



Caribbean Studies Association

CSA Secretariat

c/o Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)

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2019 Conference: CSA Business Meeting

Date: Thursday June 06th, 2019

Venue: Hotel Estelar Santamar, Santa Marta, Colombia

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM

Welcome from President (Catalina Toro Perez)

The President, Catalina Toro Perez thanked those from the membership who were in attendance and introduced all the members of the CSA Executive and those present at the head table (Tavis Jules (Vice President), Dwaine Plaza (Treasurer), Raquel Sanmiguel (2019 Program Chair) and Mala Jokhan (CSA Secretary).

The Minutes of the last meeting held in Havana, Cuba, was approved and the membership was invited to suggest changes to the agenda. The membership in attendance voted to approve the agenda; there were no abstentions.

Program Committee Chair Report (Raquel Sanmiguel, Profesora Universidad Nacional de Colombia)

- The Program Chair spoke about efforts made in consolidation of the program and thanked the persons who assisted with putting the program together. Special mention was made of the dedication and commitment of Monique Schoch Angel, her assistant who worked with her directly on site and off site with the coordination of panel, making amendments to the program itself and assisting persons with navigating the program in instances where there were cancellations and the rescheduling of panel sessions.
- Special mention and thanks went out to the Professors from different universities who willingly gave of their time to review the themes and provide suggestions.
- The LOC was also thanked (Edgar Villegas and Roberto Almanza from Universidad del Magdalena) and the staff of the Convention Centre for their assistance in ensuring that panels and presentations could be facilitated without any issues and for the efficiency in which matters were addressed as they arose.
- The Author Celebration component of the Conference was mentioned and a special thanks to the Author Celebration Committee for working closely with the Program Committee to ensure the proper planning of the event.
- There were also discussions regarding the digitization of the program booklet for future conferences to reduce printing cost. The idea of developing an online platform to

facilitate and support the conference program agenda was recommended for consideration.

Local Organizing Committee Chair (LOC). Report Edgar Villegas, Iriarte, Universidad del Magdalena, Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences.

The LOC Representatives made special mention and gave special thanks to the CSA President for making the decision to use Santa Marta as the 2019 CSA Conference destination. The Committee was thankful for the experience gained from having to coordinate a conference of this magnitude on the ground through liaising with locals in helping to plan the conference events, particularly the cultural event and University of Magdalena for its support.

They thank Professors: Jorge Elias Caro, Roberto Almanza, Universidad del Magdalena en Santa Marta, Professor: Adriana Santos, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Sede Caribe) Juaquin Viloria, gerente Banco de la Republica, Clacso (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales), Gobernacion Departamento Archipelago de San Andres y Providencia, Secretaria de Turismo e INFOTEP y Hotel Estelar Santa Marta Convention Center.

The Cultural Event Committee Report – Nadia Celis Salgado, Associate Professor, Bowdoin College.

Special mention was made of the work done behind the scenes in order to attain permission from the local authorities to use the beach for the cultural night and the assistance of the LOC in helping to coordinate the planning and seeking all necessary approvals. She gave special thanks to the Alcaldia de Santa Marta and its Secretario of Government, Universidad del Magdalena, Museo de Arte Bolivariano, Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino, Teatro CAJAMAG, Pepe Vives Campo, Rafael Caraballo head of the Corporacion Cabildo, Secretaria de Turismo Departamento Archipelago de San Andres y Providencia y Sede Caribe of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

Translingual Committee Report – Sally K. Stainier (Chair of the Committee for Translinguistic Exchange and Translation)

The Committee Chair explained that it was a plus for the 2019 conference to not have to rely entirely on Google Translate and that she was committed to assisting where possible with the 2020 conference. She endorsed the vision for inclusion of all Caribbean groups regardless of language differences to be represented through translation and having that at the conference would help to foster a sense of regional integration through acknowledging and making an effort to recognize such differences and making steps to avoid the language barrier and through ensuring seamless inclusion at the conference. In light of the amount of work involved in

translation, the Committee Chair made a special appeal to the membership to volunteer and join the translingual team and to encourage new members to do the same.

Moving forward, a recommendation for consideration was to encourage a new model to interpreting translation services by involving the membership and to volunteer interpreting to reduce translation cost, raise awareness of the translingual Caribbean and to have the support of an efficient team when different Caribbean languages are to be translated across conference themes. The Chair explained that in the long-run, if we are going to be really showcase the Association for its originality, we should find a new way to add value to your resume which would help us to keep our current membership and of course attract new members which would be more rewarding than the actual amount of work done professionally as volunteers to build the Association.

Treasurer's Report (Dwaine Plaza)

The Treasurer reviewed some of the main financial issues in relation to the CSA 2018 Havana Conference. The members at the meeting had the opportunity to view the 2018 financial reports and give their comments. The 2018 financial reports were also posted on the website. The review of the income and expenses of the 2018 conference were central to the discussion and the following were considered:

- The membership called for control over the president's spending; the President cannot spend more than \$10, 000 at any one time without the approval of the membership.
- The Treasurer explained that the CSA is a small organization and there are times when things may come up urgently which requires quick and decisive actions and the President should be allowed to make the call if the cost is more than \$10, 000; a mechanism should be put in place to policy this. It should always be the case that the incoming President has about 70 to 80, 000 to help in the planning of the next conference.
He explained that the organization runs on mainly two revenue sources:
 1. Membership dues (US160 (non-Caribbean members), US85 (Caribbean members) and US55 (students and retired past CSA members); and
 2. Registration (US150 (non-Caribbean members), US125 (Caribbean members), US50 (students and elders), US200 (non-members), US65 (non-member students and elders).
- It was explained to the attendees that CSA subsidizes the participation of students who pay the very minimal along with CSA Retired Elders to afford them the opportunity to participate as these are the two groups of participants who usually request a reduced rate.
- The Treasurer highlighted that a major problem which persists year after year is that some persons come and only pay for their membership or their registration and then there are those who pay neither membership nor registration. In total, there is an estimate of about 614 participants at the conference. A special appeal was made to those in attendance who were still to pay their fees to visit the secretariat office to do so before they left the conference.

- The expenses of the Cuba conference were kept very low and the efficient leadership of Professor Woods helped to ensure that there was more money for planning the Colombia conference. Out of Cuba conference, we came out with \$96,000.
- There are some expenses that are unavoidable and those are the Association's recurring expenditure (payment of the professional services of the Web Admin and the Secretary) and then there are the ones that we can control; decisions taken for reimbursing special guests and keynote speakers. This could then mean having more money to help sponsor graduate students to attend the conference whether partially or in full.
- The locals were given special subsidized rates and the Universities and other agencies helped with sponsorship.
- It is noted that there were a high numbers of cancelations and in some cases entire panels, yet the CSA had to pay as there was an agreement. For the next conference, we should avoid having to pay for empty spaces. Only pay for what is used.
- Nonetheless, it is envisaged that the Colombia conference expenses are going to be low because of the hard work of the LOC and the efforts of the President in negotiating with the Hotel Estelar and a 50% reduction in the rate of rooms. We worked very hard with great teamwork to make the conference a successful one.

2019 Election Results, Guyana 2020 and the Journal Proposition (Vice President Report - Tavis Jules)

The Election Committee led by the Vice President counted the ballots and tabulated the results which were as follows:

Vice President 2020/2021 - Eris Schoburgh, UWI Mona Campus

The newly elected EC Members were Nikoli Attai, Fatimah Jackson, Raymond Ortiz. Michael Barnett was at the end of his term and Samuel Fure will be running for another year. Online voting will be done to have a run-off in the case of deciding on who shall be the Graduate Student Representative - Sally Stainer or Keisha Wiel.

The website will be updated to reflect the three newly elected members of the EC, as well as the appointed positions of treasurer, secretary and the newsletter editor.

The new EC will convene on Friday, June 6, for the first planning meeting of the Guyana Conference and in relation to the Guyana conference, the following were mentioned:

- It was reiterated that membership dues run from Jan 1 – Dec 31 (calendar year).
- CSA turns 45 next year and the themes of conference and the title is in the poster

In relation to the CSA journal, there was a motion to acquire an up or down vote to move ahead with the creation or adopting an interdisciplinary journal to be peer reviewed. It was explained that in order for the work of the Executive to continue in this regard, The Executive required the consensus of the membership. Three proposals were considered which were as follows:

1. Starting a journal from scratch;
2. Collaborate with an existing journal; and
3. Take the newsletter and make it into a journal.

In the case of collaborating, some of the challenges were considered, namely to find a vendor to represent the wide scope that CSA encompasses, it has to be an academic journal, ¼ to be artistic (poetry) and ¼ to be book reviews.

Michael Barnett – At the Mona Campus, we have interdisciplinary journals so the idea is not far-fetched to include different disciplines. In fact, it is necessary to truly represent the all-inclusive nature of the Association.

Carolle Charles – having an in-house journal is something that is extremely difficult and needs to have an institutional base, it is a very costly thing to upkeep.

Tavis – We can consider it to be an online project because of cost and we need to decide whether we have sufficient intellectual capital.

Chenzira – For the younger scholars, could consider having a digitized (e-version) journal. We could draw on our UWI resources across the islands and let that be part of the conversation and if we have to do something new on the 45th anniversary that would be interesting.

Rosanne – The membership needs to be clear on what we are voting on.

Nadia Celis – We need to create a working group, and that group should include people who are part of editorial board and how we want to do it?

Tavis –

Step 1 is the up or down vote to see whether we should have journal.

Step 2 - once the vote is determined, we need to get the members to help

The EC meets once per year and next year, we will be reporting on the vote and status of the journal.

Nadia – what are we voting on?

Tavis: should CSA have a journal?

Russell Stockyard: The motion is whether CSA should have a journal?

Results of the vote: 21 in favor, 9 abstentions. The motion for CSA to have a journal was passed.

Tavis – now the EC will explore the options and report back to the membership as regards developments.

Carolle – Regarding next year's conference, could we have the program including school teachers into the conference?

Tavis – The conference is earmarked to take place in Guyana from June 5-7. We could consider extending it into the weekend either before or after the conference week to continue the initiative that Carole started in Haiti to include teachers.

Rhoda Reddock – It is usual to have a plenary on issues in relation to the Caribbean and why we did not have one on Venezuela and if not, why?

Catalina – We had plenaries from well recognized professors in relation to regional integration : “The Complexity of the Colombian Caribbean”, (speech Gustavo Bell Lemus, vicepresident from past Santos Government) and the Inaugural Conference was “Thinking the Caribbean today”, (Alfonso Munera, Historian from the Universidad de Cartagena, ancient secretary of the Association of Caribbean States and ancient ambassador in Trinidad and Tobago) and “Colombian Projection towards the Greater Caribbean” (coord. Hector Galeano, Professor Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla). Also the historian Jorge Elias Caro, vice-president of the Colombian Association of Caribbean Studies, Universidad de Magdalena, gave a Lecture on “ Simon Bolivar and the Caribbean on the occasion of the Bicentennial”.

Rhoda – Not having diplomatic relations or a lack of, and scholars who could provide history and analysis and not taking a government’s position and how these issues could have implications for the region should have also been considered. As an organization, we need to be mindful to consider when there are crisis situations to pool our intellect in helping to resolve and provide recommendations to assist where possible as well as to show consideration and solidarity.

Rhoda – What is the status of the CSA Archives? SALISES, St Augustine.

Carolle – Valerie Smith and the digitalize the archives (2012)

Rhoda – There should be a committee in place to ensure that proper records are maintained and that documentation would be easily and readily accessible if needed. The incoming Committee should work on a policy in this regard.

Nadia – The importance of continuity and in the preparation of the conference, the biggest risk is when we go from the Non-English to English-speaking countries and it could help to ensure that the Chair of the Translingual Committee is part of the EC.

Motion – The general assembly voted in favor of the Chair of Translingual Committee to be included in the EC.

Motion seconded and 21 votes in favor.

Abstentions – 3

Tavis - this requires a constitutional amendment for the Chair of Translingual Committee to be part of the EC.

Russell – In 2020, would the program be in hard copy or online?

Tavis – we are hoping to introduce an App to allow the program to be online. Printed programs will be available for purchase.

Rosanne – Economical, it was a good conference, I think we could come up with an App to build the Association and to take the planning to another level of efficiency – less paper.

Angelique –Do we really need the program booklet? It is important for CSA to have at least two big plenaries that bring CSA together.

Michael – Let’s make sure to make the plenary worth attending; one to be remembered. For archival purposes, we can probably dig deeper in the budget and invest in a digital storage system that would allow us to record and upload recordings of sessions.

Keisha – For economic reasons, Facebook Live could be a way forward for archiving plenaries and other significant CSA events.

Catalina closed the meeting by again thanking all in attendance and a special thank you to the people of Colombia for their help and dedication in making the conference an eventful one.

Meeting ended at 9:25 pm