

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
ALA HEADQUARTERS, GENEVA, NY
OCTOBER 10, 2009**

The meeting began at 9:15

Present: Folabo Ajayi, President, Fahamisha P. Brown, Anne Carlson, Maureen Eke, Amy Elder, George Joseph, Mohamed Kamara, Lokangaka Losambe, Laura Murphy, Thelma Pinto, Abioseh Porter, Janice Spleth.

1. President's Opening Remarks

President Folabo Ajayi greeted everyone present, with special notice to the new EC member, and welcomed all to the meeting. She thanked Headquarters and the Women's Center for the lovely breakfast that had been provided.

2. Ratification of the Agenda

Ratification was moved, seconded, and the Agenda was ratified.

3. Ratification of the EC Minutes from the 2009 Vermont Conference

The Minutes were corrected, moved for ratification, seconded, and approved.

4. Tucson ALA, 2010

- A letter from Professor Irene D'Almeida expressing financial problems with funding the 2010 Conference was circulated to EC members.
She explained that she is having extreme difficulty raising the necessary \$10,000 to hold the Conference because of severe budget cuts at the University of Arizona.; no grant money is available for this purpose. Moreover, the administration informed her that it needed to be assured of the ALA's commitment to holding the conference by the organization's supplying some of the funding to hold it.

Discussion:

- Maureen, whose responsibility as Past President is to be liaison with the conference convener, verified that Irene had expressed the same dilemma to her in a recent phone conversation.
- Fahimisha raised some practical questions about where the conference stands at this point; she indicated that the EC needs more specific information. For instance, is there meeting space, and are there hotel rooms already arranged?
- Others agreed that before the ALA approves releasing any funds, under any circumstances, for the conference, the EC needs definite assurances that the conference is being planned and is going forward, for instance,

written commitments from the conference hotel. Irene has said she has received \$7,000 from other departments in support of the conference.

- Janice explained in detail how the West Virginia Conference was funded by her institution and provided information about cutting costs
- Maureen said that Irene reported she has tentatively reserved both bedrooms and meeting rooms at the Doubletree Hotel.

EC Decision:

Because of current, extraordinary economic circumstances, the ALA, as a one-time decision, will contribute funds not to exceed \$5,000 to expenses of the 2010 Conference at Tucson not covered by registration fees and additional fund raising.

It was also decided to ask for:

- a copy of the letter of support of the conference from the former Dean and any others that she was sent;
- a copy of the Double Tree contract with information about the number of rooms tentatively reserved.

An advertisement for the Conference must be on the ALA website by the end of this week. In solidarity with Irene, the EC is willing to aid her in preparations for the Conference.

A conference call was made then to Irene during which she explained:

- she has no firm letters of commitment yet;
- her Vice-President for Research said she would match whatever funds the Dean would provide, but Irene has not heard back yet from the Dean. She will look into whether the V-P would match the \$7,000 other departments have offered, even if the Dean refuses support and will ask if the V-P would match the \$5,000 the EC has agreed to provide. She agreed that a letter of support from the EC to her administrators should be very helpful;
- in her conversations with the management at the Double Tree, she has asked for accommodations for 200-250 guests, plus meeting rooms;
- the date set for the Conference is March 10th through 14th.
- she agreed to send all the e-mail about funding that she has sent and received to Folabo, Maureen, and George.
- She agreed to post the Call for Papers.

5. Matters Arising from the 2009 ALA in Vermont

- EC member Rasheed Na'Allah has become Vice-Chancellor of a University in Nigeria; therefore, he will send a proxy if he cannot attend EC meetings.
- Folabo wrote EC member Greg Thomas a friendly reminder of the need to come to meetings, send a proxy, or resign from the EC, but has not heard back from him. Consequently, she has written a letter informing him that he will be replaced.

6. Officers' Reports

A. Treasurer: Fahamisha Brown

- Fahamisha distributed a written report showing that the ALA has approximately \$27,000 in the bank plus the Endowment funds;
- she is working with Pay Pal to efficiently set up the dues account;
- soon, she will send out an e-mail to ALA members containing the correct address for dues payments and copies of the membership form.
- Life Membership has been raised to \$1,500.

The EC voted to accept the Treasurer's report and thanked Fahimisha for her work and for the smooth transition of the Treasurer's office from Tony Hurley.

B. Vice-President's Report: Janice Spleth

- Janice passed around the 2010 slate of candidates for Vice-President and EC membership;

For Vice-President:

Naana Banyiwa Horne
Lokangaka Losambe
Soraya Mekerta

For Executive Council:

Moradewun Adejunmobi
Kanika Batra
Carmela Garritano
Negash Ghirmai
Cilas Kemedijio
Aisha Lockridge
Patricia Jabbeh Wesley
Tejumola Olaniyan
Felicity Palmer

- she suggested that whoever receives the lowest number of votes should fill out the unexpired term of Greg Thomas.

Discussion:

It was decided that the Treasurer should check to make sure all the names on the list are ALA members.

The EC voted to accept the Vice-President's and thanked Janice for coming up with a fine slate of candidates.

C. *JALA* Editor's Report: Abioseh Porter

- Abioseh said that the new edition of the journal will be out in four-to-six weeks;
- he expressed gratitude for the smooth transition that Mark, the new Web Master, George, the new Headquarters Director, and Fahamisha, the new Treasurer has aided in assuring.

The EC voted to accept the *JALA* Editor's report and thanked Abioseh for his continuing efforts.

D. Headquarter Director's Report: George Joseph

- George announced that the Headquarters is receiving very good support from his university, for instance, free office space and \$300 worth of shelving provided for storage of ALA archives; also, there was no charge for space in the Art Department building to hold this ALA Retreat; with Africana Studies paying for breakfast and the ALA paying for lunch, the cost for the day came to \$30.00;
- Hobart and Smith College has made a five year commitment to house the ALA Headquarters;
- his secretary is revising the ALA membership list to make it more flexible;
- he mentioned the need to rethink the purpose and contents of the *Newsletter*

Discussion:

- It was suggested that the President write a letter of thanks to the Secretary of Smith Hall for her extremely valuable help;
- Because of some travel difficulties, it was suggested that we explore the possibility of hold subsequent fall retreats at one of the nearby towns that have airports;
- Practical considerations to consolidate the times of arrival, if we continue to meet in at Headquarters were further suggested.

The EC voted to accept the Headquarters Director's report and thanked George for his efforts that were making this meeting such a success.

7. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: Fahamisha

There was no report.

Discussion:

- The question was raised of a possible conflict of interest having the Treasurer also be Chair of the Finance Committee.
- Fahamisha agreed that the Committee needs to be reconstituted and that a member of the EC should become Chair. Oty agreed to finish Greg Thomas' term and, also, to be Chair of the Finance Committee.

The EC thanked Fahamisha for her work as Chair of the Finance Committee.

B. Issues Committee: Maureen

- The President will write a letter from the ALA to President Obama, the Secretary of State, the U.S. Under Secretary for African Affairs, The Congressional Black Caucus, and the U.S. Representative to the Congo concerning the upheavals in the Congo and in Tanzania; Maureen will write and send a letter concerning the situation in Guinea to the same recipients;
- The Issues Committee will present a panel on violence against women at the 2010 ALA Conference;
- in terms of future procedure, the EC agreed that the Issues Committee should do the research and present reports to the President, who should be responsible for writing letters on behalf of the ALA.

The EC accepted the report of the Issues Committee and thanks Maureen for her work.

C. Awards: Oty

- Graduate Student Award: Oty noted that, in the future, comments on the submitted essays should be provided by the Committee; she remarked that there is a need to reach out to all parts of African will calls for submissions;
- she added that we should bring up at the ALA Business Meeting in Tucson the issue of the importance of representing the ALA and its awards in various parts of Africa and the Caribbean;
- she will arrange for there to be a certificate awarded to members leaving the Awards Committee.

Discussion:

- It was reported that the President of the Graduate Student Caucus believes that the Graduate Student Award alternates yearly between Africa and the U.S.; the EC assured her that there never has been such a rule in place.
- Fonlon-Nichols Award: Oty said that it was possible for her institution to pay the airfare for someone coming from the continent who would speak there first and then go to the ALA for

the award ceremony; Irene should know that it is possible to negotiate for free rooms from the conference hotel for visiting speakers, which would benefit her financial situation; also, we do not need to have a candidate every year, especially in this current economic climate.

The EC voted to accept the report of the Awards Committee and thanked Oty for her efforts.

D. Travel Grants: Mohamed

- There was no report;
- However, Mohamed wished to revise the requirements on the TG application form;

Discussion:

- It was suggested using a standard recommendation form to streamline applications, and it was requested that a question to determine if the applicant had received the travel award before be added to the form; the EC voted to accept these changes to the application form.
- Another suggestions was that the grant to go to younger scholars who are, probably, more in need of funds than established scholars; the EC recommended that the Travel Grants and the Awards Committees discuss this issue and bring a recommendation to the EC in Tucson.

The EC accepted the Travel Grant report and thanked Mohamed for his recommendations.

LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon Session: The Meeting resumed at 2:00

Standing Committee Reports Cont.:

E. Publications: Janice Spleth and Anthonia Kalu

- Janice reported that the Vermont Annuals volume has received thirty submissions, plus texts of some of the major talks; Laka is planning to bring in editors to help make choices among the submissions;
- Rasheed has just received the submissions from the 2008 Macomb Conference, but he is progressing with that volume now that he has them;
- the Morgantown 2007 volume is almost ready to send to contributors for proofreading and editing; after this process, the essays will be sent to the Series Editor, Carrol Coates;

- she will get in touch with Mimi Mortimer to possibly merge the Morgantown and Boulder volumes and will also contact the hosts of the Ghana, Madison, and Egypt Conferences to see what progress is being made.

Discussion:

- The EC will contact Carrol Coates to see where he is in bringing out the volumes that are complete;
- It was recommended that we contact our 2011 convener early to inform him of the guidelines for publishing the papers;
- Anthonia should step down from being Co-Chair of the Publications Committee, since she is no longer on the EC; she could still be a member of the Committee, however;
- It was suggested that, because of the need for continuity, the Vice-President might not be the best person to be Chair of the Publications Committee; in response, it was moved that the Publications Committee should be chaired by the immediate Past-President, which would maintain continuity.

The EC voted to approve this change and recommended that George add this information to the duties of the Past-President in the Handbook.

F. Teaching and Research: Chiwengo

- Chiwengo was not present, and there was no report.

Discussion:

- Folabo will ask Chiwengo if she wishes to continue as Chair of this committee as well as inquire about the whereabouts of the taped interviews done at Vermont, which should be sent to Headquarters;
- the Chair of this Committee should work with the host of the annual meeting to plan two or more activities for teachers in the local community and to create teaching materials for them.

G. Publicity and Media Relations: Fahamisha

- Folabo reported that she is almost ready to send out publicity about the ALA to appropriate universities and journals;
- for publicity purposes, members of the EC should send information to her that demonstrates professional activity.

Discussion:

- It was recommended a notice on the web site about all members' accomplishments and further suggested that we select a committee to choose members for a 'speaker's list.'

The EC voted to accept the Publicity and Media Relations Report, and Fahamisha was thanked for her work.

8. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

A. Heritage: Debra Boyd

In her absence, Debra's report was summarized. She was given some funds to interview first generation ALA members with a target date for completion being the 35th anniversary conference.

The EC voted to accept the Report on the activities of the Heritage Committee.

B. Employment: Natasha Vaubel

Natasha was absent, and there was no report; the Secretary was instructed to contact Natasha and inquire about the activity of this committee.

9. Caucus Reports

A. WOCALA: Helen Chukwuma

Helen was absent, and there was no report.

Discussion:

- It was recommended that the EC look at the language in the *Handbook* in view of revising it to insure equal treatment of all caucuses; this should be done before the next EC meeting in Tucson; Janice volunteered to work on the caucus guidelines and to work with the caucus Chairs to foster equal treatment.

B. Graduate Student: Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman ; report given by Laura

- We are collecting job advice and journal article publishing tips, and we plan to make these resources available on Facebook. We see this as an archive useful for future years as well, and we will have a handout of our collected material at the GSCALA meeting.
- We are posting (to our group page) the notes on the job talk advice session last year. We will have them up by November 1.
- We are contacting the African grad student association at AZ to see if the students have good tips for us to get cheaper housing or even to see if any are willing to host our grad students.
- We are creating a 'need a roommate for ALA' type list for students who may want to share hotel rooms in AZ.
- We are sending GSCALA invitations to other grad student associations and African students programs across the country and the world--especially Africa--to come to ALA and join us. We are waiting for the CFP at this point.
- We will begin to post open jobs in African and diasporic literatures on the Facebook page.

- We sent a GSCALA speaker suggestion to Irene D'Almeida for the ALA meeting. We passed on suggested name, cv, qualifications, etc. because of some issues with the speaker last year.
- We are planning a more dynamic meeting at GSCALA this year, so we are thinking of a new format and potential mentorship opportunities that can be established at this point.
- We are considering beginning a mentorship program which pairs graduate students with senior scholars who are willing to mentor them. This is in the planning stages, but we are super excited about these possibilities, especially for the women in the group.
- We would like to request another Graduate-centered session this coming year. In addition to a publication session, like the one provided two years ago in Macomb, we would love to see a second session on professional networking. We need advice on approaches to networking, talking to senior scholars, tips on seeking mentorship, the benefits of collaboration, but all in the context of the fields of African Literature and African Studies.
- We would like to request the standard meeting time for the GSCALA during the ALA.
- Our sincerest apologies for not being able to attend the executive council, and our sincere thanks to Laura Murphy for so kindly representing our progress report.

Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman delacr@ohio.edu 414-534-5076/740-249-4105

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The EC voted to accept the Report of the Graduate Student Caucus, and Laura was thanked for her presentation.

C. TRACALA: Wangui

- Wangui was ill and couldn't attend the Retreat but sent in her Report.

A. PRESIDENT (Wangui wa Goro , Also Deputy Vice President ALA)

The TRACALA executive was proud of our achievements in Vermont. Our membership grew and our luncheon with Professor Antony Kwame Appiah and poet Shailja Patel was hailed as a success. We owe our gratitude to Professor Lokangaka Losambe and his committee for his exemplary patience and the way in which he supported TRACALA initiatives. The TRACALA Executive felt that this was a very well organized conference.

Our membership grew and the quality of the papers was high. We received good feedback and had large audiences at the round tables and the panels (see below). We have started to work in close collaboration with Professor Irene d'Almeida towards Arizona.

The President's tasks this year have included:

- Developing TRACALA including the development of our framing document and directions proposals. We had an extensive discussion on the direction of TRACALA and adopted the Asmara Declaration as the framework of our work whilst encouraging translations, scholarship and research into and out of global languages. A large number of directional issues are emerging and may form the basis of exciting collaborations and developments of our organization in general and for our members in particular.
- Working closely with the Secretary and Treasurer to create a secure administrative and communication base for the organization to enable it to function smoothly as we grow.
- Continue to develop post launch organizational development and planning based on a range of proposals which have emerged.
- Working towards ALA 2010 by planning panels, the luncheon and readings:
 - 1) Proposed papers for two (1) roundtables and two (2) panels and 3) *Soundings in African Languages*
- Strengthening our collaborations with other caucuses and developing our membership base.
- Organizing the elections 2010.
- This year we have secured a round table as part of the Presidential Sessions at the MLA on the theme ***Translating Africa in Global contexts*** with three ALA/TRACALA members presenting. We are very proud of this achievement.
- Two TRACALA members have been elected to the ALA Executive including to the role of Deputy Vice President.

B. VICE PRESIDENT (Pam Smith)

- Worked with President, Secretary and Treasurer on organization's Administrative and communication base
- Worked specifically on amendment to the Constitution & Bylaws
- Worked with President and Secretary on details of Executive Committee Reports and Agenda preparation
- Worked with Treasurer on oversight of the TRACALA Account

- Worked with Treasurer to plan the details of the TRACALA panel on “Soundings in African Languages.”
- Working in close collaboration with Professor d’Almeida for the 2010 conference in Arizona

C. SECRETARY/THE SECRETARIAT (Tomi Adeaga – also ALA Executive Committee Member)

- Liaised with the President and the Executive to ensure and maintain smooth communication and functioning of the TRACALA executive
- Stepped up the membership drive again for this year.
- With President, continued to set up administrative/management systems including the:

□□□□□□□□ Website, now in development in conjunction with that of the ALA, and working with Mark Lilleleht to progress this in hopes of a link by the end of November, mid December 2009.

□□□□□□□□ Letterhead We will be working out details of our headquarters which will determine our letterhead details and how we manage our archives.

D. TREASURER/THE TREASURY: (Phanuel Egejuru)

- The TRACALA (interest-bearing checking) account at the METRO HEALTH FEDERAL CREDIT UNION in Omaha, Nebraska.
 - Opening balance (3/2008) = \$670.25
 - Deposits = 0.00
 - Interest to date = .86+
 - expenditures to date –
 - Checkbooks = 13.25-
 - **ENDING BALANCE = 657.00*** as at the Executive meeting in Vermont.

*We will be reporting fully ALA Executive meeting in Arizona. These figures reflect our last TRACALA Executive Meeting in Vermont

E. TRACALA-SPONSORED PANELS: Reports

ROUNDTABLE 1: Kenya: “Uandisage” in Post-Election Violence, Writing and Print Culture

Chair: Keguro Macharia, University of Maryland, College Park

Presenters:

Shailja Patel, 2009 African Guest Writer, Nordic Africa Institute
Wangui wa Goro, Visiting Scholar, University of Kwazulu Natal
Binyavanga Wainaina, Director, The Chinua Achebe Center for
African Literature and Languages, Bard College

* **Uandisage**: critical global African self literary writing/rapportage in conflict contexts

**term coined by Wangui wa Goro from *uandisagi* (Kiswahili) and *rapportage* (French)

During Kenya’s post-election violence from January to February 2008, creative and critical writers, activists, artists and intellectuals, wrote and published a significant body of multi-genre work. Writers produced work both singly and in collectives, such as the Concerned Kenyan Writers collective.

While the post-election violence took place in Kenya, writing on it has been published across continental Africa and in the broader African Diaspora. Writing appeared, or is forthcoming, in collections dedicated to the post-election violence, including Nigerian literary magazine *Farafina*, Kenya’s literary journal, *Kwani!*, and the pan-African online journal *Pambazuka*. Moreover, Articles by Kenyan writers and political activists appeared in print journalism across the continent, US-Africa media such as *Mshale*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, the *East African*, and *Africa Report*.

This panel addresses the theme of the conference by exploring how creative writers and artists drew on and re-formulated African cultural traditions within the context of globalized reporting. It focuses, especially, on the role of literature and literary practitioners in this diasporic “*uandisage*.”

PANEL 1 -- --“Readings/Recital in Mother Tongue African languages: ” – Phaniel Egejuru, Chair.

Participants: Akintunde Akinyemi, Kassahun Checole, Pam Smith, Phaniel Egejuru, Abdul Rasheed Na'Allah, Mbulelo Mzamane, Ghirmai Negash

Like most things that happened for Tracala at this ALA, the time slot for our panel was fortuitous -- on opening day, immediately following the Opening Ceremony and Soyinka Lecture! Readings

were given in Yoruba, Igbo, Krio, Hausa IsiZulu, Tigrinya, and Amharic to a large, enthusiastic and participatory crowd. Two performers- a Yoruba speaker and an Arabic speaker performed after the panel was opened to the audience. Wangui (joined by the audience) performed a song in Gikuyu. The greatest exciting innovation for the panel this year was having Papa Susso punctuate the performances with music performances. It worked so well, that the panel plans to "draft/ incorporate" his musical presentation as a staple of the panel.

PANEL 2 -- "The Task of Translating Linguistic Innovation in Postcolonial African Literatures"-- Peter Vakunta, Chair

This panel makes two claims, namely that postcolonial fictional writing in Africa is characterized by experimentation with language. It further maintains that in their attempt to transpose the worldview and imagination of indigenous peoples into European languages, African writers produce texts that demand of readers to be both bilingual and bicultural. Creative writing in multilingual contexts harbors wide-ranging ramifications for creative writers who tend to negotiate linguistic and cultural spaces in an attempt to infuse their works with the imagination and sensibilities of indigenous cultures. Indigenization is an effective cross-cultural communication tool that enables the writer to express the worldviews characteristic of native cultures. African writers often resort to code-switching to indigenize their works by interpolating not only the worldview but also the speech patterns of their people into European languages. In an attempt to transpose local speech mannerisms into European languages, these writers employ a variety of codes alternately. Postcolonial African novelists employ this device for a variety of purposes—linguistic appropriation, literary decolonization and representation of cultural memories. Recourse to linguistic innovation may pose translatability problems to a translator unfamiliar with the cultural specificities of the source text. This panel discusses the innovative usage of language in African literatures and the problems it may pose for the literary translator. Rather than interrogate the theories of translation, the panel seeks to bring new insights to the pragmatics of translation—ways in which the literary translator grapples with meaning discernment and rendition when faced with texts couched in indigenized and hybridized linguistic forms.

PANEL 3 – Panel: **Blackness, Gender, Feminism: Continuities and discontinuities in African, African Diaspora and New African Diaspora Aesthetics** – Panel Chair: **Wangui wa Goro (University of Kwazulu Natal, Visiting Scholar)**

PANELISTS

Dr. Patricia Jabbeh Wesley, Assistant Professor of English, Penn State University- Altoona

Title of Paper: "When Women Write Africa: An Examination of Gender Roles in Ama Atta Aidoo's *Dilemma of a Ghost* and Buchi Emecheta's *The Joys of Motherhood*"

Dr. Sandra Staton-Taiwo, Assistant Professor of English, Penn State University- York

Title of Paper: "The Old African Diaspora in Recent African American Literature: Afrocentric Motherhood as a Site of Power in Morrison's *Song of Solomon*"

Dr. Carol Blessing, Chair and Professor of English, Point Loma Nazarene University Title of Paper: "Exile and Maternal Loss in the Poems of Patricia Jabbeh Wesley"

Dr. Shailja Patel, Guest Writer, The Nordic Africa Institute

Title of Paper: "A Feminist Reframing Of Contemporary African Poetry"

Dr. Wangui wa Goro- (Chair of Panel)-Visiting Scholar University of Kwazulu Natal

Title of Paper: "Translating through the minefield: difference, indifference and Difference: aesthetics in Shailja Patel's *Migritude* and Zubeida Jaffer's *Love in the time for Treason*"

ABSTRACT:

African Diaspora writers by the very nature of their transplantation from their homelands have been plagued by the question of their blackness or not so blackness, by the issues of gender and gender equality or inequality, Feminism and/ or Womanism, and have through their aesthetics sought to find newer ways of exploring these new realities of their new humanness. These recent and old Diaspora African writers are very much in the center of a new, global Africa, an Africa without borders, bordered between the New and the old, the traditional Africa and the Diaspora Africa. Many of these writers must write within the framework of a new culture even while seeking to reconcile the old, disappearing homeland to their new worlds. Many must depend on memory to find that balance between the old reliable oral tradition and the new world. Whether they are of the earlier generation of African Diaspora writers, forced into Diaspora by slavery or of the new Diaspora, new-comer African or exiled African, the questions of womanhood, motherhood, Feminism and Womanism, Africaness and blackness against the backdrop of remembered oral tradition are at the heart of this group of African writers. They have not only survived exile or the Diaspora life, but have also found new ways of representing the new African in their new world as they know it. Theirs is a difficult balance that often results in the new and subtle tensions between how they see the world and how their fellow writers on the continent see the world.

Discussion:

- The EC feels that the immediate Past-President and the Policy Committee must communicate to Caucus Chairs that each Caucus is to be allowed the same numbers of panels and speakers. It was also mentioned that the EC needs to notify the Caucuses quickly that they will not be receiving supplemental funding for their speakers and activities at the ALA in Tucson.

The EC voted to accept the TRACALA Report and thanked Wangui in absentia.

D. Francophone: Samuel Zadi

- Samuel was absent; Anne Carlson sent in the report after the Retreat.
- Report: The Francophone Caucus' activities mainly focused on preparing for the 2010 conference that will take place in Arizona.

1. Invitation of a keynote speaker for the Francophone Caucus

The president of the Francophone Caucus has invited Professor Aliko Songolo from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to be its keynote speaker. Professor Songolo has agreed. The topic of this presentation will be related to the future of the teaching of Francophone African literature and culture in North America.

2. Expenses related to the Francophone Caucus Keynote Speaker

The president of the Francophone Caucus has contacted professor Irene D'Ameida (convener of the 2010 conference) and professor Omofolabo Ajayi (President of the ALA), and requested that all expenses related to the Francophone Caucus keynote speaker be paid by the ALA Executive Committee. The matter is under consideration.

3. Francophone sessions at the 2010 conference

The president of the Francophone Caucus contacted Professor Irene D'Ameida, Convener of the 2010 conference, and requested that no more than one francophone session be scheduled at the same time. In spite of the relative limited number of Francophone sessions at the Burlington conference, some of them were scheduled at the same time, which prevented them from being well attended, if attended at all.

4. Francophone Business Meeting Scheduling

The president of the Francophone Caucus contacted Professor Irene D'Ameida, Convener of the 2010 conference, and requested that the Francophone Business meeting be not scheduled at the

same with [sic] the ALA Executive meeting. This will allow members of the Caucus to attend both meetings. At the Burlington conference, both meetings were scheduled at the same time.

10. Reports on Upcoming ALA Conferences:

A. 2010, Tucson AZ: Irene D'Almeda

As has been indicated, Irene was absent but sent in her Report, which was examined and discussed during the morning session of the Retreat. Fahamisha will scrutinize the proposed contract with the Double Tree and contact Irene with information and suggestions.

C. 2011, Ohio University, Athens, OH: Ghirma Nagash

Ghirma was absent but sent a letter indicating his progress so far and indicating the need for a budget of \$80,000. He has received a \$10,000 grant so far to fund the Conference; the English Department is supplying money for the WOCALA speaker;

Discussion:

- The EC needs to be in early touch with Ghirma to let him know we are informed about his progress and grateful for his work so far but, also, to warn against unrealistic expectations of funding from the ALA;
- he should include the Graduate Student Caucus on the program by cutting some of the funding for the other Caucuses;
- Loka suggested that the ALA President go to the host's President at some point during the Conference and thank him/her for the institution's support; Janice said that she would be willing to write to a host university to suggest that she would be willing to visit and give a guest lecture in order to view the site pre-Conference. If possible, conveners should invite the ALA President to visit their campuses for such a dual purpose. Folabo will write to Nagash to suggest such a visit;
- the EC will give him until the end of November to send us the formal letters of support that we require with information about the amounts pledged.

D. 2012 & 2013

- There are no bids yet for these years;
- Oty will check on the possibility of holding one of them in Abuja, Nigeria;
- Maureen will contact Onokome at the University of Alberta to see if it could host one of those years;

- we should contact Ato Quayson at the U. of Toronto to see if he would consider hosting.

11. Ratification of the Business Minute Meetings from the Vermont Conference:

- The Business Meeting Minutes that were sent out were incomplete; Fahamisha will send out the missing pages for our ratification.

12. Assignment of Tasks:

Already listed.

13. Review of Committee Chairs and Memberships:

Already discussed.

14. Review of the 2009 Conference: Laka

- Laka passed out a report detailing all expenditures and revenue.

The EC thanked Laka for an excellent Conference and commended him for his hard work.

15. New Business:

- Janice asked if one of her responsibilities as Vice-President was to contact members to encourage them to present panels at ASA. She was told to encourage anyone who wished to attend ASA to do so and to present but reminded that the ALA no longer has a guaranteed place on the ASA Program.
- Mohamed asked about which ways information concerning the Travel Grants is promulgated; he was told that this information goes out on the ALA website and in the *Newsletter*.
- Tony Hurley and H. Adlai Murdoch were suggested for Auditors to report by the time of the 2010 ALA Conference.
- The three EC sponsored panels presented at the Vermont Conference will be made permanent features of our conferences; no EC panel should be scheduled for the first day of any conference

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.