CEACS Executive Committee Meeting

(Fourteenth EC Meeting)

**Brno, Czech Republic**

1. **october 2017**

**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**

**Also present (in connection with the next CEACS triannual conference)**

**Magdalena Firtová – MF**

**Lucia Otrísalová – LO**

**Vanja Polić – VP**

**Excused: Rodica Albu, Secretary**

1. **Opening**

DY opened the meeting at 8.44.

1. **Adoption of agenda**

 The agenda was adopted at 8.45.

1. **The triennial conference in Prague, Czech Republic 2018**

MF guided those present through the website (<https://www.ceacs.fsv.cuni.cz/>) for the conference “Transnational Challenges to Canadian Culture, Society and the Environment” (20–22 September 2018, Prague, Czech Republic)

Confirmed speakers:

Dianne Draper, Geography Professor, University of Calgary

Paul-André Linteau, Historian, Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal

Ian Ross, Métis/Ojibway playwright and author, Manitoba

To be confirmed: Will Kymlicka, Queen’s University

Deadline for paper proposals: Dec. 15, 2017

The call for papers has been sent through various Canadian Studies associations.

DY expressed a need to “go outside” Canadian Studies associations and to “increase Facebook profile.”

Canadian Ambassador Barbara Richardson has promised to finance the first conference reception and also to finance Will Kymlicka’s participation (if he agrees to come).

MF noted that the Faculty of Arts has “applied for a big grant” to support the conference.

MF noted that translation will be provided for the keynote into English, but not into French (given that the majority of French-language scholars also speak English)

MF suggested that the keynote speakers can be filmed and “posted” on Youtube.

Registration fees for the conference are slated to be (NB these are not set in stone):

1. CEACS members: 90 Euros (before August 15, 2018), 120
2. non-CEACS participants: 120 (before August 15, 2018), 150
3. student members: 30 (before August 15, 2018), 40

Those present offered various ideas for defraying costs (e.g. LO and VP spoke of donations of food and/or beverages secured for previous conferences).

Publication: to keep costs down, the post-conference “proceedings” will most likely be an e-book; they will be an association publication rather than a separate conference proceedings. It was emphasised that papers will have to be re-worked for print.

1. **Approval of the Minutes - Thirteenth EC and Ninth AB Meeting, Zagreb, Croatia, 11 October 2015**

The minutes were approved, after one minor clarification re. RA’s duty from the to-do list.

1. **Reports on recent activities**
	1. **Evaluation of grant applications (Janos Kenyeres)**

*General*

JK: remarked that “everything is moving according to the usual course of business.”

JK noted that a gmail account has been set up to handle grant applications.

*CEACS conference grants*

JK stated that the usual number of applications have been submitted – i.e. c. 8–10 per year.

*ICCS grants and awards*

JK said CEACS will continue to take care of ICCS grant applications from the region (adding that it is not difficult in terms of selection unless more than three apply – i.e. more than the maximum per association)

MF pointed out the problem with ICCS graduate student scholarships is that students often chose their topic for their thesis late in the year; if they are not already CEACS members, then they are not eligible to apply. DS said that in the past we have been flexible (if there were not enough applicants from CEACS members, then we recommended even non-members to the ICCS), but that he would think about some way this problem might be dealt with more systemically.

VP pointed out a difficulty in ICCS post-doc. grants: if the degree is *not* in Canadian Studies, one cannot apply (regardless of commitment to the cause). DS said he would check whether something could be done about this.

DS explained the problem of student grants and memberships.

* 1. **Country reports**

DS, speaking on behalf of RA, stated there was a slight delay and that two national chapters have yet to submit their biannual reports for January–June 2017. (NB In the week after the meeting, the missing reports were submitted.)

* 1. ***CE Journal of Canadian Studies*, Volume 10/11 (Jason Blake)**

JB provided an overview of the journal activities and the latest edition.

DY expressed a need for a short biographical note before the interviews, i.e. to help the uninitiated figure out who the interviewees are.

Everyone agreed that the practice of starting off with an interview was good, and in fact makes the *CEJCS* a bit distinctive; also, that it would be good to have an interview with a Francophone author.

DS noted that it is helpful to have (reworked) conference papers submitted; there is no need to separate articles into “conference papers” and “regular articles” (though authors do have the possibility to specify).

JB left the room while the ExCom member voted to re-appoint him until the Prague conference.

DS pointed out that our journal appears too infrequently to appear in Scopus.

DS suggested “advertising” for articles at other Canadian Studies conferences (without, of course, poaching on others’ territory).

JB will release the next call for papers by November 1, 2017.

DS reminded us that fewer hard copies are now printed (c. 40); this is to keep costs down (10 copies have to go to various libraries in the Czech Republic; authors receive the others; DS will look into the possibility of print-on-demand copies).

* 1. **Activities at the Secretariat (Don Sparling)**

DS praised the “very helpful” work of Dominika Kováčová at the Secretariat.

DS informed us that there have been around three research visits to Brno per year over the past few years.

DY asked about the possibility of e-books from our library, LO pointed out the legal and technical problems of circulating such books beyond a country’s or university’s borders.

* 1. **Current financial position of the CEACS (Don Sparling)**

DS reported that membership has been stable for the past four years (c. 190); this yields c. 3700 euros from membership fees.

Expenses

* sending the CEACS president to the ICCS meeting in Ottawa is fairly expensive, but necessary.
* travel grants: c. 1000 euros
* Brno stays: c. 400 euros
* Journal: 650 euros (including technical editing and 50 hard copies).
* Accountant fees: 200 euros
* Zagreb proceedings: c. 1000 euros (electronic)

Conference for Prague (next year): 1200 euros

DY pointed out that Transferwise would help to reduce bank transfer fees.

1. **Research projects**

DS spoke of the Translation Project and said that the deadline for articles (November 30, 2017) would in all likelihood have to be extended.

Local chapters should “ask people to think of new projects to be discussed at the general meeting in Prague.”

1. **Situation of the CEACS: our future, priorities and future activities, possible ways of raising funds**

DY provided an overview of CEACS future activities, including matters of funding from beyond membership fees and after the cancellation of the Understanding Canada programme

1. **CEACS’s external relations**

DY provided an overview of the June 11, 2017, ICCS meeting in Ottawa, including reflections on:

the potential establishment of a “Women caucus as a research network within ICCS”;the financial and budgetary aspects within Global Affairs; and naming the ICCS best thesis award the Brian Long Award.

**9. AOB**

VP stated that the volume with selected articles presented at the Zagreb conference will be published very soon (in electronic form).

DS reminded everyone that elections for the ExCom would take place at the conference in Prague in September 2018, and expressed the view that it would be good to bring new people into the ExCom as a form of relève. If others agreed with this, then it was time to start thinking about possible candidates.

VP pointed out that in many associations the brunt of the “work” is done by a few individuals.

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

The next meeting(s) will be in Prague, during the triennial conference.

**11. Closing**

The meeting was closed at: 11:59.

**TO-DO LIST**

**JB: contact conference organizers to ask for papers**

**DY: Send a call for joint research project suggestions November/December 2017: deadline for submission: March 2018**

**DS: Look into a more systemic approach to allowing non-members to apply for ICCS grants and awards**

**DS: Ask the ICCS whether the terms for the post-doc scholarship could be changed**

 **NOTE: Perhaps it would be better for Diana, as President, to do this; DS will contact her on this issue**

**Everyone: Start thinking about possible candidates for the ExCom in 2018**