

Report of the Board of Directors' Meeting and of the 2010 Annual General Assembly Meeting of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

President's Address

In her address to the General Assembly members meeting in Ottawa on March 27-28, 2010, Federation President Noreen Golfman reflected on the work of the researcher in the larger context of the community. In her view, the Federation is the place to be thinking about citizenship over careerism and about what researchers can share and give back to their community. Specifically, she examined the Federation's role in promoting a sense of collective purpose, encouraging researchers to get beyond what Donald Hall in his *The Academic Community: A Manual for Change* calls the academic self, and think more generously about belonging to an intellectual community.

As current research models often urge scientific and technological solutions to global challenges, Dr. Golfman reminded the audience of the importance for the sciences and humanities research not to be seen as somehow marginal to or parallel to new funding models, but essential to them.

Dr. Golfman also reported on the Federation's advocacy activities in preparation and in response to the 2010 federal budget. Key activities of the past year included meetings with the Minister of Finance, the Minister of State (Science and Technology), opposition members and senior government representatives with the Prime Minister's Office, the Privy Council Office, and Industry Canada. The Federation also submitted a pre-budget brief and was invited to present to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.

Finally she thanked departing members of the Executive Committee—Nathalie Des Rosiers, Jim Frideres and Deborah Poff—and welcomed the Federation's new Executive Director, Jean-Marc Mangin.

Appointments to the Board

Graham Carr, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies for the Faculty of Arts and Science at Concordia University, was appointed Federation President Elect. He will begin his two-year term as Federation president in March 2011.

The Federation has also appointed a suite of new directors to the Board:

Association representatives

- Small Associations: Michael Eberle-Sinatra (Université de Montréal) for the Society for Digital Humanities
- Medium Associations: Keith Archer (University of Calgary) for the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education
- Large Associations: Tony Porter (McMaster University) for the Canadian Political Science Association
- Large Associations: Heather Murray (University of Toronto) for the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English

Institutional representatives

- Denis Gagnon (Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface)
- Caroline Sénécal (Université Laval)

In addition, David Mitchell (University of Calgary) joins the Federation Executive as Vice-President Development.

New Members Strengthen the Federation's Voice

Federation's General Assembly accepted applications from three new members, strengthening the Federation's voice to 72 scholarly associations. The Federation is pleased to welcome:

- **Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies**
CALACS exists to promote academic research on Latin America and the Caribbean and to facilitate the exchange of information among Latin Americanists and Caribbeanists.
- **Hungarian Studies Association of Canada**
HSAC works to promote cultural and educational activities and research concerned with Hungarian studies and to stimulate public awareness of Hungarian culture, history and current affairs, with an emphasis on the Canadian context.
- **Canadian Asian Studies Association**
CASA is a national voluntary, non-profit organization that seeks to expand and disseminate knowledge about Asia in Canada.

Vice Presidents' Reports

Research Policy

Vice-President Karen Grant reported on the activities of the portfolio:

Copyright: In July 2009, the federal government invited interested members of the research community and Canadians in general to participate in a consultation on copyright. The consultation period concluded in early September. Under the leadership of Laura Murray (Queen's University), the copyright committee prepared a [CFHSS position statement](#), and encouraged member organizations to participate in the consultation process. The Federation's key recommendations are:

- making "fair dealing" more clear and flexible such that it does not impede teaching, learning and research at Canadian universities and colleges;
- outlawing digital locks (i.e., digital rights management or DRM) if breaking the locks is for infringing purposes; and
- avoiding exceptions that would significantly disadvantage the CFHSS community in its educational work (e.g., digital interlibrary loan and educational use of the internet).

Research integrity: In 2006, the CFHSS joined a number of other stakeholder organizations to support the creation of the Canadian Research Integrity Committee (CRIC). The mandate of the committee is to preserve the integrity of scientific research in Canada and the international community by directly and indirectly assisting scientists, researchers and organizations deter the occurrence of research misconduct as well as providing a means to resolve such issues should they arise.

In fall 2009, CRIC members reviewed a commissioned study on the state of research integrity and misconduct policies that included an environmental scan of relevant policies and practices in Canada and other countries. The purpose of the study was to determine the prevalence of research misconduct, and discuss how well Canada's research integrity "system" works. Options for handling research integrity are being explored. Members of the CRIC will conduct consultations within their communities and the Federation will be preparing a response to the commissioned report.

Research Dissemination

In his report, Vice-President Research Dissemination Christian Vandendorpe highlighted significant progress since the Budapest Open Access Initiative in 2002. Four years later, in 2006, the Federation adopted a policy position in favour of open access. Today, there appears to be a growing consensus on this issue but much remains to be done on the implementation side.

Dr. Vandendorpe presented two possible approaches: Green Open Access and the Golden Path. Green Open Access consists of auto-archiving articles in open archives usually managed by institutions. This approach is seen by many as the most efficient and most economical. In Canada, several universities have put in place a website as an institutional depository for articles from faculty and for theses.¹ For this model to be effective, it is not simply a matter of dedicating a server and personnel, but policies are needed so that all research publications are posted there.

The Golden Path consists in paying journals for the publication of open access articles. Given that there are costs to publishing a journal, there is a need to determine who is responsible for these costs. Possible funding models include subscriptions where subscribers receive access upon the journal's publication and non-subscribers can only have access after a period generally extending from 6 to 18 months; article publication fees paid either by the researchers or the institutions; or global funding allocated through a granting agency.

Open Access at Congress. A number of events at Congress will provide opportunities to further discuss the issue and mobilize the stakeholder community:

- May 27: Closed workshop organized by CALJ/ACRS on the theme "Social Sciences and Humanities Research as a Public Good."
- May 28: Technology and the Book – A Big thinking event featuring Robert Darnton (Harvard).
- May 31: Panel "The Age of Open Access: New paradigm for universities and their researchers / Le Libre accès : un nouveau paradigme pour les chercheurs et les universités" (in partnership with Concordia)
- June 2: Panel "Open Access in the Developing World" (in partnership with CARL/ABRC/Concordia)
- June 2: "Open Access" reception organized by the Head Librarian at Concordia.

Equity Issues

In her report, Vice-President Equity Issues Malinda Smith mentioned that the activities of the past year took place within the context of several significant challenges, anniversaries and priorities. First, the Equity Matters Blog was launched on 8 January 2010 with a first post, "Equity (Still) Matters," from Malinda Smith, Vice-President Equity. This online conversation on the Fedcan Blog has to-date posted over two dozen entries by scholars from over a dozen universities in almost every region in Canada.

¹ Athabaska, Calgary, Queen's, UBC, Simon Fraser, Dalhousie, Toronto, McGill, Carleton, Uvic, Guelph, Ottawa, Memorial, Concordia, etc.

Second, activities planned for Congress 2010 at Concordia University are framed around the 40th anniversary of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, led by Florence Bayard Bird. This focus on the RCSW provides opportunities for thoughtful dialogue beyond exploring the status of women 40 years later, as well as the chance to ask the question: *Where do we go from here?* There will be four Equity Issues panels and one keynote address at Congress 2010. The panels will focus on a range of issues, from the status of women in Canada to pay equity, and from local-global issues to the status of Aboriginal women in Canada. As well, keynote speaker Donna Brazile will explore “Women and Leadership in the Age of Obama.”

Finally, one of the main priorities identified by the VP Equity is the issue of mentoring, which is one of the great social innovations and contributions of the humanities and social sciences. The March 2010 General Assembly Equity Issues plenary focused on Mentoring Matters in the social science and humanities community and laid the ground work for the portfolio’s future activities.

Congress Update

Dr. Ronald Rudin, Academic Convenor for Congress 2010, spoke about the upcoming Congress at Concordia University in Montreal (May 28 to June 4). The university and the Federation are preparing to host what is sure to be one of the largest Congresses in recent history with an estimated attendance of over 8,000. Dr. Rudin spoke about the exciting line-up of speakers for the *Big Thinking* events at Congress, hosted in partnership with the Federation, which includes public intellectuals and scholars such as Donna Brazile, Dr. Robert Darnton, Nancy Huston and Mark Kingwell. He also revealed the university’s plans to host a series of events and activities to highlight their creativity and build upon the theme of *Connected Understanding/le savoir branché*. Among many activities, they will stage a day of programming focused on Human Rights, a dynamic interactive display of Concordia research and a series of films on Montreal.

Aid to Scholarly Publications Program

The mandate of Jim Frideres (University of Calgary) as Chair of the Management Board of the Aid to Scholarly Publication Program ended at the 2010 Annual General Assembly. Stephen Slemon (University of Alberta) was appointed as the new Chair.

Presentation by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Addressing the participants at the Annual General Assembly, CIHR President Alain Beaudet highlighted the need for the SSH community to seize the opportunities that exist within the granting agency. At present, many CIHR programs remain undersubscribed to by the SSH community, offering many unused opportunities for collaboration. He also reiterated that funding proposals put forward by SSH researchers are reviewed by their peers from their own fields.

SSHRC’s Program Architecture Renewal

SSHRC’s Gisèle Yasmeen, Vice-President Partnerships, and Brent Herbert-Copley, Vice-President Grants and Scholarships, presented an overview of the proposed changes to the SSHRC program architecture. The presentation was an opportunity to seek feedback from the community. Key issues identified by AGM participants included grant size and term, the need for new criteria to determine track record of new vs. established researchers, and proposed thematic priorities.

Association Renewal System Presentation

Interested associations were invited to a presentation of a new tool developed by the Federation in response to several requests by associations for assistance with their membership renewal. Marie-Paule Ravary, Federation's Director of Corporate Services, and Michel Duquet, Executive Coordinator of the Canadian Historical Association (CHA), presented a new tool to assist associations with their membership renewal. Both the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English and CHA were thanked for their participation in the pilot project and their assistance with the development. The Association Renewal Tool is available to all members of the Federation on an annual fee basis.

Plenary sessions

Much Ado About Mentoring – Organized by the Federation's Vice-President (Equity Issues), the session aimed to define what is mentoring and to examine possibilities of mentoring for graduate students, post-doc, new scholars and mid-career faculty. Among the many issues discussed: Is it possible for the mentor to learn from the mentee? How is it possible to provide mentorship to Aboriginal students given that there are so few Aboriginal faculty in universities and colleges? Given the diversity in Canadian society, how to ensure there are more people mentoring those in marginalized groups? How to balance the advice given to junior faculty with regards to advancement and tenure with the realities of university life?

Engaged Scholarship – The Federation's Vice-President (Research Policy) introduced the session designed to address the question: what is engaged scholarship and how should we evaluate that work? There is currently much discussion on this topic as indicated by the National Survey of Student Engagement. More than simply raising issues related to pedagogy and the role of the university in the community, engaged scholarship constitutes an evolutionary approach to academic practice. Costs associated with this work, the presence or absence of adequate infrastructure, incentives and awards. Engaged scholarship is rapidly emerging as a key issue for the future of the SSH community. In parallel to Congress on June 2, there will be a Knowledge Commons Summit at the Université du Québec à Montréal; the goal of the summit is to create a new space for dialogue amongst multiple knowledge partners regarding the role of knowledge and society.

Motion of support for the people of Haiti and Chile

Members of the General Assembly unanimously approved the following motion:

The 2010 earthquakes in Haiti and Chile had devastating impacts on the lives of millions of people. In their wake, the earthquakes left crumbled infrastructure, putting the nations' social, cultural and educational fabric under stress.

Canadians wholeheartedly supported the international relief effort and initiatives of the Canadian government and humanitarian organizations in sending significant resources to coordinate aid and provide assistance to affected communities.

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is calling upon our country's universities and colleges, researchers and scholars to join in the reconstruction efforts in Haiti and Chile by:

- collaborating with partners in government, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector;
- sharing knowledge and policy and administrative experiences in the areas of education, arts and culture, governance; and
- extending support to the Haitian and Chilean communities in Canada.