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## Minutes of the NWCA Executive Board Meeting

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**Minutes of the NWCA Executive Board Meeting  
November 18, 1995  
San Diego, California  
NCTE Convention**

(Note: These minutes are subject to approval at the NWCA Executive Board meeting at CCCC in Milwaukee.)

Present: Pamela Childers, Millie Davis (representing NCTE), Al DeCiccio, Eric Hobson, Joe Law, Martha Marinara, Joan Mullin, Christina Murphy, Michael Pemberton, Steve Sherwood, Byron Stay, and Sharon Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Byron Stay.

**I. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Byron Stay distributed copies of the minutes of the last Executive Board meeting; several minor corrections to the minutes were proposed and approved. Joe Law moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected, and Eric Hobson seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved as corrected.

**II. Treasurer's Report:** Byron Stay stated that there was no report from the Treasurer, Alan Jackson.

**III. Report on 1995 NWCA Conference:** Eric Hobson, Program Chair for the 1995 NWCA Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, reported that nearly all the bills for the conference were paid. His best estimate was that 375 people attended the conference and that there should be money to roll over for the next conference in 1997. Nearly 100 evaluations of the conference were collected, and participants were almost unanimous in rating the conference very highly. The quality of the sessions, the functions, the parties, and the hotel rated extremely well as participants expressed an overall high level of satisfaction with the conference, its locale, and its organization. One side benefit of the conference, Eric indicated, is that it generated a database of 1,200 persons from several sources with a specific mailing list of 400. Eric stated that plans were underway to pay the Midwest Writing Centers Association approximately \$1,500 for their role as co-hosts of the conference. Eric stated that the absence of tax-exempt status for NWCA cost the organization about \$3,000 in sales taxes that would not have had to be paid with tax-exempt status. Joan Mullin and Byron Stay raised the issue of whether a separate conference fund should be established for future conferences.

**IV. Executive Board Elections:** Byron Stay stated that the counting of

ballots for the election of new Executive Board members was not yet complete. He said that approval of the by-law changes was running 100%. He discussed the fact that not everyone got ballots for the election due to difficulties with the database and mailing system the Treasurer/Executive Secretary Alan Jackson had encountered. Byron stated that, in the future, such difficulties with balloting should not occur with the splitting of the Treasurer/Executive Secretary position into two positions and the election of Paula Gillespie as Executive Secretary and of Michael Pemberton as Treasurer.

**V. Journal/Newsletter Report:** A report on Writing Center Journal indicated that the journal is doing well and that more manuscripts from tutors and from elementary, middle school, and high school writing center professionals were being encouraged and solicited. No report on Writing Lab Newsletter was presented.

**VI. 1995 NCTE Workshop:** Report Christina Murphy reported on the NWCA workshop to be held November 20th at NCTE. The workshop was titled “Tutoring and Writing Pedagogy: Philosophies and Paradigms,” and enrollment represented individuals from the high school, community college, and university levels. Christina Murphy was the workshop chair and Joan Mullin the associate chair.

**VII. 1996 CCCC Special Session and 1996 NCTE Workshop Report:** Joan Mullin, who would be the chair for the 1996 CCCC Special Interest Session and the 1996 NCTE workshop, discussed the topics for both of these sessions. The topic for the 1996 CCCC will be the relationship between writing center practices and teaching, with a focus on changes in the classroom, the curriculum, and in schools of education. The 1996 NCTE workshop will be on writing across the curriculum (WAC) and faculty development and writing centers as places to accomplish this goal.

Discussion of NCTE workshops ensued, and Eric Hobson raised the issue of whether it would be possible to plan a workshop on elementary, middle school, and high school writing centers and the pragmatics of instituting writing centers in these settings. He suggested advertising this workshop in journals—such as the *English Journal*—and online. Pamela Childers recommended the Association for Computers in English (ACE) as another outlet and that we could emphasize the relationship of computers and writing centers as well as the relationship of these two to enrollment management and retention.

**VIII. 1997 NWCA Conference Report:** Joan Mullin reported that no site

has been selected for the 1997 NWCA conference but that Salt Lake City, Utah, was one site under consideration.

**IX. NWCA Directory Report:** Pamela Childers said that 131 copies of the Writing Center Directory remain unsold at \$10.40 each and pointed out the role of the McCallie School in funding the publication and distribution of the directory. Pamela also reported on applicants for the position of Assistant Editor for the new directory. Four interested and highly qualified people had applied and, after interviews and follow-up letters, Donna Sewell of Valdosta State University had been selected as the Assistant Editor. Pamela discussed how the directory was to be distributed, presented a copy of the revised directory form, asked for comments and suggestions, and stated that ads for the directory would go in *Writing Lab Newsletter*, *The Writing Center Journal*, and several other journals related to writing centers.

**X. Regional Reports:** Regional Reports from the NWCA regional groups were presented. The East Central Writing Centers Association (ECWCA) will hold its meeting on March 1-2, 1996 at Michigan State University with Cynthia Selfe of Michigan Tech as keynote speaker. The South Central Writing Centers Association (SCWCA) will hold its meeting in Austin, Texas, on February 29-March 1, 1996, with Jeanne Simpson of Eastern Illinois University as keynote speaker. The Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association (MAWCA) will meet on April 13, 1996 with Leigh Ryan as keynote speaker.

**XI. NWCA Press Report:** Byron Stay presented a progress report on the NWCA Press. He reviewed the history of the founding of the press in that, at the 1995 CCCC, the Executive Board approved to print the volume, *Writing Center Perspectives*—edited by Byron Stay, Christina Murphy, and Eric H. Hobson—as the first step toward establishing the press. 530 copies of the book were printed for \$4,200; \$215 was spent to secure 10 ISBN numbers; and \$140 was spent to ship copies of the book for sale at the NWCA conference in St. Louis. Byron stated that, to date, 152 copies of the book had been sold and that a total of \$1,517.05 was on hand. An account for the NWCA Press had been set up at Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where Byron is associate dean. Approximately 378 copies of the book are left in inventory. Byron proposed that two copies of the book plus order forms could be sent to regional meetings and that the book and the press could continue to be promoted through mailings, in the journals, and at national conferences. Byron discussed the general setup and philosophy of the press. A General Editor would be appointed and would come to the Executive Board with ideas and seek the Board's approval for future projects. He stated that a press was an important venture for NWCA to sponsor because we are better able to identify the real needs of writing center people

than other presses and because writing center scholars need additional outlets for work of quality. Clear guidelines would be established on how the press was to be administered and the press would repay NWCA over time for its initial financial support. A motion to establish NWCA Press was made by Eric Hobson and seconded by Joe Law. Pamela Childers called for a vote on the proposal, and it passed unanimously. Joan Mullin nominated Byron Stay as Director of the NWCA Press, and Christina Murphy seconded. Joe Law moved that Byron be approved by acclamation.

**XII. Election of Second Vice President:** Byron Stay entertained nominations for the position of Second Vice President on the Executive Board. Lady Falls Brown of Texas Tech University and Al DeCiccio of Merrimack College were nominated, and Al DeCiccio was elected by acclamation.

**XIII. NWCA Dissertation Scholarships:** Byron Stay stated that application forms for the NWCA dissertation scholarships were available and urged Board members to encourage graduate students working on dissertations on writing centers to apply.

**XIV. Value of NWCA Membership:** A discussion of the value of NWCA membership ensued, and Byron Stay discussed such additional perks or benefits as discounts on books published by NWCA Press, discounts on NWCA conference registration fees, NWCA members as mentors for writing center professionals, and starter kits for those establishing new writing centers. Updating the starter kit and developing a new flyer for NWCA were also discussed.

**XV. NWCA Rationale Statement:** Byron Stay mentioned that a rationale statement to be approved by the Board was being developed. Jeanne Simpson was working on a statement on what a writing center should be, how it should be staffed, administered, etc. The rationale statement could be used with administrators and used with external writing center evaluators as a way of explaining and gaining support for the writing center's role on a campus and within the academy. Joe Law stated that the Certification Program NWCA had set up was currently at a standstill and that perhaps it could work in conjunction with Jeanne Simpson's proposal. Joan Mullin stated that WPA does this type of evaluation of writing program administrators and their programs, and should we link up? Joan stated that when a WPA evaluates a WAC program with a writing center, a writing center person should be a member of the evaluation team. Pamela Childers pointed out that the Past President of the NWCA serves as a liaison to WPA.

**XVI. Proposed Amendment:** Eric Hobson distributed a copy of an

amendment he was proposing to the NWCA constitution that would clarify the relationship of regional affiliates to NWCA and extend to them NWCA's tax-exempt status once that was secured.

**XVII. NWCA Web Page:** Byron Stay and Christina Murphy commented on the NWCA Web Page recently set up by Bruce Pegg of Colgate University, and Byron spoke for the Board in recognizing Bruce and in thanking him for his efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by Christina Murphy