Minutes PSA Women’s Caucus Meeting
Saturday, 8 November 2014 (Chicago)

7:00 – 8:45 AM, Chicago Ballroom

Attendees:

- Roberta Millstein
- Holly Andersen
- Dan Hicks
- Janet Stemwedel
- Kristina Rolin
- Vanessa Bentley
- Rosa Runhardt
- Sharon Crasnow
- Inma de Melo-Martin
- Kristen Intemann
- Nancy Cartwright
- Vivian Weil
- Angela Potochnik
- Andrea Woody
- Carole Lee
- Charissa Varma
- Katherine Brading
- Neil Dewar
- Manuela Fernandez Pinto
- Elise Crull
- Mariam Thalos
- Alissa Ney
- Susan Sterrett
- Susan Castro
- Christina Stiso
- Alexis Turner
- Molly Kao
- Kirsten Walsh
- Carolyn Brighouse
- Katherine Liu
- Jill North
- Melissa Jacquart
- Elena Walsh
- Carla Fehr
- Janet Kourany
- Emily Parke
- Katie Steele
- Miriam Solomon
- Lisa Lloyd
- Dana Tulodziecki

- Anya Plutynski
- Carrie Figdor
- Helen Longino
- Sabina Leonelli
- Annamaria Carusi
- Marina Baldiserra Pachetti
- Bihui Li
- Joyce Havstad
- Heather Douglas
- Jan-Willem Romeij
- Kerry McKenzie
- Anna Alexandrova
- Jessica Pfeifer
- Liam Bright
- Julie Jebeicle
- Maria Serban
- Leah Mcclimans
- Hanne Andersen
- Chiara Lisciandra
- Audrey Yap
- Kathleen Okruhlik
- Nancy Nersessian
- Sara Green
- Morgan Thompson
- Wendy Parker
- Soazig Le Bihan
- Kimberly Brumble
- Jean de Groot
- Melinda Fagan
- Alisa Bokulich
- Quayshawn Spencer
- Michael Hunter
- Lindley Darden
- Nancy Hall
- Doreen Fraser
- Julia Bursten
- Lina Janssen
- Stephanie Ruphy
- Stacey Goguen
- Hannah Rubin
- Michela Massimi
The meeting was called to order by Roberta Millstein at 7:31 AM.

Janet Stemwedel moved approval the agenda; Nancy Cartwright seconded. Roberta proposed an amendment to the agenda – Carla Fehr to talk about FEMMSS and the APA CSW site visit program. The amended agenda was approved.


Holly Andersen made a motion to thank the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science and individual donors for sponsoring breakfast; multiple seconds and approved by acclamation.

The body recognized Helen Longino as the winner of the Caucus Prize in Feminist Philosophy of Science for *Studying Human Behavior: How Scientists Investigate Aggression and Sexuality*, 2013 with enthusiastic applause. The official presentation of the prize will take place this evening before Helen’s Presidential Address.

Holly Andersen’s term as Junior Co-Chair ends January 1, 2015 and so a new Junior Co-Chair needs to be elected. Helen Longino nominated Julia Bursten; Leah McClimans seconded the nomination. Julia was elected unanimously.

Sharon Crasnow offered the Secretary/Treasurer’s Report. The total in the Women’s Caucus fund as of May 1, 2014 was $3064.82. The total available for the Women’s Caucus Prize was $1488. Sharon noted that the donation history showed a fall off in donations in off years (when the PSA does not meet) and urged those present to consider making a donation. Jessica Pfeifer noted that these amounts were not the current amounts but as of May 2014 and also noted that Helen Longino had donated the Women’s Caucus Prize back to the fund.

Sharon Crasnow’s term as Secretary/Treasurer also ends as of January 1, 2015 and so a new Secretary/Treasurer needs to be elected. Janet Stemwedel was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Website, listserv, blog, directory, and discussion board were discussed.
Alexis Turner volunteered to be the new webmaster and to oversee the listserv.

Roberta thanked Sharon Crasnow, Holly Andersen, and Susan Hawthorne for their service to the Caucus as Secretary/Treasurer, Junior Co-Chair, and Listserv/webpage coordinator, respectively.

Janet Stemwedel raised a question about whether to continue the blog since it is not really being used. It might be used for postings to draw attention to issues relevant to the group, work done by women in philosophy of science, or to continue other discussions. Janet pointed out both the virtues and downsides of blogs, particularly noting that comments can be a problem. If we continue the blog comments would need to be moderated and it might be time consuming. While there was support for keeping the blog in some form, there was general agreement that conversations would be better on the Discussion board. The blog might be a good place to post news about work people were doing, publications, etc. There was general consensus that we should keep the blog to serve a newsletter like function. Roberta called for a volunteer to do so. Susan Sterrett volunteered. One more suggestion for the blog was that it might be used for a mentoring function. The ASA mentors junior faculty doing something along these lines and might be used as a model.

Roberta next raised the question of whether we should keep the directory. Since there are a variety of other directories (Directory for Underrepresented Philosophers) do we want to continue to have our own directory? Questions were raised about where this newer directory is (seems to be MIT). We have updated our directory in a rather informal way. Sandy Mitchell noted that the more pathways to accessibility we had the better. We have a FaceBook page but some people do not like to use FaceBook so it is good to have other sources. Names should be accessible, to be used when looking for women to invite to conferences and for constructing syllabi. It was agreed that we should keep the directory and that the webmaster (Alexis Turner) would be responsible for updating.

Discussion of a second Caucus Prize for Women in Philosophy of Science: Sandy Mitchell spoke to this issue as she was one of the supporters of the second prize. The original idea was to find to find a public way to make women in philosophy of science more visible, but Sandy now thought it would be better to continue Helen’s idea of group sessions on Sunday. Perhaps there should be a Women’s Caucus session on Sunday instead of prize: symposia submitted for this, or author meets critics. Not a prize but rather a way of showcasing work.

A general discussion of the merits of a prize vs. a session took place. Helen pointed out that the Sunday sessions were experimental and there was some concern that they would not be well attended. They might be discontinued; they might move to Thursday.
Several ideas were mentioned for sessions and for prizes including: an early career prize or acknowledgement, a lifetime acknowledgement (session or prize).

Helen suggested that a better strategy for addressing this and other issues would be to form committees with the charge of investigating options. The committee should have a set timeline – report back to the executive board within 6 months.

Soazig Le Bihan raised a concern about committees being US-centric because of networking and so would exclude non-US members.

Susan Castro moved to create a web presence committee, Inma de Melo-Martin seconded. Passed unanimously. Alexis Turner will serve as webmaster. Susan Sterrett will handle the newsletter.

Carla Fehr moved to create a committee for prize, Sunday session, or other option to be decided. Inma de Melo-Martin seconded. Sandy suggested that it be called the Celebrate Women Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

The following volunteered for the committee:
Katherine Brading
Sandy Mitchell
Ayelet Shavit
Cailin O’Connor
Leah McClimans

Holly urged that the discussion board be used for the work of the committees.

Joyce Havstad offered information about the Field Museum Women in Science organization and says welcome and please come share resources at museum. The organization sponsors a lecture series and other programs. If you want to know anything about this, get in touch with Joyce. Joyce is currently a post doc on conceptual foundations of science. The museum wants to make connections with science studies scholars. They will be looking for another science studies scholar when Joyce leaves so consider applying.

Carla provided information about FEMMSS – contact Carla if you want to reach out to FEMMSS. Conferences are very open and welcoming – not just feminist philosophy. A new philosophy journal grew out of the organization: Feminist Philosophy Quarterly. The first issue will include papers presented at last meeting of FEMMSS. Carla encouraged submissions. The next FEMMSS conference with be hosted by Janet Kourany at Notre Dame (year after next).
Information about the Committee on the Status of Women site visit program for APA. Five or six departments have been visited, with 5 more upcoming. The program is flourishing. Site visitors are trained based on the NSF Advance program at Iowa State as model. American Physics Society also provides a model – physics departments celebrate that they have been visited to show that they are taking climate situations seriously. Departments desiring to ensure a good climate make great candidates for visit. Depts. visited are confidential unless they desire otherwise. Only University of Miami has made their visit public. The Villanova Hypatia feminist philosophy conference will have site visit training attached to it and so if you are interested in being trained that might be a time to do it.

APA CSW webpage has information about this conference (Diversity in Philosophy).

Because of time issues Michela Massimi’s demographic report will be distributed to the members through the listserv. Michela was thanked for the work that she did.

Jessica Pfieffer requested feedback on the family room. Please send suggestions directly to her.

Holly reminded everyone that the discussion could be continued on the Caucus Discussion Board which can be reached through the Women’s Caucus page from the PSA website.

Committee work, formation of new committee, and discussion of other issues can take place there.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 AM.