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

**Joint Meeting**

**(Sixteenth EC and Tenth AB Meeting)**

**Prague, Czech Republic**

**22 September 2018**

**Executive Committee**

Katalin Kurtosi, President – KK

Diana Yankova, Vice-President – DY

Don Sparling, Treasurer – DS

Carmen Andrei, Secretary – CA

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

**Advisory Board**

Andrei Andreev, Bulgaria – AA

Martina Horákova, Czech Republic – MH

Attila Takacs, Hungary – AT

Mirna Sindičić Sabljo, Croatia (representing Vanja Polic) – MSS

Magdalena Fiřtová, Czech Republic - MF

**Excused:**

Jana Javorcikova, Slovakia

Sergej Macura, Serbia

Tjaša Mohar, Slovenia

**1. Opening**

The meeting was opened at 15.22.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda was unanimously adopted.

**3. Approval of minutes**

The Brno minutes (October 2017) were approved (KK abstained).

**4. Report on recent activities**

**4.1 Country reports**

MF and AT suggested using online documents to make it easier to collate information – i.e. each national chapter’s representative could put up a communal online document that individual members could easily fill in themselves with their own information. The googledocs page will be made available for those country reps who opt to use it. The representative would then edit the final version of the document and send it to CEACS. This proposal was accepted, the agreement being “one document per country.”

MF suggested having only one report per year. After some discussion, this suggestion was unanimously accepted.

As of January 1 (i.e. after the final six-month report), we will switch to annual reports.

**4.2 *CE Journal of Canadian Studies* (Jason Blake) and other publications**

JB noted the double issue vol 12/13 has just been published. An electronic version was sent to all members. For reasons of cost, only 60 copies were printed. They are earmarked for contributors to the volume (some were distributed at the conference), copyright libraries, etc.

The question of publishing papers delivered at the conference was raised. MF noted that journal articles have a quicker submission-to-publication turnaround that special publications. After a lengthy discussion it was decided not to publish a conference proceedings from the Prague conference, or even a special volume based on Prague conference papers. Instead we will publish an issue of the *CEJCS* devoted exclusively to (reworked) conference papers. In addition to the *CEJCS*, the “flagship” (MF) of CEACS, there are two Czech journals that may be interested in publishing papers.

JB will send out a call for papers within approximately one month; he emphasised that the conference papers would have be turned into proper (e.g. longer) articles for consideration.

JB asked if he could lean on those present to review articles. DS suggested that national representatives recommend reviewers. KK pointed out that many from the Polish organization could perhaps help out in the review process. MF noted many Canadian scholars’ eagerness to help us out in this regard.

JB will work with MH to investigate whether our journal can gain access to ERIH (or perhaps other databases). CA underlined the need for a “compte-rendu”

**4.3 Current financial position of CEACS; auditors**

DS outlined CEACS’s current position, emphasising that: 1) we are now entirely dependent on membership fees for incomes; 2) our membership numbers are fairly stable. He also noted that the term “auditors” has been removed from the revised Constitution, as its Czech equivalent has a specific legal meaning that does not correspond to what those who inspect our financial records actually do.

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

DS mentioned the need to adhere to the new EU law on information. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the CEACS website will publish only members’ names and university (or other) affiliations.

DS underlined the importance of the CEACS Facebook page and asked country representatives to encourage their members to use it more often, in particular when seeking material for articles or courses.

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

1) KK proposed a collection of CEACS memories – e.g. reflecting on the organization’s earliest beginnings. DS said he felt that this was of institutional importance, but in general publications of this type tend to be boring and have few readers. He said he would ponder “a possible way of making something like that sound interesting.”

2) MF suggested we examine shifting perceptions of Canada in the media (e.g. in the areas of branding and imagology). DS said that this could be interesting, but if it were undertaken, the project would have to be limited by defining a timeframe, choosing a certain number of defining moments (e.g. 10) or focusing on a specific set of issues, etc. In fact the result would be doubly comparative: in terms of the region as a whole (the differing degrees to which particular events were covered, or not covered, in individual countries) as well as in terms of each individual country (the differing degrees to which particular events were covered within an individual country, including events that were not covered in the other countries at all). One problem was the relative lack of CEACS members who were interested in fields other than literature. On the other hand, this was more a cultural studies project, and one focused on reception, which is in fact the subject of the current translation project. This means that the methodology for such a project is familiar to at least a number of CEACS members. After much discussion, MF said she would submit a proposal or outline within six weeks.

3) AA suggested a project along the lines of the project that he and DY had been carrying out at their university in Bulgaria, a study of students’ image of Canada.

4) KK will send out a call for proposals for joint research projects within six weeks. (Deadline for submissions: April 15, 2019)

**7. CEACS external relations**

**7.1 Cooperation with other Canadian Studies bodies**

DS noted that for financial reasons we had not been able to send Diana Yankova to the AGM of the International Council for Canadian Studies in Ottawa this year. He also stated his personal view that the ICCS could have done more in the past few years to move forward the discussion on renewing Canadian government support for Canadian Studies

JB asked about the European Network for Canadian Studies; DS said that for the moment it is moribund. As a result, many of the current Presidents of European Canadian Studies associations do not know each other, which hinders cooperation.

**7.2 Cooperation with the Canadian Embassies**

JB emphasised the need to maintain or further ties and to continue to cultivate good relations with the Embassies.

**7.3 Other**

CA pointed out bilateral Erasmus agreements; though these would generally include only one university, they remain an excellent way of bringing Canadian and European scholars and thinkers together.

JB and DY spoke of the advantages and possibilities of distance teaching, though this would again be limited to individual pairings of universities.

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

Within the next month, KK will send out a call for conference proposals – i.e. for CEACS chapters, or CEACS members, willing to host the triennial conference in 2021. (The proposed application deadline is March 10, 2019).

MF underlined the need to get keynote speakers who will prove attractive to conference attendees; DS commented that attractive cities also had an edge in this respect.

DS recalled that a long-term aim of the association has been to have at least one triennial conference in each member country. At the moment only two countries have not hosted a conference – Serbia and Slovenia. Perhaps opportunities there should be explored. Applications for hosting the next conference should be put forward by national chapters, i.e., not by individuals.

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

Barring the opportunity to hold a meeting in connection with some major event attended by a considerable number of Executive Committee and Advisory Board members, the next such meeting will be held in conjunction with the next triennial conference.

**12. AOB**

No other business was proposed.

The meeting was closed at 17:23.

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| **CEACS Executive Committee and Advisory Board Action List** |
| **Item** | **Task** | **Who** | **When** |
| 4.1 | Set up googledocs page for country reports | DS and Dominka Kovacova | By end of December 2018  |
| 4.2 | Send out request for journal articles | JB | By October 31, 2018 |
| 7.4 | Send out request for project proposals | KK | By mid-December |
| 8. | Ask for applications for hosting next conference | KK | By mid-December |