

Minutes for the Women's Caucus Breakfast Meeting  
Annual History of Science Society Meeting  
Friday, November 10, 2017  
Toronto, Canada

Caucus co-chair Megan Raby opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She noted that Tina Gianquitto, the other co-chair of the Women's Caucus, regretted that she could not attend the meeting. Minutes from 2016 were unanimously approved.

[Sign-in sheet passed around]

#### Announcements

- The Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering and Technology co-sponsored the breakfast meeting. Ben from the Linda Hall Library thanked the Caucus for the opportunity to participate and reminded members about the Linda Library's fellowships.
- Megan Raby thanked Caucus members for donating to the breakfast meeting and reminded members about the Annual Graduate and Early Careers Caucus Women's Mentorship Event that was going to be held in the same room right after the Women's Caucus meeting.
- The WC awarded four dependent grants out of the funding pool.
- The WC helped push for a family and nursing mothers room, which this year is located on the second floor of the conference center.
- Last year HSS sponsored childcare, but this year it was discontinued due to lack of use.
- As a reminder, the WC listserv is now administered via the WC google group. Members who aren't getting emails should get in touch with a co-chair.
- The WC website and syllabus resource database continues to be a success. It gets around 150 unique visitors/week. Megan Raby reminded everyone to send in their syllabi to update the database.
- Updates from allied groups: The PSA Women's Caucus and the Commission on Women International History of Science (Don Opitz) are looking to sponsor a joint panel for HSS 2018. SHOT has had success with Edith. The Women's History Environmental Network (WHEN) has an active email list and conference receptions.
- While HSS has a harassment statement for the conference, this does not cover online harassment of HSS members. Members interested in contributing to a statement about online harassment should reach out to Tina Gianquitto.
- The WC would like to ensure all minutes are updated on the HSS website in the future.

#### Introductions

- There were approximately 70-80 WC members introducing themselves. This was one of the largest WC breakfasts in recent memory!

#### Discussion

- Angela Creager reminded WC members of the historical importance of the WC to changing the profession.
- Publications and Fellowships

- Marsha Richmond and Karen Rader are the new editors for the Journal of the History of Biology and are interested in submissions that will expand the definition of the life sciences.
- WC members should keep their eyes out for the fellowships that available at the Smithsonian and the National Museum of American History. Peggy Kidwell reminded WC members about federal positions, especially upcoming opening in curator of the history of computing.
- Sam Muka and Jenna Tonn encouraged WC members to pitch their work to the online magazine Lady Science.
- Aileen Fyfe: The Isis editor keeps statistics about gender as it relates to submission and referees. More women than men submit to Isis (2/3 to 1/3) and there is a similar gender ratio for referees.
- Elly Truitt: The biggest takeaway about Isis submissions from one WC members was that men take a rejection as a revise and resubmit and women take it as a rejection.
- Audra Wolfe: The WC could think about questions/concerns we have about publication representation in advance and query the Council.
- Kate MacCord publicized the MBL's funds for bringing people to Woods Hole on short-term projects.
- WC reminded that Sally Gregory Kohlstedt is the Ombudsman re: HSS's harassment policy.
- Oral History Project
  - Margaret Rossiter previously had started a conversation about collecting oral histories of the founders of the WC. At the meeting, Margaret Rossiter suggested that the WC should explore the process of getting a grant with an eye toward 10-15 interviews over 2 years. This could coincide with the centennial. The British Society had someone do 30-40 interviews which was the basis of an article.
  - Megan Raby suggested a smaller group within the WC could handle the details.
  - Marsha Richmond suggested crowdsourcing self-reported accounts about WC's early years.
  - Aileen Fyfe agreed that applying for a grant and having someone coordinate interviews would be a good idea.
- Audra Wolfe suggested that the WC and HSS think more about issues related to online harassment, doxxing, and how to support HSS members experiencing online harassment.
- Aileen Fyfe was part of a project about the diversity of women's career paths in academia in Scotland and encouraged WC members to consult the resulting publication.
- Additional discussion points
  - The WC should reach out to colleagues in underrepresented communities whose academic freedom might be under threat (e.g. Venezuela and Turkey) and find ways to support them.
  - Glad that WC members are becoming editors of key journals in the field.
  - Members should be aware of potential changes to tax policies that might impact PhD awards.
  - WC members interested in publication issues should get involved with the Committee on Publications
  - The WC could initiate a project to match people up in writing groups as a way of expanding the WC's reach and supporting publications of its members. The

GECC has talked about this as well and perhaps the WC and GECC could collaborate.

Election of Incoming HSS Women's Caucus Co-Chair

- Jenna Tonn was nominated and unanimously approved as the incoming co-chair.
- Megan Raby was thanked for her successful tenure as a co-chair.

Megan Raby thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.