CEACS/AECEC Executive Committee and Advisory Board

Joint Meeting

(Eleventh EC and Eighth AB Meeting)

**Bratislava, Slovakia**

**14-15 October, 2012**

**(Comenius University, Faculty of Arts, Gondova 2, Room G 236)**

**Executive committee**

President: Diana Yankova (Bulgaria)

Treasurer: Don Sparling (Czech Republic)

Vice-President: Janos Kenyeres (Hungary)

Secretary: Rodica Albu (Romania)

Journal Editor: Jason Blake (Slovenia)

**Advisory Board**

Andrei Andreev (Bulgaria)

Crina Bud (Romania)

Květuše Kunešová (Czech Republic)

Gordan Matas (Croatia)

Judit Molnar (Hungary)

Jelena Novaković (Serbia)

Lucia Otrísalová (Slovakia)

**Also present:**

Katalin Kürtösi (Hungary – for the translation project)

Dominika Lopašovská (Representative of the Young Canadianists)

**Excused:**

Vesna Lopičič (Serbia – ex-Secretary)

Tjaša Mohor (Slovenia – AB)

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| **CEACS Executive Committee and Advisory Board Action List** | | | |
| **Item** | **Task** | **Who** | **When** |
| 4.3 | Send the latest *Journal* to MLA for indexing; confirm whether our annual journal is eligible for indexing on lists in addition to the MLA | JB | Immediately |
| 4.3 | Place older issues of *Journal* on the website | Honza | When convenient |
| 4.5 | Have auditors carry out the required auditing of the CEACS account. | DS | As soon as possible |
| 5 | Investigate or set up a Facebook account for CEACS and/or the Young Canadianists within CEACS. | DS and Honza | As soon as possible |
| 5 | Explore possibilities for further connections with *La Francophonie* | CB | As soon as possible |
| 5 | Investigate ways of finding funding (research projects, local businesses with Canadian links, Chambers of Commerce, advice from Canadian embassies, etc.) | All AB members | As soon as possible |
| 5 | Circulate information on research concerning post-2000 Romanian migrants and discern whether interest in a broader Central European project would be feasible | RA | As soon as possible |
| 5.2 | Investigate possibilities for organizing a research project based on outreach with high schools (in the style of that done by Judit Nagy (Hungary) and Danielle Geffroy-Konstacky.) | DS | As soon as possible |
| 7 | Look into the possibilities for hosting the next CEACS triennial conference in Zagreb (or elsewhere in Croatia) | GM | When convenient |
| 8.1 | Eliminate inconsistencies in the Translation Project database; update database | DS and Honza (with help from project participants) | As soon as possible |
| 10 | Update the information for the CEACS website (by contacting Canadian Studies centres/universities teaching Canadian studies. | Honza | Immediately (N.B. an e-mail requesting this information has already been circulated) |
| 10 | Extend the use of French on the website | DS | When possible |
| 10 | Check website, make suggestions for additions, improvements, etc. | All ExCom and AB members | As soon as possible |
| 11 | Explore possibilities for including Baia Mare meeting of unconventional Young Canadianists as part of CEACS core activities; also ways of financing this | DS | As soon as possible |
| 12.3 | Provide local embassies with academic/expert contacts for Canadian topics, these to be made available to local/national media outlets. | All AB members | When possible |
| 14. | Explore possibilities for next ExCom and AB meeting | All ExCom and AB members | When possible |

1. **Opening**

The meeting was opened on Sunday 14 October at 14:34; this first session continued to 18:15.

Honza Beneš, the administrative assistantat the CEACS Secretariat in Brno, introduced himself.

It was generally agreed that the conference was a success and well-received by all.

One concern was that the General Meeting could have been better-prepared; JK noted that there was too little French spoken.

JB agreed to take minutes.

1. **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted unanimously

1. **Approval of the Minutes -** 10th Meeting of the Executive Committee (Bratislava, 25 March, 2011) / Seventh Meeting of the Advisory Board (Bratislava, 26 March, 2011), available on the CEACS website: <http://www.cecanstud.cz/>

The minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **Report on recent activities by the Executive Committee members**
   1. **Evaluation of grant applications (Diana Yankova)**

DY stated that 8 grants were awarded in 2011/12; the money was paid out from the membership fees. For the 2012/2013 fiscal year, one round had already been announced before the Understanding Canada funding cuts occurred. Nevertheless, the grants were paid out.

DS noted the problem of paying grant applications via bank transfers (given the high bank charges); hence the desirability of finding other ways to convey them, though this often means considerable delays. Discussion also focussed on future grant ideas: how many should CEACS award? This question remains open, as it depends on what our future income from membership fees will be. DY mentioned that we had already agreed to the rule being a maximum of 200 EUR.

* 1. **Country reports (Vesna Lopičić)**

The minor delay in reports was noted; JM commented on the difficulties of collecting reports within individual countries (i.e. before they are sent to Brno).

* 1. **CE Journal of Canadian Studies (Jason Blake)**

JB reported that Journal no. 8 was printed just in time for the conference – thus saving a great deal in postage charges (since members and country representatives could collect Journals and take them home from the conference).

The possibility of moving to an on-line format was discussed; JB clarified that an on-line journal format would remain peer-reviewed. Only the materiality of the Journal would change.

LO noted that there are free website hosts for such on-line journals.

JK asked about publishing back-issues on-line; this can be done, although DS noted that the publisher in Brno no longer has the files for the earlier Journal issues.

DS mused about print-on-demand costs; JK suggested *not* giving up on a printed edition right now – that is if we can find the money, we should stick to a paper edition for at least the near future. Volume 9 will be a print version, provided there are funds available.

There was fervent discussion about the need to get on an approved list. JB noted that the Journal is in fact on the MLA list; that said, we do not publish the Journal often enough to meet the requirements for certain European lists. JK suggested that individual country representatives find out what is required for national lists, then forward this information to JB. JB will follow up and determine whether the Journal qualifies for further lists. DS noted that being on a “list” is crucial for convincing certain countries’ members to submit to the Journal.

RA suggested we should give more publicity to publications in our region. One way to do so would be to change the section at the end of our journal from “Reviews” to something like “Reviews and book notes”, or to have an added section on “Book notes” or “Notes on publications” or “Recent publications in the Central European region”. This would provide all the bibliographical information on new book-length publications by (or edited by) CEACS members, plus a brief description of the contents. This description would be informative, not evaluative – in effect, we would have an annotated list of new publications. Suggestions for the length of such notes varied from a few sentences to one page. There was agreement in principle on this suggestion; however, it would be left up to Jason Blake, as editor of the CEJCS, to decide whether to accept it, and if so what form this new feature of the journal should take.

* 1. **Coordination (Janos Kenyeres)**

JK noted the problems of *not* having met in spring; nevertheless, he stated, “information flow has been good in both Executive Committee and Advisory Board.”

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

DS pointed out that our banking situation is complicated because we use a single account for CEACS and for the EU-Canada tour. DS also noted that the CEACS will break even this year, despite the funding cuts from Ottawa. However, this may mean restricting the number of conference grants in comparison with earlier years.

The auditors will look over the books and see if we can cut any costs; JK suggested finding free hosting and reduce web-associated costs; LO pointed out that such sites have very little space available, and that the CEACS site is much larger than what free sites offer.

1. **Situation of the CEACS after the cancellation of the Understanding Canada Programme, our future, priorities and future activities, possible ways of raising funds (probably on a case by case basis)**

Those present discussed the list of priorities collected at the General Meeting.

***Communication with members***

LO and DY emphasized the need to create a Facebook account to serve both current CEACS members and attract prospective members. It was underscored that Facebook provides a platform for easy communication, facilitates the swift exchange of information and showcases the achievements of CEACS members. Therefore, it was felt that by creating a Facebook account, the activities of the association would become more visible and more accessible to a wider audience of individuals and institutions involved in Canadian studies, such as faculty, students, decision makers, and possible donors.

CB noted the need to establish links with la Francophonie as a means of making our communication with members more attractive.

***Funding***

DY suggested several potential ways to raise funds for the functioning of the association and for carrying out research. One was to apply with research projects to national science foundations. Other possibilities can be sought through the different Marie Curie actions. A third option is local businesses that involve local and Canadian participation who can be contacted on information from the Canadian embassies.

JK suggested that we contact the local ambassadors, perhaps asking for a letter of introduction for the local Chambers of Commerce (as the Hungarian chapter will receive from the Canadian Ambassador to Hungary).

***Services for members***

Conference grants were discussed. The two views expressed at the General Meeting were: a) they should be kept, b) they can be stopped because conference grants benefit only *some* members. The EC and the AB agreed to keep them, provided that funds are available.

The Electronic Library was determined to be greatly beneficial to members; the costs, however, are problematic. Last year JK managed to secure a greatly reduced price for the ICCS.

***Research projects***

1. **Post 2000- emigrants to Canada**. RA said she was going to pursue research she had already begun, concerning post-2000 Romanian migrants to Canada who are involved with activities that keep them linked to Romania (firms linking Canadian and Romanian experts, NGOs, etc.) She suggested this could be a joint CEACS project. DS agreed, saying that this was probably something rather new in the CE-Canada relationship; also, these kinds of ties are something that could be of great interest to the local Canadian Embassies (and subsequently by Ottawa). It was decided that RA would prepare an outline of her project, and it could then be circulated to CEACS members with an appeal for those interested to get together to create an official cross-CEACS project in which all participants would work according to the same/similar guidelines.
2. **Outreach to high-schools.** DS pointed out that there were already CEACS members involved heavily in working with high schools, in particular Judit Nagy (Hungary) and Danielle Geffroy-Konstacky (Czech Republic); JN works in English, DG-K in French. It would be worthwhile pursuing the possibilities of cooperation across borders in the form of a project that could include interested Canadianists from the region. DS offered to get in touch with JN and DG-K and see if they would be interested; if so, a decision could be taken on how to proceed. This was agreed to.
3. **Review of membership fees**

The new membership fees are: 15 Euros for students, 20 for non-students. Though this represents an increase, it is still substantially less than annual fees for similar organizations (for example, the Polish Canadian Studies Association has had fees of 8.50 and 17 EUR, and are talking about raising them.

DS stressed the need to let members and potential members know *why* we are raising fees. JB pointed out that we must also state that we have not raised fees in some time. DY suggested that when announcing the increased fees we should expressly state the benefits (financial or otherwise) that members enjoy, such as access to the electronic library, reduced fees for regional, national, or triennial conferences, possibility for applying for conference grants.

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

On behalf of the Croatian Canadianists, GM offered to host the 7th triennial conference in Croatia in 2015. For financial and organizational reasons he said Zagreb was the only realistic venue. The best time would be mid-October.

**8. Translation Research Project (report on the conclusion of the project and its achievements, annual updating of the database, access to the database** (Katalin Kürtösi)

KK expressed her heartfelt thanks for all the participants who continued with the project to its completion, both coordinators and contributors. It was a very dedicated team, and they did a very good job. It was also very good that they were able to involve some Master’s and doctoral students in the work. She also thanked Janos Kenyeres and Eva Martonyi for carrying out a peer review of the articles, and Don Sparling for help with the editing, and for ensuring that the publication was ready for distribution at the conference.

There were two major outcomes to the project:

1. the database, which is an ongoing resource. It is very interesting reading, as the data are very extensive, thought-provoking specialists and non-specialists and even for a broader, non-academic public.
2. the publication *Canada in Eight Tongues.* This was the result of a conference in the fall of 2011; just a year later the publication is ready, which is quite an achievement, especially since some of the articles did not develop from conference contributions, but were newly commissioned. A special thanks should go to these people, who were not original members of project but contributed because they wanted their country to be represented in some form (i.e. by a survey article, or an article on a single writer or issue).

KK also mentioned that there had been some problems. One had to do with the database, which has some inconsistencies, and is not always completely reliable. However, this can – and will – be improved (see below). Another problem had to do with individuals who dropped out from the project. In most cases, these people informed her, and explained why they could not do what they had originally promised (in most cases for family reasons); in one case the individual simply failed to respond (this concerned two separate commitments), causing serious problems that were, in the end, overcome.

She reminded everyone that reviews of the publication were welcome and indeed necessary, if people outside the association are to be informed of its existence. She encouraged CEACS members to see to as many reviews appearing as possible. DS said he had distributed copies to the ENCS members who had held their meeting in conjunction with the conference; he would write to them saying we would appreciate them reviewing the publication in their associations’ journals and elsewhere.

Concerning the future of the project, KK outlined three phases:

1. Don Sparling, with the help of Honza Benes at the CEACS Secretariat, will prepare guidelines for correcting problems with the database in its current state that will enable the project team members to eliminate inconsistencies.
2. The database will be updated annually by the team members, beginning with the entries for 2012.
3. In 2013 team members will begin research on translations of texts by Canadian authors that have appeared in forms other than books (e.g. individual essays in collections, individual poems or short stories in journals, etc.). Hopefully there can be a session at the 2015 conference that will draw on this material, which it is expected will enlarge considerably the scope of material recorded.

Diana Yankova expressed the CEACS’s thanks to KK for coordinating the project. Jelena Novakovic expressed her pleasure in working on the project, and thanked KK for her work as its initiator and head.

**9. Report on the EU-Canada Study Tour and Internship Programme 2012, plans for 2013** (Don Sparling)

DS reported that more than 600 applications had been received for the 32 places on the tour, representing 26 of the 27 EU member states (only Portugal was absent). As the candidates from Malta and Luxembourg were weak, the final list was made up of students from 24 countries. Seven were from the CE region (Czech Republic – 2; Slovakia – 1; Hungary – 2; Bulgaria – 1; Romania – 1). Three of the seven stayed on for two-month internships at the end of the tour. DS pointed out that in relation to its financial support for the initiative (800 EUR), the CEACS benefited greatly from the study tour.

The tour itself was a major success, with around 110 hours of presentations. In all cases the participating institutions said they would be pleased to host sessions next year. As far as the 2013 tour is concerned, the EC has included the initiative in its proposed budget, which it is expected will be approved by the European Parliament. There is only slight problem, in that approximately 20,000 EUR of the 160,000 EUR budget this year comprised contributions from ENCS members, and their situation next year will not enable them to maintain this level of financing. However, at the ENCS meeting held in Bratislava on Saturday most of the associations represented pledged to make at least some contribution, to show their good will.

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

DS said the most of the activities were routine, and there was no need for comment in this respect. Concerning the website, he said that, with the help of Honza Benes, he will be carrying out a major overhaul of the site. A considerable amount of information is now out of date; links have to be checked and, in some cases removed, while others should be added; a fresh attempt will be made to get descriptions of the various centres. He will endeavour to extend the use of French on the website. Concern was expressed at the insufficient information in French on the website and ways were discussed for remedying the situation..

He asked all present to look at the website and send him corrections and suggestions for improvements. When the AB members write to their national chapters, they should also ask them to do the same.

In order to keep members better informed of possibilities for giving papers abroad, and publicizing our work, it was suggested that we should get in touch with comparative literature associations and get on their list serves. Also, links to other Canadian Studies associations should be strengthened. Then information could be put directly on our website/Facebook. DS said he would look into this.

DS also pointed out the need for better advertising for Brno study stays.

1. **The CE Young Canadianists’ Network**

DL, referring to suggestions made at the General Meeting, outlined difficulties with assembling members for small meetings. DL asked us (i.e. as professors) to help them advertise; discussed PR possibilities. If professors have courses connected to Canadian Studies, we should mention the Young Canadianists’ Network – we can have articles sent to us. JB suggested having interviews in the YC newsletter.

DS suggested incorporating the Baie Mare meeting *Unconventional Conference of Young Canadianists* into our core activities; this was agreed to in principle, with the idea that we should explore ways of seeing how it might work/be financed. The suggestion was that we should try for next May. RA and CB reported on issues related to the Unconventional Meeting of Young Canadianists in Baia Mare and informed about the publication of the Proceedings of the previous encounter.

1. **CEACS’s external relations**
   1. Cooperation with the ENCS, update on the ENCS meeting in Bratislava

JK reported that the ENCS used to have two meetings per year. Now no one knows how often it will meet in future, indeed whether it will be able to hold regular meetings at all. The next meeting will come in June 2013, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the ICCS board, which on this occasion will be held in Toronto.

* 1. Cooperation with the ICCS, suggestions for the AGM (scheduled to take place in June 2013)

JK said that at the moment, there is nothing to report: the ICCS is itself still coming to terms with the ending of its funding (this runs out at the end of March 2013). He was not sure whether the ICCS-funded grants and scholarships would continue this year. DS offered to write to the ICCS to find out; subsequently it was learned that they will be offered this year, though perhaps in somewhat limited numbers.

* 1. Cooperation with the Canadian Embassies

JK encouraged AB members to speak to their respective Canadian Ambassadors, explaining their situation and exploring possible modes of cooperation. In particular, they should ask for help in contacting Canadian or Canada-related businesses in their countries. He had met with the Canadian Ambassador in Hungary, who promised to provide him with a letter of introduction and recommendation for this purpose. Once he receives it he will send us a copy, as a possible model.

DS said that we should proceed with a plan previously discussed, of providing our respective embassies with lists of those of our members who have expertise in some area relating to Canada. This the embassy can use with the media and with other enquirers, since in many ways – fluency in the local language, independence from any official position – we are very useful partners for the media when it comes to the expression of views on topical events or the provision of information on a particular topic. In addition, this would strengthen our position with the embassies, since we would in some sense be acting as “partners”. It was agreed that all AB members would proceed along these lines.

1. **AOB**

Gordan Matas asked if anyone knew of any Canadian Canadianists in the region who might be able to come and give lectures in Croatia (or elsewhere in the region).

Janos Kenyeres reminded people of the former practice of including an action list with the minutes, so that it was clear to everyone what s/he had to do. He called for this to be reintroduced/continued in our minutes, both those of the current meeting and those of the association’s General Meeting. This was agreed to.

It was suggested that people should be more familiar with the work of others in the region so as to be able to draw on it (and also cite it) when writing articles. After considerable discussion as to whether this was feasible, it was suggested that the best method for this might be through our new Facebook site – that is, to send out a query as to whether anyone had done something in an area that might bear on his or her current work.

DY said the Executive Committee would meet immediately following the close of this meeting in order to divide up responsibilities. This they subsequently did, as follows:

● Diana Yankova, President

* organizing and chairing Executive Council and Advisory Board meeting
* contact with the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS), Ottawa
* final say in the division of CEACS Executive Committee responsibilities

● Janos Kenyeres, Vice-President

* responsible for CEACS conference grants
* responsible for Canadian online e-library matters

● Rodica Albu, Secretary

* responsible for country reports

● Don Sparling, Treasurer

* responsible for financial matters
* responsible for overseeing the work of the CEACS Secretariat in Brno

● Jason Blake, Editor-in-Chief, CEJCS

* responsible for the CEJCS
* responsible for taking minutes at meetings

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

JK said he felt that, despite difficulties, it was really necessary to have a physical meeting. He suggested that it could be in the spring of 2014 (i.e. in around eighteen months). The others present agreed a meeting was desirable, though if possible even sooner. Everyone was asked to explore the possibilities for a meeting.

1. **Closing**

The second session of the meeting, which had begun at 9:00 on Monday 15 October, closed at 12:25.