

## **CSA2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: JUNE 5 – 9, 2023**

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023: 1:00PM**

A. Call to Order – President Dr. Chenzira Kahina (Chair)

B. CSA2023 St. Croix Welcome - A brief introduction of the Executive Council and the support team that assisted in the planning and execution of the conference over the past year. Special mention was made of the tremendous efforts of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

C. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda of matters to be discussed was reviewed and the President invited members to indicate whether they would like to add any matters for discussion to the agenda.

D. Approval of CSA 2022 Jamaica General Membership Minutes

The President reviewed and called for approval of the minutes of the 2022 Membership Meeting.

E. Reports

1. Program Committee Chair – Meagan Sylvester

- Synopsis of the process from June 2022 to June 2023.
- 1<sup>st</sup> physical conference since the restrictions were lifted; post-COVID pandemic.
  - Conference Theme - *Transforming Our Caribbean: Sustainable Educational Research, Cultural Creatives, Sacred Traditions, Economic Development and Environmental Solutions*
- 314 registrations
- 87 sessions, 6 concurrent sessions, poster sessions (RT Park)
- Author Celebration (signature event to CSA)
- 4 film screenings
- 2 Spanish and 7 French sessions to reinforce the multilingualism of CSA
- 27 fully constituted panels

- Like the 2022 conference, young scholars got the opportunity to participate and get the feedback from senior scholars at the conference
- Graduate Student Mentorship Program
- Cultural Night
- The Conference closes off with the Gala hosted by the Governor
- Mention was made of issues during the conference week – no shows, internet connectivity, poorly attended sessions in some cases and the program team tried to facilitate virtual presentations where possible

## 2. Treasurer (Finance and Audit) – Dwaine Plaza

- CSA Book Drive was a success and scholars donated reading material generously dropping off their books at the secretariat.
- 48 students participated at the Graduate Student Breakfast
- CSA relies on 2 main sources of income – membership and registration
- Sponsorships also greatly helps the Association – funds and in-kind
- CSA has 4 main accounts - a PayPal Account, Republic Bank Limited TT account, UWI Bursary, Bank of America in Oregon
- Review of the 2022 financials (Jamaica Conference)
- Mention made that at the 2024 conference, the 2023 financials (St Croix Conference) will be presented then
- An amount of \$297,876.00 was carried over to planning the 2023 St. Croix Conference
- About \$120K has been carried over to planning the 2024 conference

## Q & A session and issues mentioned:

- An appeal was made to the membership to help the attendance at the CSA to increase so that numbers can get back to being 500 and above
- It depends on the venue and cost, largely
- Discussion on how to increase the membership and encourage retirees. More should be done as CSA Seniors are the mentors of CSA.
- Revenues indicate the numbers at the conference

- The conference theme and multi-disciplinarity also matter in attracting scholars from many disciplines as possible
- The Caribbean consists of individuals from different ethnicities and the CSA needs to get back and attract people from different backgrounds to reflect the diversity within the region, Association and philosophical interests
- US Visa restrictions affect attendance as well
- Author Celebration and planning the event - an appeal was made for proper communication so that planning can be done on point and the large numbers in attendance made the University the better location for the event.
- The Eventsforce software used to manage the conference programming and payments was reviewed and some expressed the view that it was not very user friendly, especially in the case of programming

### 3. Secretariat - Mala Jokhan

- Membership and registration – 314 individuals
- On site over 40 individuals were assisted with their registration
- Locals attendees 46
- Total of about 360 individuals at the conference
- As a payment portal, Eventsforce is quite efficient
- The support team at Eventsforce is improving
- In the absence of a credit card machine, we ask individuals to use the portal, enter their registration details and pay via PayPal
- In the case of the Elections, the Secretariat assisted the VP with the process of nomination and organizing publication of the candidates. The VP (Election Committee Chair) will report on the results
- An appeal was made to the membership to send suggestions on how the processes of the secretariat can be made more efficient to [secretariat@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org](mailto:secretariat@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org)

### 4. CSA2023 Elections Committee – VP Okama Ekpe Brook Brief introduction and congratulations to all the candidates

#### 5. June 2023 Election Results

- VP – Rhoda Arrindell
- EC Members – Kristina Hinds, Geneve Phillip-Durham, Rita Keresztesi
- Graduate Student Representative – Maya Freeman

F. President's Report – An official report will be submitted at the end of the conference

#### G. New Business

##### Announcement of CSA2024

##### Actionable Deliverables/Intentions for CSA@50 Golden Jubilee

- Official announcement of the 2024 conference location as St Lucia. The theme will be – *Caribbean Development Sustainability – The Convergence of Technology, People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnerships*
- The tentative conference hotel is the Harbor Club Curio Collection by Hilton

#### H. Adjournment

- Closing remarks and special thanks to the membership for joining.
- How can we encourage people to want to have anything to do with CSA, as a membership that needs to be pondered

Next meeting date: During CSA2024 in St. Lucia