. They are filled by Samuel Fure Davis and Mamyrah Prosper. Two recounts

Report moved and seconded

### 7. CTET Report

Presented by Anja Bandau

- Every year there are translation challenges. This year Kreyol and French were in the fore
- There was a significant number of non-English panels: were 36 multi-lingual panels (French, Spanish, Kreyol and English), 33 in French and 30 in Spanish
- Worked with whispering translation and student volunteer translators during the sessions
- Should not proceed like this in the future but improve and move forward as a true trans-lingual organisation.
- Deadlines should be set for the translation of the programme and the newsletter
- Decision to formalize the presence of a member of the CTET at the Executive Council meetings
- CTET should have access to the new submission system to get information on translation needs and improve cooperation

### 8. New Business

(a) CSA Elders (see Newsletter). There should be a concession in the fees. Elders should pay at the level of a grad student on a needs basis who has to be retired. They should also get involved in mentoring (round table). They should leave a financial contribution to the CSA. Motion accepted.

(b) Transnational Hispaniola Working Group (TH)-(see letter dated 8 June 1016). Request for registration as an official working group within the CSA. A parallel event for Haitian students to increase their skills. Motion accepted.

(c) Treasurer, Dwaine Plaza, as asked to be replaced at the end of his term due to his recent appointment as Dean.

(d) Strategies for new leadership needed to be put in place. Members are hesitant to run for executive office.

(e) Introduction by incoming President, Keithley Woolward. Presented a brief bio of himself. He recognises that being President of CSA is an enormous responsibility of leadership and succession planning. One of his first main tasks would be the appointment of a new Treasurer.

### 9. CSA-Nassau 2017

President, Keithley Woolward, announced that the CSA conference will be in Nassau after 17 years and will be held at the Melía Nassau Beach Resort

The theme: *Culture and Knowledge Economies: The Future of Caribbean Development?*

The idea is to positively drive the economy of the region outside of tourism. His intention is to get younger persons involved. He recognises that fundraising is a challenge but there is need to generate income.

His ideas for the 2017 conference so far are:

- To keep a similar programme format.
- To keep Wednesday of the conference blocked for members to see the community, meet people, provide support, impact and concrete involvement
- Extend the conference to Saturday for cultural workshops
- Commitment to linguistic diversity
- Use of U-tube as an added benefit to membership – a platform to share work and have an impact

- Partnerships with the Ministries of Tourism and Culture, the Art Gallery, University of the Bahamas, Central Bank, etc.
- There will be an art competition to design the programme cover. This will generate income
- The conference hotel will be all inclusive. Centrally located in the Cable Beach area
- The first EC meeting will in September 2016

The President congratulated Carole for being a visionary and for a successful conference. He ended by asking that we bring change by supporting the smaller airlines ie – Inter Caribbean Airways.

Joy Cooblal  
June 2016