Kentucky Philological Association Executive Meeting

October 5th, 2024

Eastern Kentucky University

Attendees:

David Powell – Executive Director

Tom Bragg – Program Director

Shayne Confer – Web Master

Jody Ballah – World Languages Representative

Christy Sulfridge – 2024 President

Erin Presley – Editor in Chief

Ryan Sergent – Payne – Secretary/ Treasurer

Conference 2025

* The conference will be held at Eastern Kentucky University. On March 7th – 8th.
* CFP will go out at the end of October. Submissions will take place on jot forms. Registration will open in November.
* Speaker & theme
  + Tom suggested the theme of “Collaboration(s)”. he shared that he felt this would open the door for author partnerships and panel discussions.
    - A vote was called, and the theme of “Collaboration” was passed.
  + David proposed Amy McCleese Nichols. She would be considered a more Rhetoric and Composition based choice and she has just published a book titled Rural Literacy Sponsorship.
  + David also suggested Tracy E. K’Meyer, author of Under the Greenwood Tree: A Celebration of Kentucky Shakespeare. She is a more literary based writer.
  + It was decided that Amy McCleese was our first choice.

Officers’ reports

* Executive Director
  + David opened the meeting stating that he was looking forward to the upcoming conference but there were a few long-term issues that he felt the committee needed to focus on.
    - One of the issues we are facing currently is finding spaces to host the conference. This year it was proposed that we hold the conference at WKU, and talks dissolved before an agreement could be made. The possibility of holing it at a state park was also tossed around. We finally found a place with EKU.
  + He also mentioned that he was looking for someone who could replace him as executive director since he has taken a new position at Union Commonwealth University.
  + David proposed that Keren Taylor receive Emeritus status. A vote was called, and it was passed.
* Treasure/Web Master
  + Ryan will take over full control as treasure at the conference in March of 2025. Shayne is still currently in control of the finances and bank account. He and Ryan are working together to transfer control to Ryan before the 2025 conference.
  + Shayne proposed that an online banking account be set up so that Ryan has easy access since there is not a branch within a reasonable distance.
  + Balances
    - There is $5200 in checking and a little over $7000 in savings.
      * Shayne feels that we need to find a way to spend the money. A discussion ensued about paying for spaces for the conference and how that will affect both where the conference is held and our money situation in the coming years.
  + Payments:
    - KPA owes Crag Stephens $100 from last year’s conference.
    - There will be a charge for renting the space at EKU for the 2025 Conference. It will cost about $700 for the banquet space and the auditorium for the plenary. This is currently an estimate because the English department at EKU will be pitching in to help cover the cost.
  + Shayne shared that he and Craig have worked together over the past year to ensure that Shayne was well trained on the processes for running the technological side of KPA. It was agreed upon that everything would stay as Craig set it up until after the spring conference. Conversations on possible changes can begin after the Spring 2025 conference.
  + Shayne proposed that an Executive email account be created for important things such as renewals of accounts and other essential processes to running the conference. This account will have Shayne and one other member of the executive committee on it.
  + Shayne stated that Craig felt like the largest part of the job as webmaster is setting up the banquet and lunch options on the website.
  + Shayne has a copy of the new bylaws and will begin the process of taking down the old once and replacing them with the ones passed at the 2024 business meeting.
* Editor in Chief
  + The current KPR issue is still in progress. Erin has been working with Karen to complete the issue before the conference.
    - The final revisions for the current issue of the KPA on October 31st.
  + The upcoming issue only has 12 submissions. It was decided that the upcoming issue would be a double volume including submissions from the 2024 and 2025 conferences.
* Long Term
  + Participation from 2014 – present
    - The numbers of participants were at an all time high in 2015. The following year participation fell off and has continued a downward trend since. There was a large bump in 2023 but it came back down in 2024. Participation trends how that when the conference is held at larger institutions the participation level goes up. Since EKU has been a big contributor in the past, we are hoping for a good turn out this year.
    - In the past public institutions have contributed the most to participation but they have switched places, and we are seeing higher turn outs from private institutions.
    - Davis asked for suggestions to help grow engagement.
      * Advertise the graduate student prize more and encourage grad students to participate.
      * Grow a social media presence that would allow others to see the CFP in situations outside of academic institutions. Shayne volunteered to begin working on this.
      * Eric said that she would send the CFP to the Kentucky Humanities Consortium based out of Louisville.
      * David suggests getting schools from the western side of the state to participate.