

BIOGRAPHY:

E. Ann McDougall [PhD 1980, University of Birmingham, UK] Professor of History, University of Alberta [1986--]; researches Saharan societies in Mali, Mauritania, southern Morocco. Recent SSHRC Grants: [2008-12] “The invisible people: *haratine* in Mauritania and Southern Morocco”; [2018-23] “Freed-Slaves Workers in the ‘Mountain of Iron’ (Mauritania)”. Recent publications: *La question haratine en Mauritanie et au Maroc* (Ed. Contributor), *Cahiers l’ouest saharien* T. 10-11, 2020; Inscriptions of slavery on the African Urban Landscape [Ed., contributor] *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, V. 10, #1-2 (2021). Previous AASUA service: President, Members Advisory Committee Chair (1992-1997). Other service: GFC Representative, Chair’s Selection Committee; Tory Chair Selection Committee (twice); Faculty of Arts Research Committees; FGSR Graduate Awards Committee (multiple terms); national SSHRC IG evaluation (three terms); Tri-Council Responsible Conduct in Research Panel (five years, three Chairing). Co-founded, directed former Middle Eastern and African Studies programme (1996—2009).

VISION STATEMENT:

A year’s experience as FAC Director has tempered my ambitions but not my commitment to the AASUA community. Having just completed contract negotiations last spring, we are nevertheless already preparing for another round in 2024. The ‘coffee & cookie’ meetings I held in the autumn were a first step in developing Faculty Constituency bargaining priorities. They were also meant to help re-build communication with, and trust in the AASUA that had been deteriorated in the face of significant challenges over the past couple of years. The recent elections that have left 23 FAC seats empty for the upcoming year tells me there is still a lot of work to do.

Some of our Standing Committees had suffered as well, one being the Academic Affairs Committee. My job as its liaison with the Executive was to support its efforts to represent and advise on issues related to ‘Teaching, Research and Working Conditions’. Thanks to robust leadership in the AAC Chair and enthusiastic engagement by its members, one of whom also observes on the GFC’s Committee for Learning Environment, another (usually the Chair) who reports on Employer’s research policy committee, the URIAC, it has made important contributions to discussions in various venues. It is effectively defining an active role for itself in the union; I would like the opportunity to ensure that this momentum continues.

The current *ad hoc* committee to ‘fact-find’ around College Model experiences, an idea suggested in one of those autumn meetings and which I Chair, will be submitting its report by end of June. I would like the opportunity to see it through to the Executive and help ensure its contribution to framing negotiating priorities next autumn. I also see it as providing a foundational document for next year’s AAC.

I do not feel less ambitious or energetic than last year, when you first elected me. I do feel I better understand how ‘living in a unionized environment’, as the administration recently expressed it, fundamentally affects how we teach, research and contribute to what some say is still a ‘collegial governance’ model. I would love to think that a unionized environment and collegial governance were compatible; at the moment, that concept seems elusive. My one really ambitious goal is to support the

AASUA in turning this idea into a reality, even as we move forward into yet another confrontational year.