

## **CGSA Conference Meeting Notes: 2/11/07**

### ***Communities en Movimiento: Cultivating the Politics of Listening and Sharing***

**Location: Sirena Pellarolo's Phat Krib**

**Facilitator: Monica Valenzuela**

**Timekeeper and Harmony Keeper: Johnny Ramírez**

**Note-taker: Ruben Mendoza**

-We ate, then initiated meeting by passing the sage

-Monica read the points of unity from last meeting for review, then we established the agenda for this meeting.

-Briefly discussed issue of submitting revised Constitution for CGSA to AS. We decided to assign the task to a committee, which will provide a draft for review on the CGSA website by this Wednesday, February 14, 2007, before submitting to AS by the deadline of Friday, February 16, 2007.

#### **AGENDA**

1. Review Mission Statement
2. Establishing rubric
3. Develop calendar
4. Committee Breakouts
5. Recruitment
6. Workshops/Themes
7. Call for papers
8. Constitution for CGSA

#### **1. REVIEW MISSION STATEMENT**

-Tezo read statement out loud.

-Raúl expressed thanks for the general work of the group in producing this document and in establishing support between us as graduate students in the program.

-Consensus reached on approving the statement

#### **2. ESTABLISHING RUBRIC**

-Johnny: ensure that all submissions tie in with the themes of the conference.

-(Raúl questioned the name of the conference and proposed an alternative name; discussion followed.)

-Continued discussion of rubric

-Frank proposed looking at second paragraph of the Mission Statement as a guide for rubric.

-Some guidelines/general concepts to bring up, focus on, and/or reflect on:

-Consciousness raising

-Action Research

-Decolonizing Methodologies/Decolonizing the Academy

-Problematize the concept of activism (i.e., "What is 'activism'?" Some examination of this question)

-Experiential knowledge (to ensure we include those in our community who not be producing/exchanging knowledge within the parameters of the academy—NGOs, Non-profits, CBOs, grassroots activists, performances, creative production, etc.); Sirena: Talked about Roberto Flores' concept of how we don't need any more activists, we need *active communities*.

-Related to this last point: We need to examine these various forms of action (i.e., non-profit vs. autonomous organizations/activities)

-Reflect on subject position of the scholar/activist vis-à-vis their object of study, or the communities they're working with.

-Be sure to include art component

-General concept of cultivation (organic, agricultural, etc.)

- General concept of critical theory/pedagogy
- General concept of gender and sexuality
- General concept of spirituality
- Open to idea of hybrid formats

-Specific, Central Themes:

- Community: Benefit the community, put the community in movimiento, help activate the community, problematize concept of community (in line with Mission Statement)
- Recognizing, foregrounding, activating already existing bridges/networks.
- Indigenizing and de-institutionalizing the academy
- Encourage participatory workshops and panels
- Cultivating/Cultivation
- Art

-Need to write up a call for papers, workshops, performances, and interventions (Ruben will do this by Friday, February 16, for review over the weekend, so that we can make copies to take with us to conferences in Austin and Illinois the following week)

### 3. DEVELOP CALENDAR

Priority Dates:

- Conference Date: **September 21 (Fall Equinox)***
- Flyers (Mission Statement/Rubric): **February 20***  
(in time for Austin and Illinois conferences; Ruben – text; Ray – graphics)
- Send out “Save the Date”: **ASAP after February 20***  
(NOTE: We need a comprehensive distribution—forward all information to the Outreach Committee for distribution)
- Send out Call for Papers/Proposals: **March 21 (Spring Equinox)***
- Deadline for submissions: **May 1***
- Funding Hearing: **ASAP**—Scott will let us know.*  
(NOTE: We need to show up *en masse* to put pressure on A.S. to get as much of our funding request as possible (\$6,000))
- Next General Meeting: **Sunday March 4, Noon, Sirena’s Pad***

-Some random Logistics dates (to be worked out by Logistics committee):

- Info for colleges
- Entertainment
- Food
- Programs/Agenda

### 4. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Decided on dates for individual committees to meet:
  - Workshop Committee: **Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m., Sirena’s pad**
  - Finance Committee: **Wednesday, February 14, 2:30 p.m., Chicano Lounge**
  - Logistics Committee: **TBD**
  - Outreach Committee: **TBD**

### 5. RECRUITMENT

- Outreach Committee will work on this, but we can all start working on outreach within our own circles.
- We need to get LOTS of folks involved; LOTS of work to do, and we need to have a broad spectrum of voices and involvement.

## 6. WORKSHOPS/THEMES

-Johnny proposed, and group reached consensus:

Anyone interested in helping to shape the workshops (specifics, format, timeframe, structure, details), email Johnny at **[called2uplift@aol.com](mailto:called2uplift@aol.com)** and/or show up at Workshop Committee meeting (Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m., at Sirena's), where we will establish a preliminary format/structure.