President's Message
In Memoriam Len Findlay
Call for Panels
The Angle Profiles: Canadian Creative Writing Programs
Poetry by Carellin Brooks
Award Announcements
Minutes of the 2023 ACCUTE Annual General Meeting
Like all of you, I’m sure, I was horrified, if not shocked, by the stabbings at the University of Waterloo a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, it was a reminder of the risks being taken by many of our members in their classrooms, on social media, or anytime they publicly share their research and their knowledge. At a time when it seems increasingly acceptable to ban books and deny indisputable historical facts, when our colleagues in parts of the United States are being prevented from teaching about race and gender, when the concept of academic freedom is being weaponized to support discrimination and prejudice, scholarly associations like ACCUTE have a responsibility to provide a safe space in which to engage with complicated issues in a nuanced and productive way. We look forward to doing so in the coming year, whether in the pages of *The Angle*, in online workshops and webinars, or at next year’s conference.

I am pleased that this year’s conference at York University provided many such opportunities to have such discussions. We were blessed by thought-provoking, intellectually generous keynote addresses from Dionne Brand, Lily Cho, Elizabeth Hodgson, and Min Hyoung Song, and the conference featured a wide range of exciting and engaged scholarly papers, pedagogical and professional discussions, and creative presentations that dealt with a wide range of topics from a diversity of perspectives. Thanks to all who attended, participated in, organized, and sponsored the conference. Special thanks to Lily Cho and Stephen Cain, the Local Arrangements Coordinators, Erin Knight, ACCUTE’s Office Coordinator, and Cheryl Lousley, ACCUTE’s Vice-President, as well as the members of the Board and the staff at York and the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences whose support was crucial to the success of the conference.

One of the real benefits of being back at Congress in person was the opportunity to collaborate with other associations. It was a pleasure to partner with the Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures, Black Canadian Studies Association, Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies, Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies, and Canadian Society for the Study of Education on our keynote addresses. We look forward to further collaborations over the coming year and at next year’s conference.
The 2024 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences will take place at McGill University. Thanks to Allan Hepburn for agreeing to serve as our Local Arrangements Coordinator. In this issue you will find the Call for Panels, and I encourage you to consider proposing a panel for inclusion in our full CFP, which will be distributed in the Fall issue of The Angle.

As always at this time of year, we say goodbye and thanks to those Board members who have completed their terms: Sarah Banting (Mount Royal), Chair of the Priestley Prize Committee; Gregory Betts (Brock), Past President; Krista Collier-Jarvis (Dalhousie), President of the Graduate Student Caucus; Kit Dobson (Calgary), Chair of the Committee for Professional Concerns; Shazia Hafiz Ramji (Calgary), Lead Coordinator of the Creative Writing Caucus; and Susie O'Brien (McMaster), President of the Canadian Association of Chairs of English. Their contributions over the past year (and in some cases over the past few years) have been invaluable. We all owe them thanks for their service and their commitment to ACCUTE, the discipline, and our profession.

I’m pleased to welcome our new Board members: Adam Dickinson (Brock), Creative Writing Caucus; Chinelo Ezenwa (Western), BIPOC caucus; Neta Gordon (Brock), Committee for Professional Concerns; Anna Guttman (Lakehead), Canadian Association of Chairs of English; Marc Lynch (Calgary), Graduate Student Caucus; and Lorraine York (McMaster), Priestley Prize Committee. I look forward to working with all Board members in the coming year, and, in particular, to working with Chinelo Ezenwa to formalize the BIPOC caucus.

ACCUTE is a member of the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences, which has announced a new policy development framework. The Federation is soliciting policy proposals for consideration by its Board of Directors. Is there a public policy issue facing Canada's humanities and social sciences community that you believe requires attention? If so, contact me so that I can submit it to the Federation for their next Board meeting.

If you are interested in getting involved with ACCUTE in any capacity, from serving as a campus representative, serving on a committee, or serving on the Board in the future, I encourage you to contact me at divison@lakeheadu.ca. Likewise, please contact me if you’re interested in contributing to The Angle, have suggestions for the 2024 conference, or have ideas for online workshops or webinars.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of the summer and look forward to a successful 2023-24.
CALL FOR PANELS FOR CONGRESS 2024

ACCUTE is excited to announce that Congress 2024 will take place at McGill University in June 2024. The dates for ACCUTE’s conference will be announced once confirmed.

The ACCUTE Conference includes general panels as well as organized panels. At this time, ACCUTE is accepting proposals for Member-Organized Panels, Joint-Sponsored Panels, and Creative Writing Panels for the 2024 conference.

MEMBER-ORGANIZED PANELS
Member-Organized Panels are proposed by an ACCUTE member for the annual ACCUTE conference. Member-Organized Panels are not invitational: the organizer describes the topic but does not pre-select the participants. As with general submissions to the ACCUTE conference, paper proposals and submitted papers are peer reviewed, with the panel organizer acting as the first vettor. The organizing member is expected to attend the ACCUTE conference to act as Panel Chair.

JOINT-SPONSORED PANELS
Joint-sponsored panels are co-sponsored by another academic association. These panels are initiated by an ACCUTE member who is also a member of the organization that jointly sponsors the panel. Joint-sponsored panels are intended to foster links between ACCUTE and other scholarly associations, whether those associations regularly attend Congress or not. Of special interest to ACCUTE are those organizations that address fields that have traditionally been under-represented at our conference. While ACCUTE welcomes panels that correspond with the annual Congress theme, any topic that reflects ACCUTE’s mandates or the interests of its members will be considered.
CREATIVE WRITING PANELS
Creative Writing Panels are also member-organized panels, but they are organized as part of the Creative Writing Collective (CWC) and will focus on creative writing practice, pedagogy, and professional concerns. They may also take the form of literary readings or presentations on creative writing contexts and research. The CWC encourages proposals covering a range of topics, such as decolonization and creative writing; creative writing mentorship and pedagogy; building anti-racist writing workshops; craft and process. The submission process is the same as for Member-Organized panels.

PANEL FORMATS
ACCUTE panels are typically 90 minutes in length. A panel may follow the conventional three- or four-paper format, but we also encourage proposers to consider alternative formats such as:

- Round Table: Participants briefly present and have a discussion on a designated topic.
- Workshop: Participants work collaboratively and with attendees on a practical problem (e.g., a crux in interpretation, developing course syllabus, constructing an effective grant proposal).
- Demonstrations: Participants present on teaching or technological innovations, with explanations and discussion.
- Interview session: Participants give a brief presentation and are then interviewed by the next panelist, who then presents their work.
- Creative writing panel: Discussion based on participants’ creative work.
- Collaborative presentations: Participants present as a group or team (rather than individually).
- Closed-Door Meetings: Participants meet privately in the context of ACCUTE. Such a meeting space can be made available to those who request it, especially for priority and equity-deserving groups.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PANEL PROPOSAL
To submit a panel proposal, please email ACCUTE (info.accute@gmail.com) with the following information:

- The proposed panel title and format, including type of proposal (Member-Organized, Creative Writing, or Joint-Sponsored; if Joint-Sponsored indicate the co-sponsored organization)
- Your name, institution, and email address
- The text of the CFP to a maximum of 200 words

If accepted, your CFP will be circulated in September with a deadline for submissions of late November. Submissions will come through the Online Proposal Submission Form on the ACCUTE website, and then be forwarded to panel organizer(s) for first vetting. Submissions not selected for the panel will go into the General Pool for consideration.
WHAT MAKES A GOOD CFP?

Some CFPs attract many submissions; some, few or none. A successful CFP is neither too general (Munro’s fiction, problems in poetry) nor too specific (Jungian approaches to The Great Gatsby, use of the first person in experimental fiction). It identifies an interesting or timely topic or critical problem, or an under-represented area, and reflects current scholarship in that field. Think of the eventual audience as well as the potential submitters: try to pick a topic that is not overly specialized and that has a general or cross-field appeal. Craft the CFP carefully, without issuing too many directives, and let your submitters show what they can do with it. Finally, be sure to spend some time publicizing the CFP to the kinds of scholars who would be an asset to the event. We encourage anyone planning a panel to consult ACCUTE’s Equity Statement and to consider how their panel fulfills the ambitions and values it seeks to uphold.

Please contact Erin Knight at info.accute@gmail.com with any questions. For questions specific to Creative Writing panels, you may contact Adam Dickinson at adickinson@brocku.ca.
With the passing of Len Findlay on May 25, 2023 we lost a brilliant and multifaceted scholar, a fierce advocate for academic freedom, a dedicated mentor, and superb teacher. It was fitting that, a few days later, the ACCUTE conference observed a moment of silence in Len's memory, since future meetings of ACCUTE — and indeed many other conferences across the country and beyond — will never be quite the same without Len's preternatural eloquence and generosity. His conference “interventions,” as he called these magnificent contributions, are the stuff of legend.

Animated by a passion for ideas and an unflagging commitment to justice and equality, Len was so often the voice of conscience at academic gatherings, and he was perhaps at his most fully alive and vibrant when in the full flight of oratory. But unlike some highly articulate people, Len was also an extraordinary and fundamentally generous listener. His eloquence arose in response to the ideas of those around him, and his interventions were always geared toward expressing a shared sense of discovery and possibility. While generations of graduate students might have been nervous at the prospect of receiving a question from Len after their conference papers, those who were so favoured soon realized that they had received a rare gift of nuanced and concentrated attention to their ideas.

Len's interests were wide and his commitments manifold, but all of his work shared a dedication to making systemic change, a goal that was formed in his working-class Aberdonian youth, honed during a culturally challenging time at Oxford, and nurtured by Marx and Engels. Embarking on a career at the University of Saskatchewan in 1974, Len embraced his prairie home and dedicated himself to learning and questioning its power structures. While maintaining vibrant scholarly engagement with Nineteenth Century literature (particularly Swinburne), Len also began a decisive shift in his research that arose from his analysis of ongoing colonial violence in Canada. He became one of the most vocal and energetic advocates for Indigenous causes, and he was a vital friend and ally to many Indigenous scholars and students.
His scholarly work in this area helped to lead the way in the decolonial critique of higher education that is still going on today. Speaking as one of his legions of mentees, I can say that Len inspired many Indigenous scholars and artists to trust their own voices and to hold leaders to account for the state of contemporary higher education.

Len was the quintessential public intellectual in so many other ways, perhaps most notably in his tireless defenses of academic freedom through his work at the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association, ACCUTE and the Royal Society. His commitment to academic freedom was not merely based on principle; it was deeply practical and focused on the political necessity of protecting academic inquiry from interference.

In addition to his prodigious intellectual prowess and his sparkling wit, Len was also a deeply gregarious and social person, one who took particular joy in the company of friends and family. Visiting was the fuel of his enthusiasm, and he was known to engage in passionate intellectual discussions while fishing, dancing, walking the dog, and of course, sipping a dram. He leaves behind multitudes of friends who would dearly love to continue those visits, but he also leaves a legacy of outspoken activism, integrity, and trenchant analysis that will continue to inspire generations of scholars. Another element of that legacy is the establishment of a new award at CAUT, the Len Findlay Award in Critical Race Theory, Decolonization, and Academic Freedom. Donations in support of this award may be sent to the Len Findlay Award c/o the Canadian Association of University Teachers, 2705 Queensview Drive, Ottawa ON, K28 8K2.

We extend our condolences to all who have known Len, and especially to his beloved wife Isobel and sons Andrew and Nicholas.

—Warren Cariou

Len Findlay served as ACCUTE President from 1988-1990.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 Congress Graduate Student Merit Awards for ACCUTE: Rachel Stubbs, Omar Ramadan, and Marc Lynch were recognized for their significant research contributions combined with community leadership.
CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Reimagining Canada series
Editors: Gregory Betts (Brock University)
Carl Everton James (York University) and
Ian McKay (McMaster University)

Canada, in all its messy manifestations, is in transition, but where is it going? With foundational myths eroded, identities fragmented, allegiances contested, the idea of Canada in the hearts and minds of those who live there is under intense scrutiny and careful criticism. Canada’s place in the wider world is just as uncertain. Against a backdrop of Covid, decolonization, inflation, immigration, Indigenization and shifting global politics, what might Canada mean in five, ten or fifty years’ time?

Reimagining Canada seeks to understand the forces at work, and to ask what comes next. Taking a broad and inclusive approach to the study of Canadian culture, history and society, the series interrogates Canada’s past and present in order to suggest possibilities for the future. Relevant issues might include, but are not limited to: arts and culture; decolonization; digital spaces and media; the future of the Canadian constitution; globalization; healthcare and social services; immigration and multiculturalism; Indigenization; memory and memorialisation; and sovereignty.

The series is open to scholars and public intellectuals working in all areas of the humanities and social sciences, and aims to be interdisciplinary or even post-disciplinary in its approach. The editors are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and welcome contributions from scholars of marginalized groups and communities that tend to be disproportionately underrepresented within public discourses in Canada. As such, they strongly encourage scholars from these groups and communities to contribute to the series. Contributors are free to self-identify as desired.

Books in the series are aimed at a more general audience than the traditional academic monograph. Readers might include undergraduate students, academics working in other fields, practitioners, policymakers, and the public. The series provides a platform for authors to reach a larger audience than usual, or to speak to new audiences; to deliver bold new arguments; to write unencumbered by the usual obligations for referencing; and to be exciting, provocative and even polemical.

For more information, or if you’d like to discuss a proposal, please contact Philip Dunshea, Senior Acquisitions Editor, at p.dunshea@peterlang.com.
from Learned (Book *hug, 2022) 
by Carellin Brooks

Body (Oxford, Trinity Term, 1995)

How I’d sat and spun
night after night, desperate to save—
my voice
extolling the text. Sex,
for these female characters—

Um-hm. The Moral Tutor bent under the weight
of books pressing in all around.
A pulse in his throat where I thrummed too—

But what about Freud?
How do you take his notion
of the Unheimlich?
Have you compared translations?
Are you reading the Hogarth edition?

Sure. Trundled again to the Camera, white wash
under the dome. Submitted: search me.
Clear plastic sheathed
Lillets slipped through a
reddened hand. Another porter’s thick fingers.
Price of admission, great Scholarship, precious
volumes.
Apply at the desk. In case of
fainting couch
in the anteroom of the Ladies’
on the landing. Nodded straight necked, thrust
my reticule—snap—nestling
in my moistened palm, little slip and slide,
recaptured, precious.
Official letter, smoothed white paper, read again. 
*What does it mean?*

Failed to qualify. 

*Just a formality* he assured
nothing to worry about. A few—
tap tap. Lined.

So I
bent again to the task,
imprisoned as the miller’s
beautiful daughter in a roomful of straw.
Undergraduates hooting in the lane Saturday night,
leaving spattered vomit circles
for Sunday morning. Same official
letterhead, return address, same words again.

*What do they mean?*

*I told you,* Tutor’s blue-eyed gaze

Had performed
maidenly duty
shining piles all around
Hadn’t I? 

*I told you
it would never pass*
The Angle has recently reached out to a wide selection of Canadian post-secondary institutions that offer a Creative Writing major, minor, certificate, or post-graduate program, asking representatives to complete a brief questionnaire about Creative Writing at their college or university. We’ve been delighted by the response and welcome profiles from all creative writing offerings, no matter the program scope. If you would like to share a profile of the Creative Writing Program you are involved with, please contact info.accute@gmail.com.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Respondent: Kimberly Quiogue Andrews   Program Website: Click here

Programs offered: Minor in Creative Writing; Certificate in Creative Writing; Microprogram in Creative Writing

Description:
Creative Writing at the University of Ottawa is a relatively new but robust program that is dedicated to integrating the craft of writing with the analytical study of literature. We offer introductory through advanced workshops in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and writing for stage and screen, and students can supplement their main trajectory with a variety of courses ranging from medieval literature to modern continental philosophy. The University of Ottawa is also home to Common House, a student-run literary magazine, and our graduates have gone on to start their own publications, work in arts administration, and pursue graduate study. Each year, the program hosts a distinguished Writer-in-Residence who offers up individualized support for students in their own writing practice, and students also have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience through the University of Ottawa’s co-op program.

Selection of Recent Faculty Publications: Kimberly Quiogue Andrews, “The Donkey” and “The server at my local tells me that all viruses arrive on this planet via comet” in Sixth Finch; Suyi Davies Okungbowa, “Choke” at Tor.com; Jennifer Baker, “Zoopoesis,” “Gourmand,” and “Friend” in the Spotlight series; Stephanie Kain: Lifeline, forthcoming from ECW Press.
THE ANGLE PROFILES:
CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMS IN CANADA

SELKIRK COLLEGE

Respondents: Leesa Dean and Renee Harper

Program Website: Click here

Programs offered: Certificate in Creative Writing; Diploma in Creative Writing

Description:
Selkirk College’s Creative Writing Diploma is a comprehensive two-year program designed to develop the skills and abilities of aspiring writers. The program offers a focused selection of courses including Manuscript Development I and II, and second-year courses that can be taken by anyone, anywhere, due to their remote delivery.

Program highlights include the opportunity to work on, edit, and publish in the college’s literary magazine, The Black Bear Review, and to produce podcast episodes for This Black Bear Has 28 Minutes. Our annual Stone’s Throw Writing Symposium, held at the Mir Centre for Peace in collaboration with Eastern Washington University’s MFA program, will leave students feeling inspired. Our partnership with Oxygen Arts’ Author Reading Series gives the opportunity for some students to read alongside some of Canada’s biggest names, including Joshua Whitehead and Canisia Lubrin.

One of the unique aspects of the program is the small class sizes, which allow for individualized attention from faculty and a more personalized learning experience. The program is located in the stunning Kootenay Region of British Columbia, offering students a beautiful geographic location that inspires creativity and provides a supportive community of writers.

Selection of Recent Faculty Publications: Leesa Dean, The Filling Station, Gaspereau Press; Renee Harper, “Kootenay River & the Brilliant Dam,” The Goose: A Journal of Arts, Environment, and Culture in Canada
The Angle Profiles: CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMS IN CANADA

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Respondents: Michael Fox, Kathleen D. Fraser, and James W. Johnston

Program Website: Click here

Programs offered: Honours Specialization in Creative Writing and English Language and Literature; Minor in Creative Writing

Description: Though creative writing had long been part of English department offerings at Western, the Creative Writing program began to grow in 2002 as a distinct Writing program. The Minor in Creative Writing was introduced in 2008, and the Honours Specialization in Creative Writing and English Language and Literature was introduced in 2015. Writing now offers over twenty creative courses, including screenwriting, short fiction, writing for TV, creative nonfiction, experimental writing, crime, song lyrics, fantasy, young adult, horror, and an annual senior seminar. Our Write Now! course is a unique offering that brings in a different writer every week for a reading and talk. The Department of English and Writing Studies houses one of the longest-running writer-in-residence programs in Canada and also boasts the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity and a student writer-in-residence. Writing has its own literary journal, Occasus, and many other on-campus publications exist. London has a thriving literary community, and the Writing program collaborates regularly with events organized by Antler River Poetry and Wordsfest.

Selection of Recent Faculty Publications: Michael Arntfield, How to Solve a Cold Case: And Everything Else You Wanted to Know About Catching Killers (HarperCollins); David Barrick, Nightlight (Palimpsest Press); Madeline Bassnett, “Microbials,” The Dalhousie Review; Melanie Chambers, “What do we do about Racist and Sexist Trail Names?” Canadian Cycling Magazine; Tom Cull, Kill Your Starlings (Gaspereau Press); Michael Fox, “fyrgenholt,” The Red House 2: An Anthology of Speculative Poetry (Cypress Press); Mark Kearney, Al Christie: Hollywood’s Forgotten Film Pioneer (BearManor Media); Claudia B. Manley, “Elegant Angels,” Bang! The New Guard; Aaron Schneider, What We Think We Know (Gordon Hill Press); Andrew Wenaus, Declaration of the Technical Word as Such: A Play in One Act (Sweat Drenched Press)
The Angle Profiles:
CREATIVE WRITING
PROGRAMS IN CANADA

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Respondent: Kate Sterns
Program Website: Click here

Programs offered:
BA (Creative Writing Major); BA (Honours in English and Creative Writing); BA (Minor in Creative Writing); MA (with Creative Writing Option)

Description:
Concordia’s Creative Writing program, among the oldest in Canada, benefits from being located downtown in dynamic Montreal. Our students have access not only to a faculty of diverse, accomplished writers, but also benefit from our partnership with the English Literature and the Professional Writing programs, all of us housed within the Department of English. Every year we host a variety of new and established authors under the banner of our renowned series, Writers Read. Undergraduate students may also gain editorial and publication experience via our undergraduate anthology, Soliloquies. Core workshop courses in prose, poetry and drama are augmented by special topic courses such as Writing for Children; Non-Western Poetics; Writing for Media: The Writer’s Room; Creative Citizenship, and more. Alongside their own workshops, our MA (with Creative Writing Option) students have the opportunity to participate in projects such as Spoken Web and the Centre for Expanded Poetics, in addition to exciting student-run initiatives that include Headlight Anthology, and our yearly graduate colloquium, which hosts an array of panel discussions with students participating from across the country. Concordia’s Creative Writing program welcomes all students interested in exploring, and expanding, their creative practice.

Selection of Recent Faculty Publications:
Stephanie Bolster, “Alert,” Best Canadian Poetry 2023 (Biblioasis); Liz Howard, Letters in a Bruised Cosmos (Penguin/Random House); Mikhail Iossel, Love Like Water, Love Like Fire (Bellevue Literary Press); Josip Novakovich, Rubble of Rubles (Dzanc); Sina Queyras, Rooms: Women, Writing, Woolf (Coach House Books)
The Department of English at Simon Fraser University began offering a new Minor in Creative Writing in 2021. Prior to this, the Department had for many years offered some Creative Writing electives, and benefitted from a long-standing culture of contemporary writing, with active authors on faculty and many student writers drawn to the department. Current workshops focus on poetry, prose, and creative nonfiction, and are taught by multi-award winning authors, who also teach contemporary literature classes. A Writer-in-Residence program brings other authors into the department each year, with past residents including Fred Wah, Lisa Robertson, Cecily Nicholson, Anakana Schofield, and Katherena Vermette. The Department’s Creative Writing faculty, active in the wider literary community, often host visiting authors for readings and discussions.

Selection of Recent Faculty Publications: Clint Burnham, *White Lie* (Anvil Press); David Chariandy (co-editor with Esi Edugyan and Canisia Lubrin), *The Journey Prize Stories 33: The Best of Canada’s New Black Writers* (McClelland & Stewart); Stephen Collis, *A History of the Theories of Rain*, Talonbooks.
Minutes of the ACCUTE Annual General Meeting 2023

ACE 013, York University – 30 May 2023 – 3:30 p.m - 5:00 p.m.

Minutes of the ACCUTE Annual General Meeting 2023
Appendix A: President’s Report
Appendix B: ACCUTE Equity Report 2023
Appendix C: BIPOC Members’ Meeting Report
Appendix D: Report of the F. E. L. Priestley Prize Committee
Appendix E: Report from the Committee for Professional Concerns
Appendix F: Report from the Creative Writing Committee
Appendix G: CAF Rep Report
Minutes of the ACCUTE Annual General Meeting 2023

Present: Cheryl Lousley, Lily Cho, Mark Kaethler, Neta Gordon, Andre Furlani, Gregory Betts, Kit Dobson, Linda Morra, Jennifer Andrews, Allan Pero, Michelle Faubert, Mark McCutcheon, Mehraneh Ebrahimi, Naava Smolash, Sarah Banting, Titi Aiyegbuse, Chinele Ezenwa, Mahdiyeh Ezzatikarami, Richard Douglass-Chin, Dale Tracy, Krista Collier-Jarvis, Shazia Hafiz Ramji, Adam Dickinson, Erin Knight, Jade Ferguson, Douglas Ivison

Regrets: Carellin Brooks, Susie O’Brien

Call to Order: 3:35 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement: Gregory Betts

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Agenda

   Motion: The Chair moves that the 2023 Agenda as circulated in the conference program be approved.

   Seconded: Allan Pero

   Vote: Unanimous. The motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes (2022 AGM)

   Motion: The Chair moves that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM as circulated online at ACCUTE.CA be approved.

   Seconded: Kit Dobson

   Vote: Unanimous. The motion carried.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes – None.

4. President’s Report (Douglas Ivison, Lakehead University)

   Please see Appendix A.

   Douglas Ivison invited the membership to join him in a moment of silence to honour the recent passing of both Kyla Morris (Western University), past-president of the GSC, and
Len Findlay (University of Saskatchewan), ACCUTE president from 1988-1990.

Douglas Ivison summarized the ACCUTE Equity Report for 2023, and welcomed feedback and conversations on this subject. The complete Equity Report is available in Appendix B.

He thanked the 2022/2023 ACCUTE Board and donors, the sponsors of the ACCUTE Underwaged Travel Fund, and our partner associations. A complete list of these contributors is available in the President’s Report (Appendix A).

The winners of the 2023 Congress Graduate Merit Award (CGMA) were acknowledged and congratulated: Rachel Stubbs, Omar Ramadan, and Marc Lynch, all of the University of Calgary.

Congress 2024 will take place at McGill University in Montreal. The Federation will require a commitment to participate by the end of June, at which point we will request our preferred dates. Congress 2024 will take place earlier in May than typically scheduled.

Douglas Ivison concluded his report by thanking outgoing ACCUTE Board Members Sarah Banting, Gregory Betts, Krista Collier-Jarvis, Kit Dobson, Shazia Hafiz Ramji, and Susie O’Brien.

5. Vice President’s Report (Cheryl Lousley, Lakehead University)

Cheryl Lousley delivered the 2023 Membership report, which is still low in comparison to our historical numbers: 2017: 550 members; 2018: 393 members; 2019: 418 members; 2020: 326 members; 2021: 297 members; 2022: 371 members; 2023: 329 members.

She emphasized that membership revenue is of primary importance to our finances, and encouraged members to publicize our association at their home institutions using the posters provided at the conference.

Cheryl Lousley acknowledged that the membership numbers for 2023 may not be completely accurate, as we have been experiencing problems with our Membership Management System run by the Federation.

She gave a brief report of the Membership Distribution for 2023, noting that graduate students currently make up nearly half of our membership.
6. Financial Report (Cheryl Lousley, Lakehead University)

The ACCUTE Financial Statements are filed at the ACCUTE Office and are available upon request.

Cheryl Lousley summarized the 2023 Financial Report prepared for ACCUTE by Famme & Co Professional Corporation, noting that ACCUTE relies on ESC transfers for its continued financial health. The 2022 Conference represented a large expense for ACCUTE, although that year was anomalous given our independent conference. Jennifer Andrews observed that participation in Congress as a member of the Federation is important to ACCUTE’s financial stability.

Allan Pero reminded membership that historically, the financial position had been reversed, with ESC relying on the financial assistance of ACCUTE to sustain their operations.

Motion: The Chair moves that the Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2022 as presented at the 2023 ACCUTE AGM be received.¹

Seconded: Gregory Betts

Vote: Unanimous. The motion carried.

7. Conference Expenses (Douglas Ivison)

Douglas Ivison shared the projected costs and revenues of the 2023 ACCUTE Conference. The total expenses are estimated to be a maximum of $50,279, and the total revenue is projected to be a maximum $40,619 (both expenses and revenue will likely be lower as they will depend on the amount of conference travel funding requested by graduate student and contract lecturer members), leaving a conference deficit of approximately $9,660. He noted that a hybrid conference would have been even more costly.

Lily Cho thanked Douglas Ivison for his efforts in securing sponsorship monies to subsidize the conference travel fund for graduate students and contract lecturers.

Neta Gordon commented that it may be helpful if we ensure that members know what their conference fees pay for, especially if these fees need to be raised.

¹ Note: The Financial Report has already been approved by the Board of Directors. At the AGM, we “receive” it and acknowledge their approval. A member of the Board can confirm that the Board approved the report.
8. Report from the Chairs of the 2023 BIPOC Members' Meeting (Titi Aiyegbusi, University of Toronto and Chinelo Ezenwa, Western University)

Please see Appendix C.

Titi Aiyegbusi and Chinelo Ezenwa reported that the BIPOC Members' Meeting was a success. Attendees included participants, students, faculty, and emerging scholars, who felt free to share their experiences within the confidence of this meeting.

Titi Aiyegbusi and Chinelo Ezenwa identified the following important takeaways: that there is a strong desire to continue holding an annual BIPOC members’ meeting, and that its proceedings should remain confidential to ensure the integrity of the caucus. They requested that future meetings be longer than 90 minutes, and that they not be scheduled on the first day of the conference. They would also appreciate if cultural diversity could be considered when making catering decisions.

BIPOC-identifying members expressed a need for action as well as community building, and proposed a monthly BIPOC coffee hour. Member concerns include decisions around hiring and the precarious nature of many of the jobs available. Mental health is another concern: many members are international students who feel loneliness and isolation within their “home” departments. There is a need for community advocacy and student resources both inside and outside of the university structure.

While the fee-waiving structure that is currently in place for Black and Indigenous Students is appreciated, members are hopeful of seeing a similar recognition of the financial struggles faced by other people of colour.

Jade Ferguson asked the Chairs what role mid-career BIPOC scholars could play to best support their BIPOC colleagues and mentees. Titi Aiyegbusi requested that these more senior scholars show up to share their knowledge and experience.

Lily Cho offered that perhaps senior/administrative scholars should attend for part of the meeting and then leave to ensure a space free of administrative influence.

Gregory Betts suggested that a more permanent structural change be made within the ACCUTE Board to include a BIPOC Member-at-Large. Douglas Ivison affirmed that ACCUTE was in the process of supporting these efforts, and Chinelo Ezenwa confirmed that she would accept this position.

Chinelo Ezenwa was warmly welcomed as ACCUTE Member-at-Large, BIPOC Caucus.
9. Report of the Graduate Student Caucus (Krista Collier-Jarvis, Dalhousie University)

The Report of the Graduate Student Survey is available online at accute.ca

Krista Collier-Jarvis reported successful GSC involvement at this year’s conference. She presented the results of the 2022/2023 Graduate Student Survey, but noted that many institutions did not respond. The incoming GSC Executive will attempt to understand and address this lack of involvement. Many survey respondents indicated that they were not even aware there was a GSC or an ACCUTE.

One concern students have is with the lack of productive, positive professional development.

Krista Collier-Jarvis welcomed incoming GSC President Marc Lynch and VP Omar Ramadan.

Jennifer Andrews thanked Krista Collier-Jarvis for all of her constructive efforts on behalf of the GSC.

10. Report of the Editor of ESC: English Studies in Canada (Allan Pero, Western University)

Allan Pero reported that English Studies in Canada remains in good financial health. He summarized the bank account totals at both BMO and in the SSHRC account.

ESC continues to be among the most highly respected journals in the discipline. The editors have had five requests for republication of articles originally appearing in ESC in the past weeks, with some requests reaching back over decades. An ESC article is downloaded every 5 min and 14 seconds from locations across the world. This year, they signed a contract with a new aggregator.

Allan Pero thanked the peer reviewers and emphasized the importance of tenured faculty contributing in this way. He was pleased to announce that ESC is now in the position to pay peer reviewers for their labour.

Physical production of the journal has been slowed by the pandemic. The editors continue to move towards the digitization of back issues. A new book reviews editor has recently been hired.

The latest issue, ESC 46.2-4, New Sonic Approaches, is in the mail. Upcoming issues include a general issue, a special issue titled Lacan Now, and a 2025 50th anniversary issue.
11. Report of the F. E. L. Priestley Prize Committee (Sarah Banting, Mount Royal University)

Please see Appendix D.

Sarah Banting announced that the Priestley Prize Committee had the honour of selecting Mathieu Aubin as the winner of the 2023 Priestley Prize Award. His article, “Listening Queerly for Queer Sonic Resonances in the Poetry Series at Sir George Williams University, 1966 to 1971,” appears in English Studies in Canada 46.2-3.

An honourable mention was given to Nadine Attewell’s reader’s forum essay, "Exit Survey: The Terrain of Struggle," published in English Studies in Canada 46.1.

Sarah Banting warmly invited members to consider joining the Priestley Prize Committee, and thanked the members of her 2023 committee: Joel Deshaye, Sarah Jensen, Katja Thieme, and Lorraine York.

12. Report of the Committee for Professional Concerns (Kit Dobson, University of Calgary)

Please see Appendix E.

13. Report of the Lead Coordinator for the CWC (Shazia Hafiz Ramji, University of Calgary)

Please see Appendix F.

Shazia Hafiz Ramji announced the new members of the CWC Executive: Adam Dickinson (Lead Coordinator), Bob McGill (VP), Anna Veprinska, and Sarah Olutola.

Shazia Hafiz Ramji summarized the CWC’s goals for the coming year: they aim to organize more events, hope to raise funds to allow them to host writers who are not affiliated with an institution at future conferences, and plan to actively recruit more BIPOC members.

14. Report of the Colleges Representative (Mark Kaethler, Medicine Hat College)

Mark Kaethler explained that the roles of College faculty members may differ greatly depending on the institution. They plan to propose a roundtable to discuss this and other College-related concerns at the next conference. Mark Kaethler also hopes to respond to graduate students’ desire for improved professional development opportunities by providing resources about how to succeed in careers within
15. Report of the Contract Academic Faculty (CAF) Representative (Carellin Brooks, University of British Columbia)

Please see Appendix G.

16. Report of the President of the Canadian Association of Chairs of English (CACE) (Susie O’Brien, McMaster University)

CACE held a pre-conference meeting at York University on May 26, 2023.

17. Election/Confirmation/Welcoming of New Members to the ACCUTE Board of Directors

The following members were voted onto the ACCUTE Board for the 2023-2025 term:

a. Member-at-large, Committee for Professional Concerns: Neta Gordon (Brock University). Nominated by Lily Cho; seconded by Allan Pero.

b. Member-at-large, Priestley Prize Committee Chair: Lorraine York (McMaster University). Nominated by Lily Cho; seconded by Sarah Banting.

The search for ACCUTE President-Elect is ongoing.

18. Other Business: Introduction of the Federation’s EDID Initiatives Fund

Douglas Ivison briefly outlined the Federation’s new EDID Initiatives Fund, asking the members to contact him with ideas for applications. The Board will work on preparing an application over the summer months.

Cheryl Lousley proposed an application to support an event specific to the needs of BIPOC students. Lily Cho suggested that ACCUTE facilitate the creation of a “toolkit” for BIPOC action and solidarity.

Lily Cho thanked the entire ACCUTE Board for their hard work on the 2023 Conference; Neta Gordon thanked Lily Cho and Stephen Cain for their role as Local Area Coordinators.

Motion: The Chair moves to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment: 5:36 p.m.
Appendix A: President’s Report

President’s Report – ACCUTE AGM – May 30, 2023

Thanks to all who contributed to ACCUTE over the past year, whether by participating in or helping to organize this year’s conference, contributing to The Angle, or participating in our committees or caucuses. This year’s work has focused on planning this conference and publishing The Angle, as well as the everyday operations of the association. We had hoped to hold some online events over the course of the year, but they ultimately did not materialize.

Thanks to everyone who attended this year’s conference, whether you were presenting, organizing, or attending sessions. I hope you found it to be a successful conference and look forward to your feedback. I’d like to particularly acknowledge the work of our Local Arrangements Coordinators, Lily Cho and Stephen Cain, for all the on-the-site help as we were planning the conference and over the past four days. Thanks also to our Vice-President, Cheryl Lousley, whose contributions have been crucial to the success of the conference. I’d especially like to thank Erin Knight – we wouldn’t have had this conference without all her hard work over the past months. The Board members also played key roles in planning the conference, from selecting the keynotes, determining the format, vetting proposals, organizing sessions, and more. Finally, I’d like to thank former presidents Jennifer Andrews and Jason Haslam for their quick and helpful responses when I asked for guidance. I’d also like to acknowledge all the contributions of the Congress and York staff who supported us throughout the planning process and at the conference.

I’d also like to thank the other associations with which we partnered: The Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures, Black Canadian Studies Association, Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies, Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies, and Canadian Society for the Study of Education. These collaborations made possible the plenaries that we featured this year.

We were pleased to raise $4000 in sponsorships, which will be used to provide travel subsidies to graduate students and contract lecturers. Thanks to York University’s Department of English, University of Alberta Press, University of Toronto Press, University of New Brunswick’s Department of English, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, University of Calgary Press, University of Regina Press, McMaster University’s Department of English and Cultural Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University’s Department of English and Film Studies, University of Northern British Columbia’s Department of English, and Studies in Canadian Literature. Special thanks to English Studies in Canada, which provided financial support for our plenaries and our travel subsidies.

Congratulations to Marc Lynch, Omar Ramadan, and Rachel Stubbs, all from the University of Calgary, who are winners of 2023 Congress Graduate Merit Awards. All three contributed in multiple ways to this year’s conference.

ACCUTE adopted an Equity Statement in 2021, reflecting our commitment to making ACCUTE an equitable and inclusive space for all. One of our commitments is to provide an annual Equity
Report, which is included in the conference program. I encourage everyone to read the report and to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the report or suggestions on how we can do things better.

Just a few days ago, it was announced that next year’s Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities will take place at McGill University in Montréal from May 8-17, 2024. Unlike this year’s Congress, it will be a largely in-person event. Congress will have a virtual platform, which will be used to host recordings of Congress events but will not be providing live streaming of events. If associations wish to do so they may incorporate online or hybrid programming into their schedule, but associations will be responsible for hosting and providing technical and accessibility support. Registration fees will be increased a bit for next year. The regular early-bird registration fee will increase from $190 to $210, but the reduced fee available to underemployed participants (essentially contract lecturers) will increase more – the early-bird fee will rise from $150 to $190. I will be raising concerns with the Federation about this inequitable increase.

Finally, I would like to thank our outgoing Board members: Sarah Banting, Priestley Prize Committee Chair; Gregory Betts, Past President; Krista Collier-Jarvis, President of the Graduate Student Caucus; Kit Dobson, Committee for Professional Concerns Chair; Shazia Hafiz Ramji, Creative Writing Collective Coordinator; and Susie O’Brien, President of the Canadian Association of Chairs of English. All have made meaningful contributions to ACCUTE during their time on the Board.
Appendix B: ACCUTE Equity Report 2023

Prepared by Douglas Ivison

ACCUTE’s commitment to equity is reflected in the Equity Statement adopted at our 2021 Annual General Meeting. As the statement notes, equity “can only be achieved insomuch as it is actively pursued as an ongoing goal and ongoing process.” The incorporation of the Equity Statement in our by-laws affirms that the pursuit of equity is central to our mission as an association and as a community, and this report is an opportunity for us all to reflect on the work we’ve done and what needs to be done.

In planning this year’s conference, and in keeping with the 2023 Congress theme of Reckonings and Re-Imaginings, our goal was to centre BIPOC voices, knowledges, and experiences. We’re very fortunate to have two excellent plenary speakers who enable us to do so: Dionne Brand, of course, is a leading Black writer, thinker, and activist; and in his recent book, Climate Lyricism, Dr. Min Hyoung Song draws on his earlier “work in race and ethnic studies and in particular in Asian American studies” to emphasize that climate change is “an inextricable product” of “the legacies of conquest, racism, exploitation, and extraction that are everywhere” (7). Part of our commitment to equity is sharing our resources with other associations, and so we are pleased that Dionne Brand’s plenary is a joint plenary with a number of associations, including the Black Canadian Studies Association. We were also fortunate to be able to co-sponsor the Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures’ plenary by Dr. Lily Cho on “One Hundred Years of Chinese Canadian Exclusion.”

This year’s conference also features a number of sessions devoted to Black and Indigenous topics, including a panel on “Black and Indigenous Solidarities” organized by the Committee for Professional Concerns, as well as a diverse array of sessions focused on equity-deserving groups. Thanks to the work of chairs Titi Aiyegbusi and Dr. Chinelo Ezenwa, the BIPOC caucus will hold its meeting on May 27, and a report on their meeting will be presented to ACCUTE members during the AGM.

Unlike the 2022 conference, which very successfully enabled remote participation, this year’s conference is an entirely in-person conference. We recognize that this rendered the conference inaccessible for some, and we regret that. The cost of attending Congress is prohibitive for some members, particularly as many universities have limited their support for conference travel for both students and faculty members. Within the constraints of an in-person conference, however, we are committed to doing what we can to make our conference accessible to as many as possible. As did Congress, we have provided free registration for Black and Indigenous students, and thanks to the generosity of English Studies in Canada and a number of English Departments and university presses we are once again able to offer a travel subsidy to our graduate student and contract lecturer participants. Both initiatives will continue in conferences to come. As we look ahead to the 2024 conference, our commitment is to do what we can to reduce barriers to participation.
One way to make ACCUTE more accessible to all its members is to provide more non-conference programming. Although we didn’t end up offering online events this year, we hope to offer one or two webinars next year, and to amplify online events organized by ACCUTE members and their institutions by co-sponsoring and promoting them to our members. This year, we sponsored and promoted a webinar organized by Lakehead University’s English Department addressing the question “Are Canadian Universities Doing Enough to Support Outspoken Racialized Faculty?” In our newsletter, The Angle, we featured an article by Dr. Sarah Olutola on “Decolonization, Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Creative Writing Pedagogy,” and other work addressing racism, equity, and the future of the English major. We invite all ACCUTE members to submit poetry, short articles, and member news to The Angle, and particularly want to highlight the work of our BIPOC members, so we encourage you to send us material for upcoming issues (next deadline: toward the end of June).

Increasing the diversity of the Board and its various caucuses and committees is a guiding principle as we recruit new Directors and committee members, but we also remain cognizant of ensuring that we acknowledge the inequitable service burden borne by many BIPOC members and don’t further add to it. We appreciate all the work done by ACCUTE’s BIPOC members, as reflected throughout our conference, and invite BIPOC members interested in serving as President, as a member of the Board, or in some other capacity, whether in the next year or two or a few more years down the road, to contact me at divison@lakeheadu.ca.

I would also encourage all members to read the Federation of Social Sciences and Humanities’ recently released EDID Progress Update. In particular, I’d draw your attention to the Federation’s recently launched EDID Initiatives Fund (p. 2), which provides up to $3000 in support of EDID initiatives by member associations. We are committed to submitting an application in Fall 2023, and would certainly welcome suggestions as we determine the EDID initiative we will propose.

There will be an opportunity to discuss this equity report and ACCUTE’s Equity Statement at the ACCUTE AGM on May 30, but I also encourage you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or feedback on this report or broader issues related to equity within ACCUTE. You can email me at divison@lakeheadu.ca or, if you’d prefer, at info.accute@gmail.com. I look forward to your thoughts on how we’ve done this year or how we can do better in 2023-24.

Citations


Appendix C: BIPOC Members' Meeting Report

Summary of the 2023 ACCUTE BIPOC Meeting

June 2023

Attendees were excited about the meeting and unanimously agreed that we would like this event to continue as an annual event during the ACCUTE conference with some amendment to date, time, and communication.

It would be great to have a slot on the second day of the conference and a 2-hour time slot. It would also be more beneficial to have an avenue to recruit and communicate with members.

Having the meeting on the second day, at the earliest, allows for more people to arrive and get familiar with the environment before the meeting. A longer meeting time makes it possible to discuss the meeting objectives and to network.

The matter of refreshment came up, and members thought having food which reflects different identities would enable members, who are diverse, to think of the intersections between food, community, and our research in English Studies.

The need for increased hiring of BIPOC faculty in English departments, an issue from last year, was raised again. Attendees observed that BIPOC scholars seemed to fall into non-tenure track positions and sessional short-term contracts.

Members are keen to understand what department heads consider most important when hiring tenure track faculty: origin of the candidate, indigeneity, closeness to the literature, fit with the University/College identity, etc. Members thought it would also be helpful to have opportunities to chat with other members in administrative leadership positions to understand the expectations for tenure-track positions.

Sessional workers as well as graduate students are increasingly experiencing direct and non-direct verbal and coded abuses and microaggressions, from students and even from other faculty members and BIPOC peoples.

It was suggested that institutions (colleges and universities) could have clearer lines of communication through which BIPOC students and faculty may report abuse, whether the abuse is to themselves or to other students.

It was recommended that institutions make such discussions part of student orientations. Students should be made to be overtly aware of Human Rights laws against abuse and discrimination in Ontario, and Canada as a whole.

Members also agreed that there should be clearer guidelines about handling discrimination in classrooms. The guidelines should be designed to also address specific anti-BIPOC discriminations.
Exclusion/ Isolation. Members feel that they are increasingly stigmatized in/outside class. Since such experiences have a significant impact on a victim’s mental health, members asked if there are ways in which classes could be organized to ensure maximum collaboration between students, increased integration, and better collegiality?

Members also wondered if non-BIPOC faculty are aware that BIPOC and international students feel so alienated in their classrooms?

It was suggested that students take mandatory Indigenous courses and courses in World Literatures, including texts written by BIPOC scholars that could better prepare them to be global citizens. Members think that such courses would also help students and faculty members better understand and appreciate ideas like BIPOC, EDI, etc. which are not always clear to people, not even all BIPOC peoples.

It was suggested that BIPOC Faculty Mentorship could be one major way of including BIPOC English scholars.

Money and Advocacy: Because of the increased financial stress and other social issues faced by BIPOC members, including international BIPOC peoples, members requested that ACCUTE considers reducing/waiving fees and registration costs for graduate student members.

Possible channels for Community Advocacy: While a few platforms were identified as possible supports for BIPOC faculty and Graduate Students (e.g., BIPOC Academic Coalition), it was difficult to find support available to BIPOC members of ACCUTE. Members thought that it is important that ACCUTE leaders encourage institutions to locate useful institutional and community resources for members.

Outcomes
Members are aware that executing the issues raised may not be feasible in one meeting/conference. Nevertheless, we hope that, together with ACCUTE, there will be some actionable plans.

One plan agreed by members is to start a monthly online ACCUTE BIPOC tea/coffee hour. This monthly event, led by Titi Aiyegbusi, will help to fine-tune some of the points raised in our meeting and conference; it will help us build structures that will benefit BIPOC peoples and ACCUTE.

ACCUTE also created a space for a BIPOC member to join the ACCUTE Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. Following a vote, Chinelo Ezenwa was elected the BIPOC Member-at-Large.

We acknowledge the hard work of the people that came before us, Amatoritsero Ede who initiated this meeting and BIPOC-ACCUTE members who attended the inaugural meeting at
ACCUTE 2022. We are also appreciative of members present during the 2023 Congress as well as ACCUTE leaders and organizers (Erin, Douglas, and all others) who helped to make the 2023 BIPOC ACCUTE meeting and the ACCUTE conference possible.

We look forward to the 2024 ACCUTE Conference.

Chinelo and Titi
Appendix D: Report of the F. E. L. Priestley Prize Committee

We are pleased to bestow this year’s Priestley Prize on Dr. Mathieu Aubin, whose article, "Listening Queerly for Queer Sonic Resonances in the Poetry Series at Sir George Williams University, 1966 to 1971," appears in English Studies in Canada 46.2-3. Aubin's article outlines a method and an ethic of queer listening, and situates it in relation to feminist listening practices and other ethical engagements with sound. Queer listening is a practice that entails "listening for sound affected by queerness" and attending – via archived sound recordings – to queer lives (Aubin 87); Aubin contrasts the practice to the "homophobic and violent" auditory surveillance experienced, at the hands of the police, by the queer writers who read in the Poetry Series he discusses. Aubin's work struck the committee as doing everything one could ask of an exemplary journal article in English studies: we appreciated the currency and relevance of its conceptual framing, its skillful work historicizing the material being discussed, its coherence as a written account of research, and, perhaps particularly, its focused, detailed, judicious close analysis of its materials.

We also wanted to make an honourable mention, in this case of Dr. Nadine Attewell's reader's forum essay, "Exit Survey: The Terrain of Struggle," published in English Studies in Canada 46.1, which we remarked is the kind of piece which we find ourselves passing along to others. We noted its significance, its relevance to contemporary problems in departments of English, and how finely it carried out the tasks of both broad anti-racist work and specific analysis.

Finally, we wanted to use the rhetorical capacity afforded to us as the Priestly Prize committee to commend Drs. Jason Camlot and Katherine McLeod, the editors of "New Sonic Approaches in Literary Studies," an ESC special issue, for what we felt was a uniformly excellent collection.

–Sarah Banting, Mount Royal University
Appendix E: Report from the Committee for Professional Concerns

Kit Dobson

Welcome to the final report that I am submitting in my capacity as the Chair of the Committee for Professional Concerns! The 2022-2023 academic year has been a fruitful one as we have planned for this year’s conference at York University in Tkaronto / Toronto. The CPC this year consisted of:

- Kit Dobson – Chair
- Cheryl Lousley – ACCUTE Vice-President
- Carrelin Brooks – CAF Representative
- Mark Kaethler – Colleges Representative
- Susie O’Brien – CACE Representative
- Krista Collier-Jarvis – Graduate Representative
- Shazia Hafiz Ramji – Member-at-Large

For Congress, the CPC ended up collaborating to create two panels, as follows:

*Reckonings and Reimaginings: Black and Indigenous Solidarities*
Chair: Kit Dobson (University of Calgary)

- Youeal Albera (McGill University)
- Jennifer Komorowski (Toronto Metropolitan University)
- Alexandra Omogbadegun (Howard University)
- Rachel Stubbs (University of Calgary)

*Precarious Labour in the ‘Post’-Pandemic: What Role Can the Discipline Play in Effecting Change?*
Chair: Carellin Brooks (University of British Columbia)

- Jennifer Andrews (Dalhousie University)
- Rohan Ghatage (Trent University)
- Anne Quéma (Acadia University)
- Eric Schmaltz (York University Glendon)

These panels were designed to reflect ongoing conversations about the discipline of English and to provide ACCUTE members from across a wide range of professional ranks and positions opportunities to get together to strategize. My thanks to everyone who agreed to participate.

As I complete my time in this role (after two two-year terms), I want to thank my colleagues across ACCUTE campuses. It remains a pleasure and a joy to work with you all. I remain keen
to continue to be of service to ACCUTE in future capacities. I thank everyone with whom I have been in contact over the course of my time in this role. I always welcome your communication; please feel welcome to reach out to me.

Respectfully submitted,
in solidarity,
Kit Dobson
kit.dobson1@ucalgary.ca
Appendix F: Report from the Creative Writing Committee

The CWC is happy to announce a series of well-attended panels and a lively CWC reading at ACCUTE 2023.

The CWC has secured new members and a promising succession for the next year of the CWC.

At the 2023 AGM on May 30 at noon, the CWC had an election and a series of changes and renewals:

-The CWC is happy to announce Adam Dickinson as the new coordinator for CWC for 2023-4.
-Shazia Hafiz Ramji stepped down as lead coordinator for the CWC and was voted in as a CWC member-at-large.
-Bob McGill stepped down as secretary and was voted in as the Vice President.
-Samantha Bernstein was voted in as secretary for the CWC for 2023-4.
-Anna Veprinska and Sarah Olutola will continue the second year of their terms as members of the board with roles as the contract faculty representative and awards coordinator, respectively.

The CWC hopes to host events to build stronger communities, which will encourage dialogue between scholars and creative writers, and those intersections. At these events, such as webinars and future meetings, we hope to advocate for contract faculty in creative writing and to hold discussions about the weighting of creative writing and English publications in hiring committees. We also hope to start a CWC fund, which will help the CWC invite publishing professionals and creative writers unaffiliated with institutions to participate in conversations at next year’s conference. The CWC is also working towards a forum or special issue of English Studies in Canada that will focus on creative writing pedagogies. The CWC is also hoping to solicit BIPOC members to get involved with the CWC; Sarah Olutola will take the lead on this initiative and all CWC members welcome chats to get involved.

The CWC is very grateful for the support of ACCUTE, specially Erin Knight and Doug Ivison, as it begins its third year. The CWC is also grateful for creative writers and scholars in all our overlapping communities who continue to offer vibrant tensions and inspiration endlessly.

Warmly,
Shazia Hafiz Ramji
May 30, 2023

shaziahafizramji@gmail.com
shaziahafiz.ramji@ucalgary.ca
Appendix G: CAF Rep Report – ACCUTE AGM

A number of ACCUTE members attended the Contract Academic Faculty meeting this morning and I have spoken informally with several others throughout the conference. The academic job market makes sessional instruction a sometimes reluctant career. These folks are among the most marginalized and precarious workers at our institutions.

Contract faculty concerns have not changed. Job security is top of mind and top of everyone’s wish list. Even if we have worked for an institution for decades, our fortunes can change the minute somebody decides to take the first-year writing courses out of English and start teaching them in Science. Institutional pressures– ChatGPT and linguistic unreadiness, to name but two– uniquely affect us.

Contract faculty, like lots of people here, are busy and tired. Higher pay would help, as long as it’s earmarked for research and/or course prep. One presenter yesterday confessed he’d spent all of his allotted paid hours developing the course before it even started. We’d love our own offices, tenure-track teaching positions, and more equitable and just hiring practices overall. It would reduce our unpaid labour if applications were shorter and standardized across different institutions.

Contract instructors cobble together a living in some of the most expensive places in the world. Some of us teach at two and three institutions a week, enduring punishing dawn-to-dusk commutes. Each place has its own codes, procedures, and ways of doing things. I have lost track of the number of sessionals, along with tenured faculty, who have excused themselves to continue to teach remotely during this conference: marking final assignments, dealing with after-course plagiarism or other admin concerns, or even conducting class. We are professionals teaching by Zoom out of our cars at times, and doing a great job, all things considered.

This year one member contacted me with concerns about not being able to list her institution as affiliation when applying for a SSHRC grant. The member was unfortunately unable to attend Congress. I raised the issue with the ACCUTE board and with the Canadian Association of Chairs of English. Any other member concerns, please let me know and I’ll try to help.

If you’re a contract faculty member who has the energy, I urge you to celebrate and make visible your work at your institution(s). I sit on the Contract Faculty Committee at the University of British Columbia. Each May we come together across the institution for a Contract Faculty Colloquium and publications display in where we share our creative and academic work.

If you are a contract faculty member of ACCUTE, let’s connect. My email is c.brooks@ubc.ca.
ACCUTE's mission is to promote the interests of those teaching and researching in the various fields of English Studies in Canadian colleges and universities. Your membership is more important today than ever. Visit accute.ca to renew.

**THE ACCUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Cheryl Lousley, Vice-President  
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Neta Gordon, Member-at-Large: Professional Concerns  
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Lorraine York, Member-at-Large: Priestley Prize  
Adam Dickinson: Coordinator: Creative Writing Collective  
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Marc Lynch, President: Graduate Student Caucus  
Allan Pero, Editor of English Studies in Canada (ex-officio)  
Anna Guttman, CACE President (ex-officio)  

*The Angle* is produced by Erin Knight

*The Angle* is a forum to make your voice heard. If you wish to contribute to this newsletter or submit Letters to the Editor, please contact info.accute@gmail.com.