



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](#)

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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 Aiyegbusi, Chinelo 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](https://www.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 Deshayé, 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

Canadian Colleges.

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 inasmuch 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

ACCUTE Equity Statement. <https://accute.ca/accute-equity-statement/>

Song, Min Hyoung. *Climate Lyricism*. Duke UP, 2022.

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 ourself 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: Carrellin 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

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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.