

December 13th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Raj Banerjee, Craig Jacobs, Marc Lynch, Matthew Dall, Coleen Foster, Alia Wazzan

Land Acknowledgement - Raj

- Approval of agenda: 1st
- Approval of meeting minutes

Website Updates

- Website has been changed—provides details about different caucuses and where:
 - Survey reports are located
 - Funding information
 - Contact information
 - **Raj:** Mini interviews with grad students are published on websites (updated twice a month). Called “Presenting ACCUTE”
 - **Raj:** Will follow up with links to these transcriptions.
 - These can provide students with more voice
 - There was also a Webinar on AI usage in the classroom
 - Call for next webinar is coming near end of December and January
- **Raj:** Necessity of getting students in different respects faculties involved
 - Discussion about survey report and the necessity of buy-in
 - Discussion about funding raised from Alia previous meeting
 - Contact list updates, ongoing, upgoing
 - Contact list should be fully updated by January
 - 34 active departments with grad reps nationally; 70% of reps are from Eastern universities (Ontario in particular)
 - Call for suggestions on trying to get more people involved
 - **Alia:** Reach out to GPDs and various departments and ask whether students would like to be part of committee because they are unaware or don't know that they can join.
 - **Raj:** We can also work with our personal contacts as well.
 - **Raj:** Necessity of updating ACCUTE membership for committee members

Funding

- From previous meeting, began with questions from Alia with concerns with International student fees and the necessity of having to pay conference fees etc.
 - Only grad student funding available through ACCUTE but only for travel bursaries
 - **Raj:** Would like to develop a repository/list to update on the website.
 - First, students should look at departmental funding,

- Previous departmental meeting: Congress was not particularly adaptable and ACCUTE is a little “up in arms” against federation. It’s not just a service provider and has done poorly at representing the needs of different bodies under its umbrella.
 - ACCUTE membership costs going up by 25%, exception is for grad students.
 - Hoping that ACCUTE president will be able to get additional funding for grad students.
 - Over 35% of presenters are grad students

Call for Questions from Committee Members

- Coleen: No question, but comment on ACCUTE membership fees not going up. Cost is crucial for graduate students. Their department is not literary focussed.
 - **Raj:** important to tell others that ACCUTE doesn’t need to have literary focus. Alia is not from Engl department. It’s important to be as transparent and inclusive as possible.

Final Notes

- **Raj:** Another meeting should be planned by end of January.
 - Keep eye on website for updates
 - Call for additional questions
 - No additional questions