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Chair's Report

Esther Katz

New York University

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Chair's Report

The work of CLAGS has been expanding and accelerating at such a rate that we find ourselves excited, but breathless. In an effort to systematize and regularize our procedures, we have adopted a set of by-laws that will govern our operation. In addition, we are happily benefiting from the infusion of creativity, commitment, and energy brought to our efforts by our talented new Board members. I am pleased to say we ended the academic year on an extremely positive note.

The fact remains, however, that as CLAGS continues to expand and its activities grow more diverse, we need to insure that this growth and expansion take place at a pace that is reasonable and in directions we select. It seemed to the Board that this was a good time for us to pause, get our bearings, and carefully consider the future. To this end the Board set a Long-Range Planning Committee to consider the next set of goals we want to pursue. Committee members include Martin Duberman, Jackie Goldsby, Esther Katz, David Kahn, Framji Minwalla, Ruthann Robson, and W. Kirk Wallace. The following are the outlines of some broad areas to which CLAGS hopes to direct its focus:

1. To encourage and support the production of lesbian and gay scholarship. This would be done by continuing to sponsor reference tools such as the Scholarly Directory that identify scholars and their work; raising funds to continue our program of grants and scholarships to scholars and students; expanding the role of CLAGS as a clearinghouse for information on lesbian/gay scholarship; and building networks of scholars working in this field.
2. To facilitate the sharing of lesbian/gay scholarship through the publication of anthologies and other formats; by continuing to present conferences and panels; and by encouraging the preservation, conservation, and accessibility of primary source materials.
3. To press for the acceptance of lesbian/gay studies as a recognized academic discipline and to promote graduate programs in the field.
4. To facilitate a reflective relationship between lesbian/gay studies and lesbian/gay communities. To this end we would want to expand and diversify our interrelationships with lesbian/gay community organizations.

The committee has presented this very generalized list to the full CLAGS Board as a series of talking points. We will now be getting down to the work of specifying and actualizing our future agenda. It is a process that will certainly be undertaken carefully and deliberately, and hopefully with the interest and involvement of you, our supporters. If you have ideas, thoughts, or suggestions on the directions in which CLAGS ought to be moving, we would welcome hearing from you. Join us on the next leg of this often bumpy, but always exhilarating ride.

Esther Katz

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