

**AAIS Women's Studies Caucus Annual Meeting**  
**April 22nd, 2017**  
**1:00- 2:00**  
**The Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio**

**Minutes**

**Present at the meeting:**

The following people were present at the meeting: Emanuela Zanotti Carney, Cosetta Seno, Robin Pickering Iazzi, Giovanna Faleschini Lerner, Margherita Caput Hayer, Chiara Dal Martello, Juliann Vitullo, Juliet Guzzetta and Simonetta Milli.

**Opening remarks**

WSC President Emanuela Zanotti Carney welcomed everybody present and proceeded to discuss the following.

**WSC Membership:**

The WSC has about 58 registered members. Zanotti Carney urged members to continue promoting the WSC with colleagues.

**Budget update:**

Emanuela Zanotti Carney reviewed the WSC financial situation. We have been consolidating the WSC budget over the last few years, while, at the same time, giving greater visibility to the WSC through sustainable and collaborative initiatives. As for accounting, our current budget is \$1558, up from \$1033 last year (+ 525). Expenses incurred for our guest speaker, Lorella Zanardo (airfare from Italy to Columbus), were paid for by the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago. Hopefully this number will continue to increase next year through membership renewals and donations.

**Report: WSC Initiatives**

Emanuela discussed the status of the caucus, and the numerous initiatives (including WSC Roundtables, a joint QSC/WSC roundtable, later cancelled, WSC Panels organized by members, the WSC Annual Meeting, guest speaker presentation) sponsored by the WSC. She also explained how, following the members' request, we had explored the possibility of merging together with the Queer Studies Caucus and how this option was not possible at the moment since the Queer Studies Caucus is determined to maintain their unique identity. She also talked about the unusual circumstances that led to the cancellation of both the presentation by our Guest Speaker (Lorella Zanardo) and the Roundtable to which she was invited to participate. Emanuela then introduced the new Women's Caucus President, Cosetta Seno, and thanked for the wonderful job she had done as Secretary of the WSC, for her vision, and for the time and effort spent on organizing stimulating roundtables and panels for AAIS 2016 and 2017. Cosetta thanked Emanuela for the wonderful job done as President in the past few years.

## **The future of the WSC**

The new President, Cosetta Seno, asked the members about how they would like the caucus to evolve in the next few years and what kind of guests we should try to invite in the future. Cosetta mentioned that she would like to invite women who do not exclusively work in the academic research field but who have explored different sides of academia. For example she suggested inviting colleagues who have become Deans in Arts and Sciences or other administrative positions to come and discuss their career paths. The audience seemed very interested in this possibility and several members mentioned that it would be good to invite guests with a multi-disciplinary perspective.

One member mentioned that it would be important to create panels and open the discussion on ways to reconcile familial and professional responsibilities. Most of the people in the audience agreed that it would be a wonderful idea. Another member suggested creating sessions on ways to connect our research to issues of social justice in our own communities. A third member proposed sessions on contemporary Italian feminist thought and practice. Yet another member mentioned that it would be important to have a Facebook presence and we discussed the possibility of having a third person (beyond the president and the Secretary) working exclusively on social media.

Cosetta and Emanuela then asked the audience if anybody was interested in becoming the next secretary for the WSC. Juliann Vitullo said she might be interested in stepping up to the position. Cosetta and Emanuela thanked her and added that they would send out an e-mail asking all the members of the caucus if somebody else would be interested as well so that we could eventually vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00.