

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA

April 05, 2001: 07:00-09:00 A. M.

Present: Carole Boyce Davies (P), Kandjoura Dramé (VP), Richard Priebe (PP), Bob Cancel, Abioseh Porter, Kapanga Kasongo, Michelle Rice-Maximin, Sonia Lee, Keiko Kusumose, Thyzine Jita Allan, JoAnne Cornwell, Baana Banyina Home, John Conteh-Morgan, Joyce Hope Scott, Sonia Lee, Maureen Eke [proxy for Helen Mutambji].

The President called the meeting at 7:20 A. M. The agenda was presented.

1. On the issue with Indiana, it was suggested to see this in relation with the current set up. There is also the problem.

Agenda:

1. *Adoption of Agenda.*
2. *Ratification of Minutes*
3. *President's Welcome and Update*
4. *Treasurer's report*
5. *Convener's preliminary report*
6. *Annual Report*
7. *Adhoc Committees*
8. *New Business.*

1. **Discussion and Adoption of the agenda:** The agenda was adopted by unanimous vote.

2. **Discussion and Adoption of Minutes:** The minutes were adopted by unanimous vote.

3. **President's Welcome and Update:** Boyce Davies thanked the Richmond conference conveners (Priebe and Tremaine), praising the good organization of the whole conference. She also underlined the fact that the association had to move to the level of a professional organization according to its size and its goals. To advance ALA communications: A new free standing ALA website has been created. She welcomed continuing and incoming members to a series of executive meetings.

4. Report.

1. **ALA Headquarters,** JoAnne Cornwell. Two graduate students assist the Director. The first year will show if the direction anticipated will evolve according to predictions, namely to see that the French Graduate program serves as an extension of the headquarters. She thanked Anne Adams for her advice and extensive help. As far as needs are concerned, the headquarters needs a fax machine. The truckload of books has not arrived yet. She does not yet know the full content of the archives and what it will involve in terms of management. The election organization went on smoothly. Cornwell believes that the headquarters is set to be more project-oriented. She would like to develop a WebPage to that effect.

The headquarters would like to develop a newsletter inspired by the bulletin. The design would be to produce information meant for local communities (K-12 audience) as a tool to market the organization and the teaching of African literature in high schools. She will look at the stationery and its designs so that thing look uniform.

Cornwell also talked about the archives. They consist of all the correspondence, what Steve Arnold or Abioseh might have, the *Bulletins*, issues of *Research in African Literatures*, and other publications that stemmed out of conferences. Concerted effort should be made to bring all these together. All is catalogued in terms of number not in terms of content. The President suggested that all the ALA holdings should be brought under the same site. Porter received boxes from Steve Arnold and after sorting will send to the headquarters. Space will require some outside storage and the ALA should take the financial responsibility because Cornwell does not have such an agreement with San Diego State University. In the case of Anne Adams, her department used to foot the bill. Priebe suggested a linkage between headquarters and conference sites in the running of a professional organization. Lee asked if it would be cheaper to put it in electronic form as a way to resolve the storage issue. It is a need for a long-term future. As we grow, we may have to think of a separate archives site. We could also think of constituting an archive in a broader sense such as photo archive. Bob Cancel suggested that he could check with his institution how to find a solution. Putting archives in electronic form will not entirely solve the problem. Nevertheless, it will be a way to make them available to a wider public.

Questions were asked about the newsletter that might overlap with the bulletin. It was suggested that the headquarters could produce a membership flier and a

newsletter as the Francophone caucus is doing for its members. The motion by Tuzlyne Allan and seconded by Horne to adopt the report was adopted.

2. ALA Bulletin Outreach. Abioseh Porter told the council that the website is having ripple effects and raising wide interests in the association. Projects of significance can be linked or mirrored from the website. All issues of the bulletin are both in paper and electronic forms. As next step, Porter plans to have bibliographical information on the main speakers posted on the site. Scott's motion seconded by Cancel that the President send a letter to the Drexel administration to express our appreciation for the way Porter is maintaining the bulletin was unanimously adopted.

3. Vice-President on Elections. Kandjioura Dramé thanked JoAnne Cornwell and Bob Cancel for the smooth organization of the elections. Ballots were received (133 responses) as of last Sunday before tallying. A member of the association (Tedy Ania) attended in the tallying. For the VP: Deborah Boyd 62; Elisabeth Boyi 69. Executive members: Laoye 60, Koffi 61, Huma 60, Kom, 72; Palmer, 82. The council noted that there was a drop in voting. For this turn, Cornwell reminded the council that only paid members could vote. Dramé also reminded the fact that it is difficult to have people to run for office. The motion (Priebe seconded by Allan) to accept the election results and destroy ballots passed by unanimous vote.

4. Treasurer's Report, Bob Cancel. The treasurer assured the council that the association is financially sound. Endowments yielded some dividends. The association as 417 paid up members. Some people would like to join the association by email and should be able to do so very soon. As far as our link with Research African Literatures in concerned, some issues are sent to African universities and the subscription by members is going very well. Two members should do the audit. The motion (Horne, seconded by Sonia Lee) to accept the report passed pending the audit.

5. Conveners, Richard Priebe. The ALA Conference was linked with the French Films Festival. Laurent Chevallier's movie *L'Enfant noir* was broadcast on PBS. Priebe asked the executive council to write the California Newsreel urging them to buy the rights to distribute the movie. The registration to the conference was slow at the beginning, but picked up later.

The President adjourned the meeting at 8:30 A. M.

PENDING ACTIONS.

1. The President will send a letter to the Drexel administration to express the appreciation of the association for the way Abioseh is maintaining the ALA Bulletin.

2. It was moved to accept the election results and destroy the ballots.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

OWNI HOTEL, RICHMOND, VA

April 06, 2001: 07:00 A. M.-09:00 A. M.

Present: Carole Boyce Davies (P), Kandjioura Dramé (VP), Richard Priebe (PP), Bob Cancel, Abioseh Porter, Kapanga Kasongo, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Sonia Lee, Keiko Kusumose, Tuzlyne Jita Allan, JoAnne Cornwell, Baana Banyina Horne, Kapanga Kasongo, John Conleh-Morgan, Anne Adams, Joyce Hope Scott, Sonia Lee, Maureen Eke [proxy for Helen Mugambli], Eddis Makward, Faiza Shereen, Lesley Marx, Hal Wylie].

Carole Boyce Davies, the President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 A. M.

1) ALA Annals : Wylie made a presentation of the state of the annals. Cancel= motion to accept the motion was seconded by Dramé was carried.

2) **Hosting ALA Conferences abroad :** the council examined the Guidelines of the draft that Carole Boyce Davies had circulated among members at the meeting in Nashville last November. Since that time on, she worked and consulted with people who have experience in the matter. There are a few thorny issues namely travel, documentation, and facilities. The draft was to be discussed upon and adopted by the General Assembly. Allan raised the question about the financial section of the draft. Priebe suggested that there should be some flexibility as some institutions might be better off than others. One suggestion was to earmark \$ 5,000 for abroad conferences that would go to the host institution to start planning for the conference. We could set aside \$2000 every year for helping institutions abroad. Porter suggested that we should keep consistency in our practice. Past experiences have shown that some time recourse to financial resources might be needed. Sometimes, visit to the host site may prove necessary in order to see what is going on and give suggestions as to the ways to do things. Guidelines will be established. Allan suggested that this money should be used along a need-based formula as spelt out by the host institution. Some of the needs include necessary travel across Africa, grant writing, printing costs, inviting local speakers. Provisions are to be set to identify some of the items. The money

would not be used by US-based co-conveners. The host institution may apply for a grant to the maximum of \$5 000 with a budget and accountability for reporting. (Handbook, p. 23). Priebe's motion seconded by Scott to accept the guidelines as an executive motion pending some revisions was carried.

3) Future conferences.

Bid for Alexandria, Edris Makward and FaizaShereen. Edris underlines the fact any ALA conference cannot be organized without proper support at the site. Faiza made a presentation of Alexandria stressing its historical importance, the reputation of its 3rd century library, the UNESCO-sponsored construction of a library soon to be inaugurated soon and the archeological importance of the city. In support, the university of Dayton has bid 40,000. Shereen informed the council that she had received a letter of invitation of the governor, support of the liaison of the university of Alexandria the department of English, with the new director of the Alexandria library who confirmed invitation to hold functions at the library; she would work on travel accommodations with an agent. The estimates travel cost will range from \$ 700 (Egypt Air) and \$ 800 (Delta). Accommodations will be reserved at three hotels: The Sheraton, Hotel El-Salamlek situated on the royal grounds, and The Palestine Hotel all at a reasonable rate. Sight seeing and travels will also be arranged. Alexandria sites; Cairo : visit can precede the meeting. Most favorable time would be Mid-March around Spring Break or Easter because of the climate and the period of low season.

South Africa. Cape Town. Richard Priebe & Lesley Marx. The Vice-Chancellor was supposed to be present, but could not. Lesley Marx, the South African representative, is in residence at Harvard University. Priebe's VCU would be the co-host and his dean was ready with \$ 7,000 and the support of the English department. Ms. Marx wishes to organize the conference in 2003. There is interest in African studies and literature. She has the unanimous support from the English department, the African Gender Institute, the department of Linguistics and African Languages, the History Department, the Social Anthropology department with the focus on film making, the University itself and the University of Western Cape.

Asmara, Eritrea. Chicole. Chicole talked about the possibility of organizing the ALA annual conference in Asmara. The country has just witnessed the rise of a young film industry. Famous writers will be invited. He revealed that according to his information, the letters ought to be there. Yale University seems interested to be the US-based co-convenor, and that the airfare would range between \$US 900 to \$1,200.00. Best price will be with Omani Air.

The president adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Omnii Hotel, Richmond, VA

April 07, 2001: 07:00 A. M.-09:00 A. M.

Present: Carole Boyce Davies (P), Kandjioura Dramé (VP), Richard Priebe (PP), Bob Cancel, Abioseh Porter, Kapanga Kasongo, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Sonia Lee, Keiko Kusunose, Tuzyline Jita Allan, JoAnne Cornwell, Baana Banyina Home, John Conteh-Morgan, Joyce Hope Scott, Maureen Eke [proxy for Helen Mugambi], [Anne Adams, Fahamisha Brown, Oty Agbajoh-Iaoye, Georgia MacOates, Laura Loth].

Carole Boyce Davies, the President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 A. M.

1. San Diego, 2002 ALA Annual Conference. Bob Cancel said things were going well. There is a steering committee of about 15 people on campus. They have a \$40,000 chest and maybe \$ 20,000.00 more coming. Hotel arrangements are on track. Rooms will be expansive at \$129.00 for one or two occupants. Some events will be held downtown. The reception will take place on campus. The Somali community will be involved. The event for the Folon-Nichols Prize will take place at San Diego State. Among the most noted guests, Achebe and Hugh Masekele. Achebe will speak and will perform some activity with Heinemann. Along with Masekele, he will hold some function at the San Diego Museum. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary. Among the noted Speakers will figure Calixthe Beyala and Kamanu Braithwaite. The airport provides free transportation to downtown. A tour of the city may be arranged to sites such as the river front, the zoo, LaHoya University.

2. ALA 2003 bids: Alexandria, Egypt; Cape Town, South Africa; Asmara, Eritrea. The executive council members were asked to express their support to one of the three bids. The motion that the council support Alexandria (Sonia) seconded by Maureen Eke passed by unanimous vote. The issue of holding conferences back to back on the African continent was raised. The issue of holding conferences in June and July was raised and was not seen as an obstacle. The motion to support Capetown, South Africa for 2004 was defeated. The University of Wisconsin-Madison seems interested in hosting a conference in the future.

3. Ad Hoc report. Scott and Dramé gave a report on partnership with African universities. They envisioned the following programs within a new structure: a) faculty and student exchanges; b) short-term onsite Professional development@ seminars c) (see draft). The ALA would act as an expertize and resource body

(not to supplant institutions). The financial issue was discussed. The ALA might serve as a tool to smoothen and facilitate the collaboration between institutions. It was suggested to keep a permanent sub-committee to oversee these activities. This could be built in the structure of the ALA. The motion to accept the report passed unanimously.

4. ALA Publication Projects, from Kandjiwra Dramé. The importance of the association has reached a stage where we ought to contemplate publications of our own. The committee was in charge to study the issue. The association could initiate a series of books or articles in the area of translation. Some rare texts could be translated into some commonly used languages. Other suggestion was to create a journal. The ALA can do its own work and the production, but as the process to for a book runs in the range of \$8,000-\$11,000.00, the prospect of a journal seems cheaper. The solution to do series seems feasible because it could be done with another publisher or in cooperation with a University Press at early stage until the publication gets stronger. The ALA needs to have its own editorial board, its policies, structures in producing the work either as books or journals. To the question to see his home institution initiate such a project, Dramé's response was that UVA has an editorial board with its own policy which it may not be willing to bend. He urged all the executive members to examine other University presses for such a venture. Cancel's motion to accept the report, seconded by Rice-Maximin passed unanimously.

5. ALA Awards: A new draft was circulated. (included). The council discussed the points presented. Dramé's motion to accept the report, seconded by John Conteh-Morgan was accepted by unanimous vote.

6. Africa World Press. Bob Cancel reported that royalties for the last two years have not been received from AWP. The letter from AWP was circulated among the executive council members. According to Chicole, due to the rising cost of production, AWP needs financial support. Before, library orders of 30% in hardbacks of the total would balance off the financing of paperbacks. The production of hardbacks has been scaled back to 100 and 600 paperbacks (from 1,000) since libraries' orders are mostly in paperback. The Annuals take more time to sell by comparison with books that sell in 24 months. If articles are arranged thematically, the interest in the issue will likely be enhanced. The idea of transferring owed royalties to AWP as an advance for the next annuals seemed acceptable to the council. The council debated ways for encouraging members to purchase annuals. It was the feeling of AWP and council members that the idea of including the annual as part of the registration could greatly help. However, the issue was

tabled for the next executive meeting. On the question of arrears, the fact that the balance owed is still about \$ 5,000 is due to two seasons. AWP wanted to pay \$500 a month as a way out.

7. WOCALA: Agbajoh-Laoye & Faminsha Brown. The caucus is not exclusively reserved to women or women issues, but deals rather with gender issues and, therefore, is open to all without restriction. At the Richmond conference, one roundtable and one panel were organized by WACOLA when there were four panels last year in Lawrence, KS. Since WOCOLA means to encourage dealing with gender issues and remains open to all, the members requested flexibility in the organization of panels at future ALA conferences. The caucus is doing well since the membership has doubled from last year's number. The 2002 WOCALA Caucus speakers might include Edwidge Danticat, Sindive, Magona, Micerere Mugo, Tess Orweme, Judith Ortiz Coler.

8. Graduate student caucus [Georgia MacOates, Howard University, Laura Loth, the University of Minnesota]. The representative reiterated some of the concerns raised at the Lawrence, KS, conference, namely the travel fund issue. They request that one outstanding presentation at each ALA conference be included in the Annual. At the conference, there were ten graduate students attending. They also raised the issue of having a graduate student on the council. This year's result is remarkable in their participation to the Richmond conference: two roundtables and a panel. The caucus would like a third roundtable for works in progress. It is seeking help from the ALA for those in search of jobs at the MLA. They will launch a recruitment campaign by writing to various universities and target students at the ASA. The President informed them that as a followup their request for a travel fund has been taken into account by the award committee.

The president adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A. M.

ACTIONS PENDING

1. As a result of the Ad Hoc committee's report on partnership with Africa, it is the council suggestion to keep a permanent sub-committee to oversee these activities.
2. Council members are urged to examine prospects of cooperation with other University presses.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

OMNI Hotel, Richmond, VA

April 08, 2001: 08:00 A. M. 09:30 A. M.

Present: Kandjoura Dramé (President), Carole Boyce Davies (PP), G. Oty Agboysh-Laoye [Proxy for Tuzyline Jita Allanj], Joyce Hope Scott, JoAnne Cornwell, Eustace Palmer; Bob Cancel, Abioseh Porter, Vincent Adamtten [for Baana Banyina Horne], Koffi Anyineta, Kapanga Kasongo, Bob Cancel..

New Business.

1. Relationship to Indiana University Press
2. Relationship to Africa World Press
3. Revisiting the 2-year presidential term.
4. New Editor for ALA Annuals
5. Other matters.

Kandjoura Dramé, the President, called the meeting to order at 8:15 A. m. He welcomed the new executive members : Eustace Palmer, Koffi Anyineta, and Ambrose Kom.

1. Indiana University Press is offering the association a special partnership whereby members will receive discounted prices for books with 10 % monthly commissions going to the ALA. This would be through the website. Bob Cancel provided the background of the offer from Kathryn Caras who often gives discounted prices for journals to ship to Africa, notably RAL issues. In examining the offer, executive members underlined the fact any deal ought not compromise the ALA's status as a non-profit organization. The council felt advisable that such a link or exposure be not exclusive to IUP, but rather lead to the creation of space where other publishers might be able to seek promotion should they express the desire. The association ought to be careful that the homepage does not become a commercial site. The council was by and large favorable to the idea and expect Bob Cancel to relate the general consent and the reservations expressed to Indiana University Press.

2. Africa World Press. The President told the council that Chicole's report seems to give a better view of the relationship between the ALA and AWP. If the idea of giving out the royalties to AWP is a good one, Bob Cancel the ALA

treasurer, said that in the long run the organization would not be financially capable to contribute \$ 3,000 every year. In fact, up to now, it is the convenors who are required to foot the bill for the publication of the annuals. There is a consensus among council members that the royalties owed by AWP to the ALA could be contributed to the next two annuals. It was moved and passed to accept Conteh-Morgan's suggestion that the royalties owed to the association be transferred as equivalent payment to AWP for the ALA contribution for the next two publications of the annuals.

The idea to require that members pay for the annual as part of the membership was also debated. So far, it will remain as an option on the registration form until the matter is brought to the floor of the next business meeting. However, the idea will be visited at the next ASA meeting in Houston.

3. Revisiting the 2-year presidency term. The President underlined the difficulty for a VP to recruit willing candidates for elections and the little time has as president to get familiar with the position. Among some of the solutions examined were a possible extension of the term to two years. For the sake of uniformity and efficiency, another suggestion floated was to make all the executive positions into two-year terms as it is the case of the secretary and the treasurer. This format is practiced in other similar professional organizations such as the ASA, the MLA Y The main difference is that these organizations have the advantage of a permanent secretariat.

4. Other matters. Ouseyoun Traore has expressed his desire to become the General Editor of the ALA Annuals. The council needs to hear Traore as it did Steven Belcher at the ASA meeting in Nashville last November. The secretary will send him a letter of invitation for the ASA meeting in Houston.

The President adjourned the meeting at 9:10 A. M.

ACTIONS PENDING

1. The treasurer, Bob Cancel, will inform Indiana University Press that the council was by and large favorable to the idea of mirroring its page on the ALA homepage. He will also echo the council's reservations and the opening up of the space to other publishers should they request space.

2. A motion was adopted to accept Conteh-Morgan's suggestion that the royalties owed to the association be transferred as equivalent payment for the ALA contribution for the next two publications of the annuals.

3. The secretary will send a letter to Ousseynou who has expressed his desire to become the General Editor of the annuals to an ALA executive meeting at the next ASA in Houston.

BUSINESS MEETING

Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA

April 07, 2001: 03:00 P. M. 05:00 P. M.

Present: Carole Boyce Davies (P), Kandjoura Dramé (VP), Richard Priebe (PP), Bob Cancel, Kapanga Kasongo (secretary), Ernest N. Emeryonu, Thomas A. Hale, Marcel Cornis-Pope, Lesley Marx, Louis Tremaine, Patricia Alden, Stephen Belcher, John Lemly, Igotima T. D. Amachree, G. Ory, Agbayoh-Laoye, Tuziyine Jita Allan, Maureen N. Eke, Naana Banyina Horne, Ngwatsungu Chiwengo, Edgard Coly, Juliana Okoh, Philip Noss, Bangasu Tarla Kishani, Angelva Reyes, Emmanuel Yewah, Christopher Wise, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Keiko Kusunose, George Joseph, Kristine Aurbakken, Raoul Grandvise, Karim Sagna, Thomas Law Philip, Suzanne H. MacRae, Ken Harrow, Chantal Kalisa, Alain Patrice Nganang, Karim Traore, Koffi Anyinefa, Tony Hurley, Janis A. Mayes, Renée LARRIER, Saline François, Kassahun Checole, Wangiri wa Goro, Steve Sharra, Laura Loth, Georgia MacOates, Elise Higgins, Dayna Oscherwitz, Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, Donald Morales, Onofolabu Ajayi-Soyinka, Moradewun Adejumo, Dale Byam, O. B. Traore, Lois S. Adams, Nesta Dlamini, Bede Ssensalo, Dan Gover, David Agun, Ezenwa Ohaeto, Niyi Osundare, Abioseh Porter, Ngandu Pius Nkashama, Losambe Lokongaka, Mungula Musoko, JoAnne Corwell, Mary Askar, K. Maéva Barnoin, Aliko Songolo, Eileen Julien, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Carole A. Beane, Richard Serranu, Bernadette Cailler, Edris Makward, Faiza Shareen, Odile Cazenave, Irène d'Almeida, Sonia Lee, Hal Wylie, Hélène T., Ambroise Kon, Joyce Hope Scott, Michèle Vialet, Guy Elder, Jonathan Ngaté, Christo Olson, Marie-Hélène Koffi-Tessio, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Roberta Hatcher, Sheikh Umar Kamarah, Eustace Palmer, Janice Spleth, Kadija George, Boubakary Diakite, Ada Uzomaka Azodo, John Conteh-Morgan, Ato Quayson, Kwaduo Osei-Nyawe, Jr., Kwawisi Rekepetey, Vincent O. Odanmtan, Esi Dogbe, Ann Armstrong Scaboro, Karim Traoré, F. Odu Balagun, Carmela Garritano, Pamela T. Smith, Phanael Egejuru, Leslie Campbell, Renée Schatterman, Hena Ahmad, Louise Allen Zale, Marjolijn de Jager

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P. M. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Ratification of Minutes of the Kansas meeting.
3. Business arising out of minutes
4. President's Report
5. Election Results and Motion to Destroy Ballots
6. New Business
7. Handing over to New President

The motion to accept the president's agenda passed by unanimous vote.

1. President's Report. Carole Boyce Davies went over what she had planned to accomplish during her tenure. 1. To advance ALA communications: A new free standing ALA website thanks to Abioseh Porter's great contribution. 2. Settle the ALA headquarters in moving the headquarters to San Diego thanks to JoAnne Cornwell. 3. Establish a framework for the partnership with African institutions. 4. Establish ties with organizations like the MLA and the ASA. 5. To revisit a two year-presidency. She thanked to colleagues and other past presidents who were women (Hill-Lubin, Adams, d'Almeida, Busia, Julien) and other past presidents especially Drayton, Makward, and Songolo. 6. She expressed her gratitude to the Richmond conveners (Louis Tremaine & Richard Priebe) for a job well done. 7. She thanked other colleagues for helping her in her duties. 8. She recognized Kandjoura Dramé's work and contribution in his position as Vice President.

2. Treasurer's report and auditor: Bob Cancel reported that the treasury is healthy. Figures are self-explanatory. The stock market allowed the association to make some money. He is exploring possibility to have credit cards. He encourages members to subscribe to RAL. He would like to send copies of RAL to African universities. Questions were asked about the multiple-year membership fee. Auditors were Anne Adams and Tony Hurley. The motion to accept the report was carried unanimously

3. ALA Annual Series: Hal Wylie is stepping down as editor. He reports that the situation is sound and the series is in good shape. He urged members to buy annuals when they come out. The 1994 series will come out in May. The 1999 and the 2000 issues are going well. The 1990 manuscripts are available. Anne Adams suggested that in order to encourage members to buy, there should be a page or an insert sheet for ordering the next one. The President urged the assembly to thank AWP for the work the publisher is doing in keeping the annuals current. Irène d'Almeida's motion to accept the report seconded by Sonia Lee was carried.

4. **Headquarters.** JoAnne Cornwell expressed her heartfelt thanks for the help Anne Adams gave her in the transfer of the headquarters from Cornell University, NY to San Diego State, CA. She confided the General Assembly that she has support from a graduate student. The job of the headquarters is changing with the bulletin going on line. The position is in transition. It could also serve as an outreach antenna to publicize the organization. Discussions on the archive is under way.

5. **The Committee Chairperson's Reports.**

a. **Ken Harrow (Human Rights)** : with the discussion of literature and Rwandan genocide, we could institutionalize human rights. Human Rights Watch documents cases of brutalities in the world and the greatest part occurred in Africa. Among the countries cited were Zimbabwe. Ken Harrow read the Resolution that the committee drafted. Questions were raised as to the criteria for the selection of countries and the time to call for a resolution. In the future, the committee will electronically remind the deadline for draft proposal. Questions about sensationalism of abuse of human rights were raised. Feeling was that the organization should adopt a pro-active stance. Abena suggested that the committee get the entire report. The committee would benefit in having a permanent link for feeding information from colleagues such as Mineike Schipper. The President asked if U.S. Human Rights violations as in the Diallo or Abu Jamal case are considered under Human Rights violations. The motion to accept the report passed.

Other countries: Burkina Fasso (Norbert Zongo), the resolution requests that justice be done. There is a case in Cameroon about a journalist. RD Congo: one journalist of *Le Phare* and one journalist of *Umoya*. Ethiopia. The motion to include all the other countries passed.

b. **Odile Cazenave** : Teaching and Research Committee. Some Interviews with major writers are already on videotapes. Writers sign release forms. Tapes are ready to go electronically on the net. She would like the collaboration with graduate students. The committee will make the lists available. Did the committee thought about non-ALA member institutions that would like to purchase these tapes? Anne Adams raised the question of language. We have to make sure to secure the materials so that no one does download them. We need archives.

C. **Constitutional Reform Committee:** Kandoura Dramé. Dramé listed the existing committees per Handbook. Publications Committee could do the following: the ALA should work more in enhancing the quality of publications, to set a series on translations, to foster relationships with publishers that may

include launching the association's own publishers. There is a need to update the handbook. For example, the conference committee is something that has proven useful in order to help the conference conveners. Questions were raised about the necessity to set up an updating Handbook committee. An Ad Hoc committee could do the job every three years. It may be useful to pair teaching with research. The outreach committee may have too much to handle. Publications as an umbrella committee would be too much for one to take. Human rights, outreach. It was moved and voted to table the issue pending the revised format of the proposed changes of the committee (pending matter to be dealt with by the incoming Vice President).

D. **Ad Hoc committees.**

1. **Guidelines for ALA Conference Abroad.** The President presented the guidelines to the General Assembly. Questions were raised concerning the lap of time between two conferences in Africa, about the sponsoring member. The President drew the assembly's attention on the \$5,000 grant that would be set aside for the organization of the conference in Africa. The motion to accept the draft was carried and the new ALA Guidelines for Conferences Abroad were to be placed in the ALA Bulletin and website.

2. **Partnership with African universities,** Joyce Hope Scott. She presented a draft for discussions. Florence Stratton drew the attention of the assembly that the Ford Foundation has earmarked funds for Ph. D. candidates from Africa. Other connections were suggested such as NASA. Eileen Julien suggested entering into relationship with other institutions because we are not a university. Working in this sense would enhance chances of success. The President requested that some of the members with good grant writing to meet as an ad hoc committee to examine how best to address the matter. The motion to table the issue passed.

3. **Awards Committee:** Micheline Rice-Maximin : there were questions on nomination for graduate student awards to be done by local organizers. Some clarifications of the language have been raised and ironed out. The motion to accept the report passed.

c. **Caucuses:**

1. **WOCCALA:** Oty Agbajoh-Laoye made the presentation. The year has been positive with good accomplishments. Male scholars working on women issues are encouraged to give proposals. Membership has doubled and more membership is encouraged. She acknowledged the work of Fahamisha Brown.

2. **Graduate Caucus:** Laura Loh, University of Minnesota thanked the council's

support. Next year, the caucus plans to organize three panels and one would be on the graduate students' work in progress. She urged the General Assembly to encourage students to join.

3. Francophone Caucus, Hyle. The caucus plans to organize panels for next year. Improving the *communication autour du baobab* is another goal. This year, the caucus sponsored the invitation to the conference of Ken Bugul. Janice Spleth has been elected as Vice President and will be P next year.

D. Election Results: Vice President: Elizabeth Mudingimbe-Boyi; Members: Ambroise Kom, Koffi Anyineffa, Eustace Palmer. Priebe's motion to destroy the ballots seconded by Davies was carried. There was an oversight for the election for the secretary and treasurer. The motion to let them continue for one more year passed by acclamation.

E. New Business.

1. ALA Richmond. Louis Tremaine. Registration showed that 450 participated in the conference; he gave thanks to many people in particular Patty Smith, a graduate student in Creative Writing. He invited members to help Bob Cancel for the San Diego conference.

2. 2002- San Diego. Bob Cancel told the General Assembly that conveners have a steering committee. They have raised \$40,000 and \$10,000 is coming. Information about the hotels will be posted. Hotels were somewhat more expensive. Graduate students will be in students' residence. Next month the committee will begin looking at everything very closely. Negotiations with speakers are going on: Achebe and Hugh Masekela will be there. Proposals for the conference do not have to wait until the last moment. The Somali community will be involved.

3. 2003: New Bids for Future ALA Conferences. There were three bids: Alexandria, Egypt, Capetown, South Africa, and Asmara, Eritrea. The executive council's choice is Alexandria because its bid was the most complete. Shereen and Makward made a slide presentation underlining the rationale for holding the conference in Alexandria. South Africa: Priebe stresses the possibility of holding the conference two times in Africa. Lesley Marx, at the invitation of a member, presented the University of Capetown's bid. She suggested that the bid would be presented next year. Asmara: Kassahoun Chicole presented briefly the idea. The motion to hold the conference in 2003 in Alexandria, Egypt passed by unanimous vote.

4. Announcements. The Flora Nwapa society: presented by Umeh Marie. Julien

mentioned that the Guadeloupe Annual had money and some of the money earmarked to produce the annual will go back to the ALA.

5. Other businesses: Ernest Emenyowu expressed disappointment over the humiliation experienced by colleagues in Africa to travel at the hands of the immigration service.

6. Handing over power to the new ALA president: Carole Boyce Davies passed the baton to the VP Kandoura Dramé. The President adjourned the meeting at 5:35 P. M.

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