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

**(17th EC and 11th AB Meeting)**

**Brno, Czech Republic**

**13 February 2020**

**Minutes**

**Executive Committee**

Katalin Kurtosi, President – KK

Don Sparling, Treasurer – DS

**Advisory Board**

Vanja Polic, Croatia – VP

Octavian More, Romania (representing Cristina Petras) – OM

Sergej Macura, Serbia – SM

Katarina Labudova, Slovakia (representing Jana Javorcikova) – KL

**Excused**

Carmen Andrei, Secretary

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

Andrei Andreev, Bulgaria

Magdalena Firtova, Czech Republic

Attila Takacs, Hungary

Tjasa Mohar, Slovenia

**1. Opening**

The meeting opened at 19:15

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

**3. Approval of minutes** (from the Prague meeting of 22 September 2018)

The Prague minutes were approved as presented.

**4. Report on recent activities**

**4.1 Country reports**

Those present were asked to give brief reports on the most interesting activities in their respective countries. Activities relating to celebrations of Margaret Atwood's 80th birthday by CEACS members are included as an appendix to these minutes.

***Croatia*** - VP reported that in the fall semester the University of Zagreb held a well-attended series of Canadian film nights for students, with brief introductions and discussion afterwards. They were intended as a kind of prelude to a student organized conference to be held in May 2020. It is hoped they will become a regular feature of the department. In 2021 the Croatian Canadianiasts are hoping to hold a summer school for students in Zadar.

***Czech Republic*** - DS said that the 18th annual meeting of the Czech and Slovak Canadianists had taken place at the Canadian Embassy in Prague a week earlier, on 7 February. In addition to information about activities and developments in the two countries, three students had had excellent presentations on subjects of current interest in Canada. He noted that in recent years Canadianists at Plzen, Ceske Budejovice and Olomouc had fallen by the wayside, with the result that most Canadian Studies activities in the country are now centred in Prague and Brno. However, the fields covered have slightly widened (history, the environment), and the Francophone side is strong (e.g. a major Quebec Studies conference coming up in the fall in Cesky Krumlov). In Brno at the present time negotiations are underway at Masaryk University to create a new double degree Master's programme in North American / Canadian Studies in cooperation with Carleton University in Ottawa.

***Hungary*** - KK pointed out that, by coincidence, the Hungarian Canadianists had held their annual meeting at the Canadian Embassy in Budapest on the same day the Czech and Slovak Canadianists had gathered in Prague, with 22 of the 35 members of the Hungarian chapter present. She outlined a wide range of activities in Hungary: a homepage for the Hungarian chapter that is kept up-to-date, a newsletter that is sent out every 3-4 months, an annual Francophone competition. For several years now ELTE and the Karolyi Gaspar University have held a joint conference in Budapest in November; the call for papers for this year's conference will be going out in April, the theme being "Landsape".

***Romania*** - OM apologized for not being able to give a comprehensive report, as the information he had received was voluminous and covered a long time span, so it was not possible to prepare a short summary dealing only with the recent period. Instead, he spoke about Canadian Studies activities at his own university (Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca). The Centre for Canadian and Quebec Studies (dating from 1992) holds 2-3 seminars each year with joint English and French participation. Recently one was on Leonard Cohen, another on Nancy Huston. At present the centre is applying for higher accreditation, which requires bringing together 15 academics with expertise in this field, out of which at least 8 members will have to be from Babeș-Bolyai University.

***Serbia*** - SM reported that the Serbian Canadianists had held their 9th biennial Canadian Studies conference in 2019; it was very successful. At the University of Belgrade the Francophone Canadianists are particularly active; the private Alfa University also offers Canadian courses. In 2019, the Serbian Canadianists published the 8th volume of proceedings of the biennial conference held in 2017, *Canada 150 Filmed / Le Canada 150 au cinéma*, comprising 350 pages.

***Slovakia*** - KL spoke about a major research project just finishing, with Jana Javorcikova from Comenius University in Bratislava as the principal investigator: (*Im*)migration as a Political, Ethical, Linguistic and Cultural Phenomenon in the Era of Globalisation. This has included a significant Canadian component. A conference was held as part of the project. She herself had taught an intensive course on Margaret Atwood at Masaryk University in the fall.

***Slovenia*** - KK reported on the Slovene situation based on a talk with Tjas Mohar, Micelle Gadpaille and Tomaz Omic earlier in the day. Following the successful Atwood 80th event (which included handicapped students, and widely publicized) the student translation competition had a six-week continuation.

**4.2 Report from the CEACS Secretariat**

***Financial report*** - DS pointed out that as our only source of income is membership fees, finances are directly dependent on membership numbers.

- number of members:  **2017 - 188; 2017 - 185; 2018 - 180; roughly 20+ students, 160+ academics**

**- members by country (2019): Hungary and Serbia 33; Czech Republic 32; Romania 25; Bulgaria 16; Croatia 12; Slovakia and Slovenia 11; International 7**

**- annual income: around 3,500 EUR**

**- student assistant: paid by the Brno English Department**

**- always a very tight budget: we do a lot with a relatively small income**

***Conference and research grants***  - These are of three types:

**- Brno research stays (up to 6 nights = around 200+ EUR - ) - around 2 per year**

**- Conference grants (usually 150 EUR) - 2017 and 2018 - 6; 2019 - 4; countries include Central Europe, USA, Canada, a few elsewhere (Asia, Australia)**

**- ICCS graduate student grants and other awards - some years none, others 1 or, rarely, 2. Last year two grants were made, for PhD research and the Pierre Savard award; both went to Hungarian members.**

***Website and Facebook* - DS reported that though there are no problems with the website, use of the Facebook site is limited: few people post material, usually taken from on-line news outlets, few people comment. Originally it had been hoped that the Facebook site could help in cases where members were looking for tips for material related to what they were working on; this has not happened. VP stated that there was no point in having a Facebook site unless there was someone who could post new information on it every day - otherwise people would not check it regularly. DS said he felt it would be hard to find someone like this, and even if someone was found, how would s/he be paid. This raised the question as to whether the CEACS Facebook site should be cancelled; unfortunately there was no time to discuss this at length.**

***New student assistant* - DS announced that the current student assistant at the Secretariat, Dominika Kovacova, was about to finish her PhD and so would be stepping down. A new assistant has been found, Denisa Krasna, who is just starting her PhD, also in the English Department. One bonus is that she is also able to understand, and write letters in, French.**

[***Subsequent to the meeting in Brno***]

***At a meeting with DS, Denisa Krasna said she would see if she might be able to post new material on the Facebook site at reasonably frequent intervals*.**

**4.3 *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies***

DS announced that *CEJCS* Vol 14 was now ready - he had received printed copies the previous week, and only two days earlier the digital version of the publication. This would be sent out to all members within the next week or so. Most of the articles in the volume were delivered in an earlier version at the Prague conference in 2018. A call for papers for Vol. 15 of the journal would also be sent out before long. Hopefully individuals who had given Canadian Studies related papers here in Brno would respond, as well as members at large.

DS mentioned that one of the problems with the journal is that it is not listed in any of the prestigious databases (e.g. SCOPUS), but this is virtually impossible to do, since most require a journal to be published at least twice a year.

**4.4 Research projects**

***Second translation research project*** - KK said that this came to a formal end in September 2019 with the publication of *Canada Consumed*, which had been sent in digital form to all CEACS members and in printed form to the authors of the chapters in the publication. The project had taken longer than anticipated because of the amount of editorial work required to shape the publication: a number of chapters in their original form had disregarded the guidelines adopted at the kick-off meeting in Budapest in October 2016, and had to be partly or largely rewritten (in one case completely). Verbal response has been very positive; we are now waiting for reviews in scholarly journals.

The first translation project created the on-line database of translations; members of the second project team updated it to the end of 2017; they will now be asked to update it to the end of 2019. From then on it should be updated annually.

***New research project*** - After the 8th triennial CEACS conference in Prague in 2018, a call was sent out inviting members to propose new research projects. Only one proposal was received, from Klara Kolinska of Metropolitan University, Prague, as project leader, on "Following (in) Winnetou’s Footsteps: Representations of Canadian Indigeneity in Central Europe". This was approved by the CEACS Executive Committee, with the proviso that the association could not provide funding, at least until new financial resources appeared. VP (a member of the project team) reported that in the interval the project had not really moved forward, as other financial resources they had anticipated had not come through. However, here in Brno the team members present had agreed to proceed by at least producing articles that would not need direct research in Canada, in the hope that these could at least be published. They would also to try to add some people to the team. DS suggested that they could send out an appeal from the CEACS Secretariat, explaining the situation and offering to admit new members. He would get in touch with KK and ask her to do this.

[***Sent by KIara Kolinska subsequent to the meeting in Brno***]

Following (in) Winnetou’s Footsteps: Representations of Canadian Indigeneity in Central Europe *– project upgrade*

*This project aims at documenting the history, strategies, and forms of representation of Canadian Indigenous cultures and their emblems in the geo-cultural context of Central Europe based on the case studies of selected countries. Due to the fact that it was not possible to obtain sufficient funding for the original version of the project, the team needs to narrow down the original plan and focus on the main outcome, which will be a collective monograph, titled:* Following (in) Winnetou’s Footsteps: Representations of North American Indigeneity in Central Europe*.*

*The publication will focus on the formation of images of Canadian Indigeneity in the Central European context - on the history and contemporary practices of Indigenous (mis)representation and fetishization in Central European cultural and public discourse, and their literary manifestations.*

*The research team plans to circulate an updated Call for Submissions for the publication through the CEACS network, and invite contributors from more countries in the region. The Call will be published by March 31st, 2020. The plan is to complete the monograph by December 31st, 2021*

***Other projects*** - DS mentioned that, given the difficulty of carrying out major projects with our limited funding, the Atwood initiative might serve as a possible model for similar initiatives in future. In addition to involving academics from virtually all the member countries, it also included students and reached out to the general public, thus creating a rare opportunity to raise the visibility of the association and Canadian Studies in general He suggested we should think seriously about similar initiatives in the future. KK agreed, and added that it also gave an opportunity for less active colleagues to make a contribution.

**5. 9th International Conference of the CEACS (2021)**

KK described how, Following the 8th CEACS conference in Prague in 2018, members had been asked to submit proposals for the venue for the 9th conference. None had been received, though the possibility that it might be held in Ljubljana had been mentioned. The Executive Committee asked Jason Blake to explore this with Mitja Durnik of the University of Ljubljana, who said he was willing. However, it was learned only two weeks ago that in the fall of 2021 Slovenia will be hosting the EU Presidency, and that already - a year and a half in advance - 70 to 80 percent of the hotel capacity is booked, and rates for rooms still available are 100 EUR per night at a minimum. For these reasons, it was reluctantly decided that it would be unrealistic to settle on Ljubljana as a venue for the conference in 2021.

The Hungarians had put in an official bid for the 2018 conference. At the annual meeting of the Hungarian Canadianists in Budapest on 7 February (see 4.1 above) the still unsettled state of the conference venue came up. Judit Nagy of Karolyi Gaspar University and Janos Kenyeres of ELTE responded by saying that they were more than willing to host it. They have been running joint annual Canadian Studies conferences for some years now, and have a very good track record. JK said that for international conferences of our type, ELTE makes available at least some funding for events like this; JN said ditto for Karolyi Gaspar.

After some discussion it was agreed that the venue for the 9th International Conference of the CEACS in 2021 would be Budapest. At was also agreed that every effort would be made to hold the succeeding conferences (2024, 2027) in the two member countries that have not so far hosted the conference - Slovenia and Serbia. SM said that this has been discussed by the Serbian Canadianists, who felt that their biennial conference and the CEACS conference could be joined together for this purpose (cf the joint conference of the Polish Canadianists' association and the CEACS in May 2004).

**6. CEACS external relations**

***International Council for Canadian Studies*** - KK reported that she would be attending the annual meeting of the ICCS in Ottawa on 30 May. The key discussion will be a discussion about recommendations being prepared by a task force on ways of adapting the ICCS to the current situation, where the income from the ICCS is not enough to cover the organization's minimum activities, and so its capital is being steadily eaten into.

She said that immediately after the Brno meeting she would be travelling to Grainau, in Bavaria, for the annual conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries (GKS), where a group of Presidents of six European Canadian Studies associations (France, Central Europe, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and the Nordic countries) would be meeting as a group to discuss the situation with the ICCS and try to work out some proposals for dealing with it. This is something that ideally could have been done by the ***European Network for Canadian Studies***, which groups together the heads of all the European Canadian Studies associations, but unfortunately at the moment it is dormant owing to a lack of finances.

**7. AOB**

***Contact lists* -** DS reported that at the meeting of Czech and Slovak Canadianists the previous week the Chargé d'affaires had asked whether we were ever contacted by the media - for example in connection with elections in Canada. We replied yes, very often. She said it would be good for the Embassy to know about this - information they could report back to Ottawa in support of us. We suggested we would put together a list of Czech Canadianists who were willing to be work with the media, indicating their fields of specialization and contact data - the Embassy could draw on this when contacted by the media, suggesting us as sources of expertise. In fact this is something we have considered in the past, but never followed through on. Now, with explicit encouragement from the embassy, we will do so. DS suggested that the same should/could be done in other countries.

**8. Closing**

The meeting closed at 20:35.

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| **CEACS Executive Committee and Advisory Board Action List** | | | |
| **Item** | **Task** | **Who** | **When** |
| 4.2 | Discussion about what to be done with the Facebook site | ExCom and Advisory Board, by e-mail | If efforts by Denisa Krasna do not pan out. To be checked by DS at end of May. |
| 4.4 | Members of translation research team to be informed they should update the translation database for 2018 and 2019 | DS | 15 March 2020 |
| 4.4 | Prepare message asking if more people would like to join the "Winnetou" project | Klara Kolinska | 31 March 2020 |
| 4.4 | Ask for ideas for other initiatives like "Atwood 80th" | KK | By mid-March 2020 |
| 5 | Prepare a draft plan for preparation for the 9th international conference in Budapest in 2021 | KK in cooperation with Judit Nagy and Janos Kenyeres | By mid-April 2020 |
| 7 | Contact lists for embassies | Every CEACS chapter, ideally - the initiative to be taken by the country representative | When possible .... |