



To: Dr. Robert Farrell, DAA & Members of the PSY Advisory Board

From: Dr. Noel Sloboda, Associate Professor of English

Date: 30 April 2020

Subject: Advisory Board Grant Report

With the assistance of a 2018-2019 Advisory Board Grant, I was able to travel to Portland, Oregon, to attend AWP: the annual meeting of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. AWP is the largest and most important literary conference in North America—if not the world. AWP hosts every major publisher of creative writing across the US as well as a host of graduate writing programs.

More than 800 presses, journals, and organizations were represented at the 2019 conference. The event affords access not only to authors but also to reviewers, editors, and publication advisory boards. Panels associated with the event provide windows onto key operations of publishers, outlining priorities and expectations.

Attending AWP is a disciplinary norm for professors of creative writing, though I have not been able to go for several years due to calendar and budgetary constraints. After my 2019 visit, I returned home with an awareness of new approaches and materials that I could bring to creative writing classrooms at Penn State York. The event also allowed me to engage various publishers who might provide a home for my third full-length poetry collection, a manuscript in progress. Finally, at AWP I was able to catch up with a former Penn State York student who is currently enrolled in an Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Texas Austin.

Thank you for making this activity possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel Sloboda