PSA Women’s Caucus Meeting Minutes
Saturday, 5 November 2016 (Atlanta)
7:00-8:45 AM, Augusta C & D (7th floor)

The meeting was called to order by Roberta Millstein at 7:30 AM. First-time attendees of the Women's Caucus were asked to introduce themselves.

A motion to approve the meeting agenda was offered and seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the PSA Women’s Caucus meeting from November 2014 was offered and seconded. The 2014 minutes were approved unanimously.

A motion to thank the University of Calgary Philosophy Department and individual donors for sponsoring the breakfast was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to thank PSA Executive Director Jessica Pfeifer for her extensive work in creating a PSA Dependent Care Fund, for arranging to have child care at the PSA meeting, and for coordinating with the Caucus on many other issues was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to thank the PSA for providing monetary and logistical support for child and dependent care and for being responsive to Caucus requests was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to amend the Women's Caucus By-Laws to include the Women's Caucus Prize Symposium was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to thank the members of the Celebrate Women Committee for their service to the Caucus was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Committee for the Prize in Feminist Philosophy of Science was recognized for their service to the Caucus.

The winner of the Women’s Caucus Prize in Feminist Philosophy of Science, Victoria Pitts-Taylor, was recognized for her book, *The Brain’s Body: Neuroscience and Corporeal Politics*.

The winners of the Women’s Caucus Prize Symposium, Jonathan Birch, Marta Halina, Kristin Andrews, Colin Allen, and Lori Marino, were recognized. Members were encouraged to attend their symposium session, “Animal Cognition and Animal Welfare,” immediately after the Caucus meeting.
Attendees recognized Roberta Millstein for her service and commitment to the Caucus. The nominee for the Senior Co-Chair position, Anya Plutynski, was elected by acclamation, and will assume office on January 1, 2017.

Attendees paused for a group photo.

Julia Bursten and Karen Zwier reported on the Caucus’s social media activities, including the Science Visions blog, the website, listserv, member directory, Facebook page, and discussion board. They noted that members signing the attendance forms would be added to the listserv, the Caucus’s main channel of communication, especially between meetings. The listserv is used to disseminate information about various professional opportunities, to coordinate voting on matters that require votes, and to solicit the opinions and ideas of members. New members who want to be listed in the directory on the website should contact Karen Zwier at krzwier@gmail.com. It was noted that this directory is a good resource for people trying to find gender-balanced participants for conferences, workshops, etc.

Julia Bursten reported that she is working with the HSS Women’s Caucus on ways to collaborate, and that links to some of their resources and initiative would be appearing on the PSA Women’s Caucus website soon. New members were invited to request that they be added to the Caucus’s Facebook group (currently a “closed” group). Members of the group are encouraged to make posts there about events, achievements, interesting things people are writing, etc.

A motion to thank the inaugural editorial staff of the Caucus’s blog, Science Visions, was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Julia Bursten added her praise for the posts written by the editorial staff, and encouraged attendees to check the box on the attendance form to indicate their willingness to write for the blog (maybe once a year). She noted that the blog offers quarterly recognition of celebrated women in Philosophy of Science in its Highlighted Philosopher of Science series, and that attendees could find forms to nominate women for recognition both in the room and online (and that a link to the online nominating form would be distributed via the listserv after the meeting). Finally, it was noted that a poll (with a discussion element) about the meeting time for the Women’s Caucus meeting would be distributed via the listserv.

PSA Executive Director Jessica Pfeifer reported that 110 attendees preregistered for the Women’s Caucus Breakfast, a record. She also reported that PSA received 11 requests for dependent care subsidies, all of which were funded up to $200. 2016 marks the first year PSA offered onsite child care, and the PSA Governing Board is committed to offering it again in 2018. Also, the PSA Governing Board has started collecting demographic information about meeting attendees and about those submitting to Philosophy of Science.

The incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Janet Stemwedel, recognized the outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Sharon Crasnow, for her service in this role and her support in the change-over.
Janet Stemwedel reported that the PSA Governing Board was discussing implementing a respectful conduct policy for its meetings. For 2016, the Governing Board adopted a respectful conduct statement, but felt it still had details to work out before an actual policy (with enforcement mechanisms) could be adopted. The focus of the effort is to develop a policy that allows PSA to ensure its meetings are free from harassment without making the PSA vulnerable to lawsuit. It was noted that other professional communities complement official harassment policies with grassroots efforts to ensure that conference-goers can safely escape harassment (e.g., astronomers have both official AAS conference harassment policy that includes investigative functions and sanctions and a grassroots effort called “Astronomy Allies” whose members can be contacted to do “extractions” to help members who are in situations where they are being harassed). Members of the Caucus might want to explore similar options.

The question was raised of whether the Caucus should implement electronic voting. Sandra Mitchell noted that electronic voting would be more inclusive of members who are unable to attend the meetings, and that they amount of programming and the number of initiatives the Caucus has taken on seems to merit it. Moreover, as the Caucus has grown, it raises the likelihood of contested elections, which are likely to be easier to conduct via electronic voting. A motion to make the required change in the By-Laws to implement electronic voting was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Roberta Millstein noted that until the By-Laws change was implemented and voted on in person at the 2018 meeting, elections for co-chairs and votes to amend the By-Laws would still technically be required to be made in person. A motion to proceed with Caucus business for the 2016–2018 interim as if electronic voting had been codified into the By-Laws was offered and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Miriam Solomon was recognized for her efforts in founding the Caucus. On the occasion of its ten-year anniversary, members were asked to identify goals that the Caucus should prioritize.

Colin Allen noted that SEP was working on compiling a gender-sorted bibliography and would welcome help with that. Carolyn Dicey Jennings voiced enthusiasm for a mentoring-lunch model (with about 5 mentees per mentor), and it was noted that some opportunities for such mentoring were included in events during the conference (a new faculty lunch group, a special interest lunch focused at coaching people getting ready to submit to journals, a JCSEPHS lunchtime round-robin mentoring event focused on socially engaged work of various sorts). Liam Kofi Bright noted that Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), a graduate student-run group with local chapters at different schools, provides funding for things like mentoring lunches. Jessica Pfeifer noted that there are many different models of what mentoring would look like, and mentioned the “esteemed scholar” model, in which
an esteemed scholar commits to reading the mentees work, helping them to get published, helping them to navigate the job market, etc. Alyson Wylie suggested that it might be useful to plan a mentoring lunch in a timeslot without competing lunches, and that one purpose of such a lunch could be to ask what kind of mentoring people want. Bryn Johnson suggested a need for programming to support members with mental health challenges. Another attendee suggested a group to help connect and support Caucus members from outside the U.S. and North America.

Sandra Mitchell observed that the Caucus is now big enough that we should probably establish subcommittees to work on some of these initiatives. Sharon Crasnow suggested that at minimum we should be adding some of these ideas and initiatives, including committee contacts, to the Caucus webpage. Julia Bursten noted that we’ve had discussion boards on the website that haven’t gotten much use. We could revive those, or create branch-off listservs. Roberta Millstein said that the Caucus website has a link to the discussion boards, and she offered help to any member who might have issues logging into them.

Identified interests that might give rise to subcommittees included:

- Mentoring (volunteers: Soazig LeBihan, Dana Tulodziecki, Joyce Havstad, Sarah Wieten, Eve Roberts, Sabina Leonelli)
- Encouraging more feminist philosophers of science to submit work to the PSA and to Philosophy of Science (volunteers: Andrea Woody, Dan Hicks)
- Coordinating with Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) and exploring other ways to promoting the work and inclusion of underrepresented minorities (volunteers: Jessica Pfeifer, Dana Tulodziecki, Alisa Bokulich, Soazig LeBihan, Darcy McCusker)
- Collective annotated bibliography on women philosophers of science for syllabi (volunteers: Anya Plutynski (syllabi), Calin O’Connor (biblio), Colin Allen (biblio), Sharon Crasnow (biblio))
- Getting a cognate Women's Caucus session on the program, for example, bringing in the Women's Caucus from the European Society for the Philosophy of Science. (volunteer: Julia Bursten)

More attendees interested in volunteering to work on these and other initiatives registered their interest by checking boxes on the sign-in sheets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.