



Executive Meeting

28 January 2019, 2pm

ML 104

Present: James Skidmore (JS), Gary Bruce (GB), Michael Boehringer (MB), Ana Ferrer (AF)

NB) Action items/next steps in red

1. Director's Report

a. Imagination Workshop

- JS: it was a well-attended workshop with a group of students who flew in from Mannheim

b. Grimm Lecture 2018

- JS: well-attended. The talk did not entirely reflect the audience, but the Centre had a lot of positive feedback from the community.

c. WCGS Book Prize

- JS: 2017 winner announced, and 2018 nominations are underway

-GB: How was the jury selected?

- JS: jury selection was based on disciplinary balance and we wanted to make it international. I simply reached out to the potential jurors and they agreed.

d. Weigel scholarship

JS: Marga Weigel has donated \$5000 for 5yrs - 5 scholarships a year for UG Bamberg Summer School (UW students only)

e. Upcoming events

- Gary Bruce talk - Wed. 6 March 2019, 7pm, Knox Presbyterian Church
- Topic is his book on the Berlin Zoo
- Symposium on "the Experiment" (Alice Kuzniar) - Monday 8 April 2019
-Sponsored by an Arts Research Office donation and WCGS
- German language film series (May/June) JS: just waiting for the embassies to contact WCGS
- Lecture (Andrea Speltz) and performance, Nathan the Weise, Stratford Festival (TBD) - Andrea Speltz is an expert in Enlightenment culture and WCGS is hoping to take a group of people to the play followed by a talk by Andrea
-JS is looking into connecting with the Stratford Forum

f. Financial snapshot

- Cash on hand (31 Dec 2018): \$111,241.70
- WCGS operating budget for 2018-2019:

Balance on hand 1 May 2019	\$76,288.44
Endowment income for 2018-2019	79,382.91
Trust account 31 Dec 2018	4,342.51
Expenses up to 31 Dec 2018	(50,364.41)
Estimated expenses Jan-Apr 2019	(15,000)
Surplus (Deficit)	\$94,649.45

- Stork Scholarship fund



Balance 31 Dec 2018	\$16,281.07
Endowment income for 2018-2019	
Amount available for 2019 scholarships	

JS: There is a bit of surplus, due to lower cost of some Grimm Lectures and that there is less money being spent on the OHP/GoW project

JS: Scholarships - around \$20,000 spent in 2018 and WCGS saw an increase in non-UW student applicants. WCGS ended up awarding 30+ students with scholarships between \$500-\$1000.

2. Grimm Lecture 2019

a. Debrief on Grimm Lecture 2018

b. Current ideas:

- i. Nora Krug, graphic novelist (<http://nora-krug.com/> - check out her graphic novel *Belonging - Heimat*)
 - ii. Peter Wohlleben, forester, author of *The Hidden Life of Trees*
 - iii. Something marking 100 years of Bauhaus
 - iv. Something marking 100 years of women's right to vote
 - v. Something marking 30th anniversary of fall of the Berlin Wall
 - vi. Something to do with migration in Europe
 - vii. Other suggestions/ideas welcome
 - Consensus that the next speaker should be topical/current
 - The speaker should be engaging and of interest not only to the academic side of WCGS, but also to the Community Members.
 - Some ideas/topics that were tossed around (MB, JS, GB): environmental topics, migration, Bauhaus (there is a bus travelling Europe/NA currently), Holocaust -maybe a new take on it - the re-emergence of the far right and the reinsertion of this vocabulary in public discourse and make it respectable (in Europe, in US, etc.), public intellectuals, writers, film makers, etc.
 - AF: the Centre should be careful about topical speakers in regards to having potential protestors come to lectures
- Please send additional ideas for a speaker to James or wccgs@uwaterloo.ca
- WCGS would like to do more than just the Grimm Lecture - How can we connect with our Members so they can suggest guest speakers?

3. Senate Review - Below is a draft outline of the report we'll present to the Research Leaders Council (whatever that is). This will be discussed in detail at the Executive Committee meeting.

WCGS Report for the Period 2014-2018

1. Executive Summary
2. Overview of 2014-2018
 - a. Three focus areas
 - i. Research



1. Grimm Lecture Series
2. WCGS Book Prize
3. Germans of Waterloo project (behind schedule by about a year)
JS: each chapter was written by grad student with a prof. Some concern that the students are having to wait to see their work published. It would be nice to see the research data used for further research, but it is unknown if this would be possible. To date about \$80,000 dollars has been used, and the community would like to see the result.

-Overall consensus - **JS approach the research leads** on the OHP/GoW to ask where they are in terms of editing. Request they finish the project by a certain date and offer to hire copy editor so that it is done and well edited

- if possible - research students could be hired for the summer to set up a data base for the OHP data (experiential learning process) - if data can be made public

-for the Senate Review - highlight the good that will/has come from the project

4. Other research highlights (provide list)
5. UW Library project (Ontario German Studies bibliography)
6. research production (from colleague survey)
7. feedback from general membership survey (Q4)
JS: there is overwhelmingly positive responses to the Centre

ii. Scholarships

1. Stork: 78 UW students; 23 non-UW students (\$500-2000 each)
2. Pillar: 10 (\$4,000 each)
3. improved outreach to non-UW students
4. new scholarship (Weigel) thanks to the Centre's fundraising acumen!

iii. Community

1. cultural event highlights
2. improved communications (website, social media, mailchimp)
3. feedback from survey (Q1/2/3)

JS: again, was very positive.

b. Administrative

- i. Administrative Assistant position upgraded from USG 4 to USG 5
- ii. compliance with Policy 44
- iii. difficulties with Faculty of Arts/UW Finance
 - policy 44 Centre reports to the Dean
 - shift to new financial systems and now all information arrives to the Chair of German
 - the Centre admin does not get the information about the endowments (goes



- to the chair of GSS as the authority to Org Unit 1700)
- unnecessary complexity for things that are not the GSS
- Centre staffing Workday ends up going through GSS Chair as well
- Possible solution would be to create a separate Org Unit for the Centre, which will also be suggested in the Senate Review

3. Plans for 2019-2023

- a. Focus areas remain the same, but shift emphasis to the facilitation of research (as opposed to undertaking) concentrating on two modalities:
 - i. scholarly communication
 - 1. emphasis on public scholarship (best meets the dual academic/community nature of the Centre)
 - 2. Public German Studies website/journal
 - JS: the Centre isn't solely academic so try to make something that isn't purely academic - that is more open access - public communication research - the journal would be for academics to communicate their research in a more public space
 - this would give WCGS a niche in German Studies
 - the website as a way to disseminate new research and information
 - Overall agreement to the general idea. Some concern about how best to orchestrate the website (videos vs. podcasts vs. blog vs. interviews vs. etc.).
 - 3. grad student internships in scholarly and public communications - professional development for them, assistance for WCGS
 - ii. scholarly collaboration
 - 1. increase involvement of colleagues from across campus and across Canada in WCGS activities
 - a. increase active membership (at UW and elsewhere)
MB: researchers need some incentives to be involved in the Centre, what could that look like? Should think of benefits of membership to researchers
-JS: visiting scholars (office in 104b), opportunity for collaboration in workshops
GB: networking events? (brown bag lunch for Centre members? - once a month community meeting even for academics - grad students)
-Research/Writing Café/Salon (WCGS) - GB: off campus? JS: UW club etc
- GB: Long term goal of a physical space for the Centre?
 - b. JS: suggestion provide access to Zoom videoconferencing for any colleague needing to collaborate at a distance



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Germanstudies

c. German Studies Ideas Lab (Role of Imagination Workshop - Alice
Experiment Symposium) - Js: would like to see this as a yearly
event -Again overall agreement to ideas mentioned.

d. Financial Statement

e. Appendices (Grimm lectures; events listing - 90+!; Scholarship winners; Academic colleagues)