**CEACS/AECEC Executive Committee and Advisory Board**

**Joint Meeting**

**(Thirteenth EC and Ninth AB Meeting)**

**Zagreb, Croatia**

**11 October 2015**

**(University of Zagreb, Faculty of Arts)**

**Executive Committee**

Diana Yankova, President – DY

Janos Kenyeres, Vice-President – JK

Don Sparling, Treasurer – DS

Jason Blake, Editor-in-Chief, *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies –* JB

Excused: Rodica Albu, Secretary

**Advisory Board**

Andrei Andreev, Bulgaria – AA

Martina Horakova, Czech Republic – MH

Judit Kadar, Hungary – JKa

Vanja Polic, Croatia – VP

Lucia Otrisalova, Slovakia – LO

Excused:

Crina Bud, Romania

Milena Kostic, Serbia

TjasaMohor, Slovenia

1. **Opening**

DY opened the meeting at 8.52am.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda was unanimously adopted.

1. **Approval of minutes (Brno)**

The Brno minutes were unanimously approved.

**4. Report on recent activities**

4.1 DS (in place of JK, who arrived a little later) explained the process for ICCS grants, as well as for the CEACS conference grants. He noted that there have been slightly fewer Brno research grants – that is, that fewer researchers have travelled to use the Canadian Studies resources there.

**4.2 Country reports**

DS (in place of RA) stated that all of the reports for January-June 2015 “are in” and have been posted to the web.

**4.3 CE Journal of Canadian Studies (Jason Blake)**

The concern getting the Journal indexed in a list such as ERIC was noted. Because we only publish once a year, such list-joining is difficult. That said, MH stated that she would see about the possibilities that exist for getting on ERIC. DS emphasised the importance of getting the journal out in a timely fashion. JB requested reviewers for articles and all present expressed great interest in performing that function. MH asked whether we could publish the keynote speakers from the 2015 Zagreb conference, but DS pointed out that such papers would be better suited to the conference proceedings. JB suggested the possibility of having an English- and a French-language interview in the newest journal edition; this suggestion was seen as a priority (for this edition there is a great likelihood of having two interview – i.e. one in each official language). LO pointed out that our local university libraries can add a link to the journal to their catalogue systems. DS is investigating print-on-demand options for those who want to have a hard copy of the journal.

**4.4 Current financial position of CEACS; auditors (Don Sparling)**

DS underlined that we are still on the Canadian fiscal year rather than the calendar year. LO pointed out that less expensive banks exist than the one we currently use in the Czech Republic. DY said that next year the CEACS will be eligible to receive $2000 from ICCS. This is part of a new programme that is now offering funding on a rotating basis (the funding is available every two years – i.e. an association cannot apply every single year).

**5. Review of membership fees**

It was unanimously agreed that membership fees should remain as they are (20 Euros for regular members; 15 Euros for students).

**6. CEACS website, communication flow, activities of the CE Canadian Studies Secretariat in Brno**

DY reminded us to put PhD thesis abstracts online as well as recently-defended PhD theses. This is in line with the suggestion put forth at the general meeting in Zagreb. JKa suggested that top MA theses might also be posted, and this suggestion was favourable received.

JKa stated that we should post our areas of expertise to the CEACS website in order to facilitate contact among members and other Canadianists and also to facilitate circulation of knowledge. To aid in such information-collection, MH suggested requesting this information in the next country report.

JK raised the possibility of adding photos for ExCom and Advisory Board members. This met with some concerns about photo-taking and the need for standardized photos (to avoid looking like a slapdash and un-photogenic collective). In the end it was decided not to proceed with this suggestion, at least for the moment.

DY asked country reps to send information about recently-published books by CEACS members.

**7. CE Young Canadianists’ Network**

DS pointed out the difficulty of linking young people across our wide region, since the vast geographical distance we cover means they have difficulty meeting personally. At the moment, this network is not functioning.

JKa and LO spoke of conferences and funding aimed at young people, while also highlighting the importance of pointing out funding opportunities (including at the national level)

**8. Proposals for activities in the next three-year period**

The following have been proposed as potential CEACS projects:

1. Political discourse in the media – i.e. representation of ‘our’ eight countries in the Canadian media as well as representation of Canada in the media of the CEACS countries. (This topic was proposed during the general meeting.)
2. DY proposed a study on what young people think and know about Canada – i.e. about perceptions and misperceptions of Canada. This would be an expansion of an already-existing Bulgarian project.
3. Drawing parallels between (Post) Communism (Post)Colonialism – Central European Countries’ Experiences. (This topic was proposed by Monica Bottez during the general meeting.)
4. JKa: A US-Canadian comparative project including considerations of frontiers *and* migration.

In addition to being utterly topical, this project has the advantage of linking itself naturally to political science and other areas with a strong presence among CEACS Canadianists.

In considering the proposed topics, DY pointed out the advantages of interdisciplinary activities.

DS suggested that a proposal form be created and circulated among the ExCom members, including what is required in terms of methodology. The form – to be created by members of the ExCom – would then go to the Advisory Board for critiques, and finally then sent to the individuals who had proposed the projects, with the request for them to fill in. The ExCom would then, on the basis of the responses, select the final project(s) to be pursued.

**9 CEACS external relations**

**9.1. Cooperation with the ENCS**

DS stated that the European graduate student conference may be reactivated.

**9.2. Cooperation with the ICCS, suggestions for the AGM (scheduled to take place in May 2016)**

Because of a lack of time (we had to leave the faculty building before noon), this topic was not covered.

**9.3 Cooperation with the Canadian Embassies**

The importance of letting our local embassies know our areas of academic expertise was highlighted.

**10. The next triennial conference: venue**

Possibilities:

1) Niš

2) Budapest

3) Maribor

Tentative approval was given to Budapest as a conference venue; JK said he would see about the possibilities of hosting the conference and inform us of the same.

MH suggested that the conference be held in the second week of September – i.e. before many of us begin our semester.

**11. Next meeting of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board**

Owing to a lack of funds, we will not be able to have a regular meeting before the next triennial conference. However, if there is a regional conference before then (such as in Brno in February 2016), we can meet there (hopefully getting some of our costs refunded by our institutions).

**12. AOB**

There was no other business.

The meeting was closed at 11:13 am.

**To-Do List**

1) MH: see about the possibilities for getting on ERIC.

2) DS: investigate print-on-demand options for hard copies of the journal.

3) RA: add areas of expertise to the next country report

4) JK: examine possibilities for having Budapest host the next CEACS conference

5) JB and Michelle Gadpailled: see the possibilities for Maribor as a conference site

6) DY in consultation with the ExCom: draft a project proposal form to be sent to the Advisory Board