

**NEMLA Board of Directors' Meeting, October 25, 2014**  
**Fairmont Royal York-Toronto Salon 1 boardroom**  
**8:30am-5:00pm**  
**Breakfast 8:00-8:30am**  
**Lunch 12:00-1:00pm**

Board members expected to be present: Daniela Antonucci, Princeton University, President; Ben Railton, Fitchburg State University, First Vice President; Hilda Chacon, Nazareth College, Second Vice President; Ellen Dolgin, Dominican College, Past President; Jennifer Harris, University of Waterloo, American/British Literatures Director; Gillian Pierce, Boston University, Comparative Languages and Theory Director; Anna Rocca, Salem State University, French Languages and Literatures Director; Suha Kudseigh, College of Staten Island, NY, Professional and Pedagogy; Lynn Marie Kutch, Kutztown University, German Languages and Literatures Director; Emily Lauer, Suffolk County Community College, CAITY Caucus Representative; Marie-Eve Monette, McGill University, Graduate Student Caucus Representative; Gloria Pastorino, Farleigh Dickinson University, Italian Languages and Literatures Director; Vetri Nathan, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Member-At-Large: Diversity; Rita Bode, Trent University, Women's and Gender Studies Caucus Representative; Laurence Roth, Susquehanna University, Editor of *Modern Language Studies*

Non-Board members expected to be present: Carine Mardorossian, University at Buffalo, Executive Director; Brandi So, Stony Brook University, Coordinator of Fellowships and Strategic Planning; Jesse Miller, University at Buffalo, Graduate Assistant; Alison Hedley, Ryerson University, Local student representative; Andrea Schofield, Ryerson University, Local student representative

Regrets: Maria Matz, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures Director; Susmita Roye, Delaware State University, Anglophone/British Literatures Director; Barry Spence, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Cultural Studies and Media Director; Renata Towne, University at Buffalo, Administrative Coordinator

- I. Introductions**
  - a. The meeting was called to order by President Daniela Antonucci at 8:40 am, who then introduced new and returning board members.
- II. Approval of Spring 2014 Board minutes**
  - a. The minutes of the Spring 2014 Board Meeting were **approved**. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Executive Director's Report, Carine Mardorossian**
  - a. Executive Director Carine Mardorossian reviewed her written report with board members; she discussed the changes in NeMLA's administrative management, including a new accounting firm, the retention of a non-profit attorney, and plans to work on the website and database in the coming year.

- b. Director Mardorossian also discussed travel for NeMLA participants at the upcoming convention, noting a discount at Porter Airlines. The new train system may or may not be ready, and Director Mardorossian and her staff will communicate travel advice to NeMLA participants as appropriate in the coming months.
  - c. Director Mardorossian asked board members to consider and discuss the prospects of pursuing allied organizations for panel sponsorships. Allied organizations would increase the visibility of a panel, but pose other challenges for the membership. Discussion of this item covered the following
    - c. means they advertise the panel, Jennifer Harris, one model is to not guarantee acceptance – the board will still have to propose this session – that’s not guarantee – women in French they sponsor a couple of sessions Anna – should the members also be members of women and French – and they said it’s optional should we receive some money to cover some expenses – ultimately it doesn’t affect finances – I would like to have a menu with allied organizations we have an intellectual affinity –
      - i. I would like to have a presence on the website with allied
      - ii. Ben I think the allying and website and sponsor all benefits – the guarantee doesn’t benefit us;
      - iii. Daniela, these are large associations – should we look into small organizations for each field.
      - iv. We need to define terms
      - v. Ellen: they would like to have one session a year on shaw and they really would advertise it very very rigorously
      - vi. Rita, what about just an affiliation;
      - vii. Suha; can sponsor a panel after the session is formed;
      - viii. Carine we could say only three organizations a year;
      - ix. Working groups: it’s a topic; works literatures nemla members who have decided they have a focus;
      - x. So we will leave as is – they sponsor after the session is formed. It is the guaranteed,
  - d. (exhibitor fellow get in touch with Rita and Anna, re collaborative tables)
- A. Corporate Revival-
  - B. Website
  - C. Board Positions
  - D. 2015 Conventions
    - 1. Transportation issues
    - 2. Media policies
  - E. New Allied Organizations
  - F. Working Groups
  - G. Fields/Areas
    - a. We need to ask what interdisciplinary humanities means (Jennifer Harris) Laurence: linguistic papers coming in which makes no sense
    - b. C One of the things I see is humanities is growing – UB just had their first Buffalo community humanities institute; it’s a bit everything and anything – you saw because we don’t have a rep in the board, people

took over that topic in their own areas – where does Interdisc start and cultural studies end –

- c. Laurence – there is more money but fewer people, it may be another name is what we may be talking about – maybe we should combine with cultural and media studies
- d. c an alternative – cult studies encompasses work that could just focus on lit or just film; is there a way to keep it
- e. JH I am looking at interdisc I don't see anything that would be happening anywhere else
- f. Ben is there a way to encourage overtly we don't want to lose the emphasis on this whatever that means
- g. Emily, this is a convo about cult studies and everyone says “and media” if we are talking about cult studies and interdisciplinary
- h. The split with digital humanities goes to media studies, and the interdisci (ellen) Ellen corporate wants ppl who can read write and think and but;
- i. cult studies and interdisciplinary
- j. Ellen Cult studies and
- k. Comparative literature is inherently interdisciplinary and it will draw away that effect comparative lit lost
- l. JH Interdisc is a method versus a topic. We have a rubric – it says if you think you belong somewhere else
- m. Interdisc in dialogue with social science we have a better capacity to bridge a gap; do we have a direction there ? (brunette at end)
- n. Daniela, got three proposals from Music – if we approve the explanation for them and visual culture and; how do we open our ideas in the field to all languages even within the interdisciplinary humanities we are in the fields – there should be a way
- o. Carine: my nightmare we presented it as a field to cross list with as though a rep on the board and there wasn't and then they were primarily on interdisciplinary – we can put every panel in this topic, our mission is literatures and languages – we are always advertising themes for the conference – without having board representation – I created a field that led to a host of issues on vetting and in that sense,
- p. Suha, for the first category take it out and have it only as interdisciplinary, then as a cross listing and second category,
- q. Gillian: one or two designated sponsored panels these are the interdisciplinary in german French, etc. a couple that the the board member would – in comparative language etc Gillian we already get that interdisciplinary
- r. Vetri there needs to be a better term
- s. Jennifer, Vetri as diversity maybe I can re work it
- t. Digital studies/digital humanities, most people doing this are tool oriented pedagogy
- u. Gillian opera with papers this is comp lit – if this is what we are talking about it belongs in comp lit and cult studies

- v. **SUHA to change comparative langs and theory to comparative literature second passed motion passed unanimously**
- w. C to have it as a cross listing. Here is a problem with saying interdisciplinarity as a field – it is insulting to those who have been doing it forever in their field – we have to be careful how we advertise fields.
- x. JH can we re-write the rubric for Culture and New Media and keep it as a second one,
- y. **Cultural and Media Studies Cultural studies and Media Studies; Motion passed unanimously**
- z. **Suah to move inter to croslist only unanimously** Ben Railton lets get a workgroup; Gillian workgroup in interdisciplinary humanitiesl or a standing workshop or roundtable -
  - aa. **Add a digital humanities cross listing**
- H. Creative Writing: I would like the title to be creative writing and publishing and editing; most creative writers see publishing and editing as aligned with their work in I move to create a board position creative publishing and editing; creative writing special event; **Creative Wrting, Publishing and Editing suha seconds passes unanmiousl**
- I. **Second motion is to have a member at large as a transition to fall election ben seconds motion passes unanimously**
- J. Future Conventions
  - a. Marriot rep in contact 2016 Ben; for 2017 is Baltimore with Hilda
  - b.
- K. Bylaws
  - a. **Accepted with changes.**
  - b. **invite newly elected to spring make mentoring and orienting efforts more clearly.**
  - c.
- L. Finances
  - a. a lot of boards do not cover anything, a lot of universities cover; financial climate is changing.
  - b. We should contact PAMLA, about this agreement;
  - c. they prefer midnight
  - d.

#### IV. Financial Forecast Report, Brandi So and Carine Mardorossian

- a. Upgrade of financial records to Quickbooks
- b. New accounting firm (Lumsden & McCormick)
- c. Expense Distribution Review
- d. Cash flow projection

#### V. Officer and Committee Reports

- a. President's Report, Daniela Antonucci
  - i. Convention and Keynote Speaker- topic and format – now we have a new speaker its an event; we cme up with Shakespeare; they proposed romero and Juliet – a brief lecture, piano, dancer, visual

images and how it was interpreted by the art; lunchtime; wants lunchtime 12 – 1:30 aa roundtable a board sponsored roundtable; advertise new ideas discussions and how we approach this new field; with catering? possibly;

- ii.
- iii. Interdisciplinary sessions
- b. Past President's Report- Ellen Dolgin
  - i. Book Award – all the thanks for last year in the email for us, you already saw it, I need to ask two people to work with me for the book award the deadline is theoretically is Oct 31, I think we could move it to December we have done it before – last year we really only had two submissions – we just don't know – we try to have representation, something from the lanfguages and something from anglo; we realized some people had already submitted the manuscript for publication – among 11 books, 7 were already under contract; Lynn and Gillian volunteer;
- c. First Vice President's Report, Ben Railton
  - i. Nominating Committee and Elections: fellowship and 2016; elections in our bylaws we have to approve slate of candidates – election 2014 statements 9 bio and mission statesments; it is our official job to either say yes, or if people have objections or questions – 2 each of four of the five, only on but a recruited one; **Motion to approve the slate, motion passes unanimously**
  - ii. Student Fellowship Reports; reports back from fellowship awardees; emailed the 11 recipients 8 of them have gotten back to me with responses on what the funds were used; we have talked about how to bring folks back to the conference to close the loop on how this money is helping. can you ask them if they would be interested in poster form their research; give them auditor;
  - iii. Summer fellowships should include coming back to present; remaining members and include registration;
  - iv. 2016 Convention, Hartford, CT: continue working with trinity and Uhartford it helps have people right on the ground. One of my two main goals connecting to the community
- d. Second Vice President's Report, Hilda Chacon
  - i. 2017 Convention, Baltimore, MD: workshops
- e. *Modern Language Studies*, Laurence Roth, editor – I usually go through this quickly; a number of things we are always interested in articles in exploring profession; that sort of submission, there are other pressing issues in the journal, postage is always going up NeMLA supports us on postage – I didn't break down the income on nemla that how supports went
  - i. Usually needs July 15 and January 15; upcoming content we have an interview also in the next is NeMLA notes; a letter DECEMBER 5 for announcements to promote; asking

membership to do something or pay for something – reminding folks of issues important to our membership activism.

- f. Report by Local Student Representatives- Alison Hedley and Andrea Schofield
- g. Language Director & Caucus Reports
  - i. American/British Literatures –Jennifer Harris – Proposals were healthy and on target poetry is doing better than previous years, drama is down the single authors, afri amer good asian American not so much – Canadian, has nine panels majority of by Canadians we arre co-sponsoring with British – historically we have a fellowship funded by American Antiquarian Elizabeth – I think it’s been a while that it’s time to close it. they forwarded us the candidate – put the money into fellowship somewhere else, they put together a panel of past winners, none of them were CHECK INTO GETTING OUT OF THESE
  - ii. British/Anglophone- Susmita Roye (via Skype);
  - iii. Italian – Gloria Pastorino; all areas rep but not much 18<sup>th</sup> c and it is represented in theatre; drama is up, I gave up theatre since I joined nemla good helath enrollments pedagogy; Tunisia/cicily and the research interests of our members
  - iv. Spanish/Portguese – Maria Matz
  - v. German – Lynn Marie Kutch – the numbers are down in german, maybe the location maybe Hartford or Baltimore, so this is down, the topics were varied and I responded with ways to improve and they did – the Russian eastern eauropean, add to the bylaws; I reached out to a lot of people and now we have three and I recommend we want; these were past presenters what to do with Russian, they don’t necessarily go together Rita: one way to recruit is in the local universities; a speaker on memory studies (suha) Russian theatre; Laurence could pick up one. Vetri Slavic, and now Arabic is big – Austria special event, host us there and special funds - special event
  - vi. French – Anna Rocca – Happy thank you for your trust happy with number and quality of questions. many franco Canadians that proposed panels, satisfied with session topics and range of centuries still missed the session on franco asian literature – one panel is dedicates to memoriam of Celine Philibert; display contemporary Tunisian books and displaying pictures; ethnomusicologist and will perform our special event; several sessions
  - vii. Comparative Literatures – Gillian Pierce – special event bella bodski she will be able to respond; can these bones live women’s autobiography and the haulocaust.
  - viii. Cultural Studies & Film – Barry Spence (in absentia);
  - ix. Women's/Gender Caucus – Rita Bode – the number we usually get is usually mid 20s one down 24 a wide range – cross listed with 38

panels which is great, one request for a second 2 withdrawn healthy spring election, our special event is sarah horowitz a holoocaust survivor in New York.

- x. Diversity – Vetri Nathan collaborate with grad caucus and caity; diversity in the job market
- xi. Graduate Student Caucus – Marie-Eve Monette; grad student caucus going well we are maintaining services and resources, room and ride share board essay prize and travel awards event meet greet on thuesrs and event Saturday, and am trying to set up something after keynote – we had election in spring next elections in February o that way we can meet the new people at the convention and start recruiting then as well; in my report indigo erikson
- xii. s report about the cv clinis – the cv clinic went well most were happy with the fact that there were preestablished appts covered letters interviews etc. moving forward it runs more smoothly – struggle to find rooms, some didn't show up. have CV clinics or have more than one mentor in one room as well; last year mentors volunteer but they clash with; 68 graduate students, 32 faculty mentors; JH I showed up and grad student blew her off.
  - 1. CV clinics – the VP could replace the CV clinic fellow; Indigo, continuing; RegOnline, Board Members service the CV
  - 2. FACE Book and Twitter; the facebook would be selfie's people from their field; registration convention fees. Derek suggested we ask;
- xiii. CAITY – Emily Lauer; the 2013 – 2014 caucus report was completed by Maria and there seemed to be election issues – we have a new VP and secretary and President; in the past the CAITY rep was not invited and wasn't considered part of the board and I am delighted to; 2<sup>nd</sup> pp of this report there's no mention of the CAITY travel award; most of what I am saying are for new ideas and 2016 – in past few weeks we revived an existing facebook presence and we will link to grad cacus and nemla proper – co-sponsoring panels and sessions and mixers and special events – besides those things, the kind of major things I want to do is, change the focus and NAME, name change with advocacy; the future of our profession is changing;
- h. SUHA: thanks to everyone who helped with prodf panels the pedagogy part has been going well lots of digi hums and teaching them the professional ones were almost all board sponsored and I thought it would be an easy start but very few people – just two – submitted proposals for professional panels, trad I've been recruiting after the deadline and you can invite them to participate in professional panels – departments don't acknowledge professional panels they won't fund it - so my kind of task began after the deadline and it was a crunch to put them in in the past 2 – 3 weeks – suggestions: maybe a discount registration, on the other hand

some have big egos and they might not be such hot shit. on the other hand there are prolific folks who are very humble; man grads or aduncts don't recognize things that they do – eg one won a shrk grant for desiging a website for the community and the program she works with and the good news that the board sponsored panels are formed but it was a lot work. submissions from people who have secured jobs lately – people who are already in NeMLA session or panels, you learn a lot things along the way - the publishing panel who is different from the special event and it is someone wh was ana djunt and she will be talking about writing prolifically

- i. the special event univ of Toronto press and broadview press on critical editions. the special should appeal to everyone and pertinent to everyone.

## VI. Other Business

- a. Workshop proposals
- b. A social media contest proposal
- c. Alternative career coffee chat
- d. 6:30 pm Dinner TBA

diversity list bookstore list, group rate what does it entail, CN tower you can get the group rate by showing up; clarify the schedule; walkable; the theatres one month two months in advance; knowing how many constitute the group; 20 was the minimum for almost everything – depending on Mersh theatres some were 12 some were 15; Hilda to give feedback to Maria, Hilda, they will need

ADJOURN 4:40;