



ACCUE

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY
OMBUDSPERSONS

ACCUE AGM Minutes of June 17th, 2020

Teleconference

3pm ADT; 2pm EDT; 12noon MDT; 11am PDT

Attendees:

Voting/Associate Members:

Kwame Addo (RyersonU), Caroline Audette (UdeSherbrooke), Julie Boncompain (ConcordiaU), Carolyn Brendon (McMasterU), Tom Brown (UofAlta), Martine Conway (OttawaU), Megan Eckel (UofAlta), Brett Epperson (UofAlta), Patricia Faison Hewlin (McGillU), Amy Fish (ConcordiaU), Annette Fraser (VictoriaU), Geneviève Hardy (UQTR), Tracy Ho (DouglasC), Lavonne Hood (Queen'sU), Veronica Kube (UofAlta), Mario Leclerc, Tanny Marks (Vancouver CommunityC), Heather McGhee Peggs (UofT), Jennifer Meister (WesternU), Shirley Nakata (UBC), John O'Brian (Kwantlen PolyU), Rose Padacz (FanshaweC), Carmela Parzanese (McGillU), Anita Pouliot (WesternU), Michelle Quigg (UBC), Laura Reid (SFU), Natalie Sharpe (UofAlta), Paul Straiton (ConfederationC), Jeff Strransky (CalgaryU), Remonia Stoddart-Morrison (UofAlta), Rob Thompson (CamosunC), Alexia Wright (NAIT), Kim Zimmerman (AthabascaU);

Natalie chairs the meeting and welcomes all attendees. Natalie will speak in English and Martine offers to help translate into French.

1. Approval of the Agenda:

Agenda is approved (moved: Kwame Addo; seconded: Remonia Stoddart-Morrison).

2. Welcome New Members:

Natalie welcomes all new members and announces the departure of a number of members.

3. President's Report (Natalie Sharpe):

As previously announced to members, no election was held this year and positions on the Executive were appointed by acclamation. Since then, Natalie announces changes in the composition of the ACCUE Executive and welcomes Alexia and Julie and expresses appreciation for their contribution to Anita and Martine:

Alexia Wright has been appointed Treasurer and will replace Anita Pouliot who is retiring;

Julie Boncompain has been appointed “Member of the Executive” in lieu of the position of Past President left vacant by the departure of Martine Conway;

Natalie asks attendees if they had any questions about the ACCUO President’s Report 2019-2020.

4. Treasurer’s Report (Anita Pouliot):

Anita reviews ACCUO’s Financial Statement (April 1st, 2019 – April 30th, 2020) and highlights some items. Document is approved (moved: Jennifer Meister; seconded: Rob Thompson).

Anita is transitioning her duties to Alexia Wright, the new ACCUO Treasurer. The Executive will be informed of the date when Alexia Wright formally takes over the position.

5. Committee Reports:

Natalie asks attendees if there are any questions with regard to these reports and points out that two reports were submitted and included in the Communications Committee’s report.

Comments on committee reports were provided by Julie (IRC/International Relations Committee) and Rob and Remonia (Communications).

Natalie thanks members of the committees for their time and effort and encourages members to consider volunteering and joining these committees.

6. Approval of minutes of AGM of April 16th, 2019:

Minutes are approved (moved: Annette Fraser; seconded: Alexia Wright).

7. Business arising from the minutes of the AGM 2019:

7.i Proposed Budget 2020-2021 - Draft for Information and Discussion Purposes:

Anita summarizes proposed budget and estimated costs.

7.ii Website Project 2019-2020 – Recommendations to be implemented 2020:

Natalie informs members that Carolyn Brendon, Annette Fraser and Laura Reid are working with Nora Farrell to revamp the website, content and organization, as well as to provide additional resources useful to members and easy to access. Some updating of the website has already been done, but it is a “work in progress”. Currently Laura is requesting quotes for services required due to complex nature which will be submitted to the Executive for approval to move forward with the project.

Natalie informs members that Nora Farrell did not charge for services rendered to date on this project.

8. ACCUO Constitutional Amendments:

Martine summarizes the documents related to the constitutional amendments which were distributed to the membership on May 12th, 2020, as required by the Constitution. The changes are mostly editorial and to align the Constitution with the Standards of Practice, and include a re-organization of Section 4 on membership.

She focuses on the English version and any translation issues into French with regard to consistency can be dealt with separately.

There is a discussion on the institutional membership fees and voting rights. Martine suggests, if there any additional clarifications to be made to the Constitution, that a request be sent to the Executive for approval at the AGM 2021.

Documents are approved (moved: Jennifer Meister; seconded: Rosa Padacz).

9. Upcoming Conference Announcements:

i. 2021 ENOHE/ACCUO - Athens, Greece: TBA

The 2020 ENOHE/ACCUO joint conference has been postponed and Natalie recognizes the contribution of ACCUO members, in partnership with ENOHE, who participated in planning the event: Natalie Sharpe, Julie Boncompain, Annette Fraser, Carolyn Brendon, and Martine Conway.

ENOHE is proposing to organize a webinar, initially set for June, but now perhaps to be held in August or September 2020. Martine Conway is a member of the ENOHE Board and will inform members when additional information becomes available.

ii. CCCUO - Asilomar, California, November 2020:

Natalie confirms that there will not be an on-site conference. However, as member of the Planning Committee, she informs the membership that there is webinar being planned for November 2020, which will not have a conference format, but will focus probably on issues related to Covid-19, unrest on campus, and solidarity initiatives against anti-Black racism. She will inform members via listserv or Bulletin when additional information becomes available.

iii. *2021 FCO/ACCUO postponed to 2022 - location: TBA*

As a member of the FCO Board, Carolyn Brendon confirms that the 2021 FCO/ACCUO joint conference in St-John's, Nfld, is being postponed to 2022. Due to possible impact to members' budgets due to the COVID-19 measures, the Board has also decided to relocate the event in a city centrally located.

She also informs members that the Osgoode/FCO "Ombuds Essentials" training scheduled for September 2020 is being postponed to early 2021. Any update announcements will be distributed to members via listserv.

The equivalent training organized by SherbrookeU in French is also being postponed.

10. Upcoming ACCUO Regional Meetings and Webinars:

Tanny Marks announces a "virtual" Western Regional Meeting at the end of August 2020. Invitations have been sent to western members but all members (voting and associates) are welcome to participate.

So far, a member has yet to volunteer to host the Eastern mid-year meetings.

Julie Boncompain, member of the AOUQ Executive, announces that the association has created a new category and members are welcome to join its meetings as "guests". As the meetings are conducted in French, translation into English can be provided upon request.

Natalie announces a possible webinar in the Fall from a colleague, Monique McKay, Florida Gulf Coast University, based on the "continuous improvement model" as related to equity, diversity and inclusiveness.

11. Other Business:

Statement of Solidarity (Julie Boncompain) -

Natalie introduces this item recently brought to the attention of the Executive by Julie Boncompain at its last meeting held a week ago. This is a *discussion only* item, the Executive having already approved at this last meeting that an ad hoc committee be formed to assist Executive with recommendations on educational resources for members and, given the Canadian context, to deal with anti-Black racism and include other people of colour.

Julie Boncompain presents the document distributed to members a few days ago. Seeing other organizations, such as CCCUO and IOA, make statements of solidarity with regard to

anti-Black racism, she felt personally compelled to initiate a similar Statement of Solidarity for ACCUO.

There is a discussion and input from members is duly noted and recorded, including the following comments:

- it is important to think through impact and review what we want to say exactly;
- if Statement is to follow a 2-step process, internal then external, the timeframe is of concern and it would be important to set deadlines;
- some members strongly expressed the need for the Statement to be public as soon as possible, because the longer ACCUO waits, the more its impact is diminished;
- it's time to be 'uncomfortable';
- need to reflect that, taking a stand on this issue, may open a door to taking a stand on other issues, and this would be a new chapter and would 'open door' to taking a position, at times;
- important to first determine, internally, Best Practices related to racism;
- the next step would be to draft ways to support members before engaging with our institutions;

In conclusion, after various proposals are set forth for consideration, the remaining members present at the meeting support forming an ad hoc committee, chaired by Julie, with several members already volunteering to join Julie: Tanny Marks, Kwame Addo, Annette Fraser.

It is proposed to accept:

- Proposal #1 of the document, in principle, and
- Proposal #2 of the document, to form ad hoc committee to (a) draft a brief declaration to capture the essential commitment and then, (b) work on longer piece;

All are in favour for ad hoc committee to draft a statement (polished 1st paragraph), and then take some time to review impact and issues in view of role of an ombudsperson.

Carolyn points out that this was an *information only* item. The Executive can make a decision with regard to making it public and adding statement to the website.

Natalie proposes Executive be on 'stand by' to meet for a decision with regard to the Statement in order to proceed as quickly as possible.

12. Adjournment:

Approved (moved: Laura Reid ; seconded: Carmela Parzanese)