CEACS/AECEC Executive Committee Meeting

(Twelfth EC Meeting)

**Brno, Czech Republic**

**7 February 2015**

**PRESENT**

Vice-President: Janos Kenyeres (Hungary; JK)

Secretary: Rodica Albu (Romania; RA)

Treasurer: Don Sparling (Czech Republic; DS)

Journal Editor: Jason Blake (Slovenia; JB)

Andrei Andreev (Bulgaria; AA); representing President Diana Yankova

**Guests**

Lucia Otrisalova (Slovakia; LO) (as former triannual CEACS conference organizer)

Vanja polic (Croatia; VP) (as conference organizer for the upcoming CEACS triannual conference)

1. **Opening**

JK opened the meeting at 14.25. JK was running the meeting in the absence of Diana Yankova.

JB offered to take the minutes instead of RA, who expressed her gratitude.

1. **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

1. **Approval of the Minutes -** 11th Meeting of the Executive Committee (Bratislava, October 14-15, 2012)

The minutes of the 11th meeting were unanimously approved.

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

JK explained the grant application process as well as how decisions are made on who gets conference funding. He reminded the Executive Committee (ExCom) that CEACS does not provide any grants for CEACS’s own conferences (e.g. for the upcoming CEACS conference in Zagreb).

JK noted that country representatives may apply for conference grants (though ExCom members may not).

DS noted that few researchers have come to Brno to do research. Grant reminders will be sent out by DS.

VP suggested reminding members of this benefit – i.e. of potentially receiving a grant – when noting the benefits of a CEACS membership to individual members.

* 1. **Report on Graduate Student Scholarships** (Andrei Andreev)

JK explained the pre-evaluation process for ICCS graduate scholarships. ICCS accepts a maximum of three applicants per association. Up to now we have never had more than three.

AA mentioned applicants and winners. Two of three applicants were successful and will study in Canada (Martina Bednarikova from Slovakia and Eszter Szenczi from Hungary).

* 1. **Country reports** (Rodica Albu)

RA noted that she is still waiting for country reports from several members.

* 1. **CE Journal of Canadian Studies, volume 9** (Jason Blake, Don Sparling)

JB apologized for the inordinate delay for volume 9.

DS has forwarded the journal to the technical editor. It will likely be published by mid-February, 2015. This time, eighty copies will be printed – i.e. for journal authors and some libraries. This is to reduce both publication and shipping costs. LO and VP noted that the electronic version has as much validity as a printed version, since the review process is the same. All CEACS members will receive a PDF version of volume 9.

JB will send the call for volume 10 a few weeks after the first deadline for the CEACS conference in Zagreb.

DS noted the possibility of print-on-demand, but this option is difficult and costly at our printer. DS also stated that all previous CEJCS issues are available online through Masaryk University (they wait 6 months before publishing articles online); each article can be downloaded individually.

VP commented that we can probably save on shipping if we send materials as “printed materials,” since that sometimes qualifies for lower postal rates.

* 1. **Activities at the Secretariat, including website and communication flow** (Don Sparling)

DS noted website difficulties with links, that repairing this is a priority and that our IT support is working to fix this problem.

DS proposed linking visitors directly to online CEJCS issues through Masaryk’s Faculty of Arts Digital Library - http://digilib.phil.muni.cz/handle/11222.digilib/115977.

DS underlined the endeavours to send all missives bilingually.

Two visitors have come to do Canadian Studies research in Brno in the past nine months.

* 1. **Young Canadianists (**Don Sparling)

DS emphasised the lack of success of the Young Canadianists as an organizedbody. This is most likely due to the geographically-scattered nature of CEACS.

He proposed that we remove information from our website relating to the Young Canadianists as a group.

However, student-relevant news on the website will be clearly marked as such. This will facilitate activity and awareness among young Canadianists. This proposal was agreed to.

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

DS reminded us that our sole source of income is from membership fees; CEACS now sits at c. 200 members (down from c. 300 two years ago).

Our expenditures are minimal since we have had no annual ExCom or Advisory Board meetings since the conference in Bratislava. Other expenses are for conference grants, research stays in Brno, minor office expenses, the journal and Jan Benes as assistant at the Secretariat. See also 8.1 below.

DS stated we are still on the Canadian fiscal year, not least because it is preferable for our accountant.

* 1. **Reports on situation in individual countries**

JB informed the others that Professor Mirko Jurak, the initiator of Canadian Studies in Slovenia, passed away in 2014.

DS reported on a project on Czechs who returned to the Czech Republic; as this is an oral history project, funding could be problematic (i.e. the academics are in literature departments rather than in history departments, which would have the best chance of being funded). He also reported on an upcoming “Canada Days” project in Brno (in October 2015), funded by the Canadian Embassy in Prague.

LO is working in diaspora literature and this might continue in the direction of oral history. She is also aiming at integrating young scholars into an “Inter-America” project.

JK explained new developments in Hungary, including a new country representative for the Hungarian chapter. JK also reminds us that two conference proceedings on Canadian topics have been published (1. Sepsi, Enikő, Judit Nagy, Miklós Vassányi, and János Kenyeres, eds. *Indigenous Perspectives of North America: A Collection of Studies*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014; 2. Tóth, Sára, Tibor Fabiny, János Kenyeres, and Péter Pásztor, eds. *Northrop Frye 100: A Danubian Perspective / Northrop Frye 100: Dunai távlatok*. Budapest: Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem; L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2014).

1. **The triennial conference in Zagreb, Croatia (9-11 October 2015)**

DS and VP pointed out three conference aspects still not agreed upon: A) when it starts and finishes; B) conference fee amounts; C) various costs.

**A – When does it start and finish**

After much discussion and consideration of other conferences (both CEACS triannual ones and lesser events), it was decided to have it run morning to eve on Friday and Saturday (beginning Oct. 9). This will facilitate travel from Zagreb on Sunday morning after the conference; it will also allow time for the new ExCom and Advisory Board to meet on Sunday morning.

Here is the list of planned deadlines: 9 February 1st call for papers (with deadline 20 March, and notification of acceptance of paper 20 April); 20 March 2nd call for papers (with deadline 20 April, and notification of acceptance of paper 10 May); 31 May provisory program; 21 August reminder of early-bird registration online; 5 September early-bird registration deadline; 20 September definitive programme; 9-11 October conference.

**B – Conference fees**

DS showed the fees for Bratislava. VP argued the differences were too great. In the end, the ExCom decided on (early bird): 70 for members, 100 for non-members, 30 for students; (“late bird”): 100 for members; 130 for non-members; 40 for students.

**C – Various costs**

VP stated that she would not ask to be reimbursed by the CEACS for more than 500 euros over the 1,000 euros already pledged by the association. DS stated that the CEACS could in fact make available an additional 1,000 euros (though it would of course be delighted if this were not necessary).VP argued for having interpreters for the two keynote speakers. She is still negotiating with interpreting firms. Both keynotes will be in the morning of the first day; this model cuts down on costs significantly.

VP highlighted that there are not enough decent and reasonably-sized restaurants near the conference venue, so we should provide lunches. DS, JK, LO queried the costs for lunches. VP will revise and recalculate catering costs to see how we can save some money.

Owing to expenses, the conference dinner will be optional. AA suggested having the dinner on Friday, but after subsequent discussion we agreed to have it on Saturday (primarily because the student choir and Mark Jarman will be performing on Friday). A buffet dinner seems ideal because it might be less expensive and, more importantly, it is better for mingling.

The ExCom agreed on deadlines for the call for papers, registration, early bird registration, etc. No refunds will be offered in the event of cancellation (the call will come out soon – see call for details).

LO underlined that bank charges should be borne by sender. VP also suggested setting up a Paypal account. JB emphasised the need to see how easy it is to withdraw from Paypal accounts in Croatia.

VP pointed out that each attendee is responsible for booking his/her room (possibly “buddying up” on the basis of the provisional conference programme).

VP pointed out that we should send the call to as many individuals as possible (i.e. not just CEACS members).

Selected articles arising from papers presented in Zagreb may be published separately as a volume, possibly as an e-book in order to reduce costs.

(N.B. After reading the draft minutes, DY sent two suggestions: 1) contact individual associations for linguistic, cultural studies, etc., to raise awareness of the upcoming conference and attract papers; 2) contact local publishing houses who publish in English to see whether they would like to have a table at the conference in exchange for a financial contribution.)

1. **Research projects – Translation Research Project; Post 2000- emigrants to Canada** (Rodica Albu)**; Outreach to high-schools**

DS spoke of the need to update our TRP database, lauding Croatia and Slovakia as positive examples. JK asked about access to the database for all; DS confirmed that this is possible (though only project members can adapt the information).

Two other projects had been discussed at the General Meeting in Bratislava and the subsequent meeting of the ExCom and Advisory Board – one on post-2000 emigrants to Canada and the other on outreach to high schools. For various reasons it had proved impracticable to proceed with either. It was suggested these be discussed with participants at the Zagreb conference and, if there is interest, brought up for discussion at the General Meeting.

RA informed the ExCom that a Slovakian member applied for a continuation of the OH project, in which LO and RA are included. The results have yet to be announced.

Two Brno conference papers on European perceptions of Canada (namely AA and DY’s and LO’s papers) could provide inspiration for CEACS projects; this can be discussed further in Zagreb.

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

DS, JK, LO underlined the difficulties of raising funds, since we are not a registered charity and also on account of our international character (i.e. a national chamber of commerce might not want to fund another country’s Canadian Studies activities). However, local funding could be important for a project with international reach, especially if it could be obtained from sponsors in more than one country.

1. **CEACS’s external relations**

**8.1 Cooperation with the ICCS: current developments (Don Sparling)**

DS pointed out that ICCS funding has changed dramatically and the two people currently on the staff of ICCS now work from home to save money. Funding is now coming almost entirely from the ICCS Endowment Fund, in the form of interest on investments as well as a (repayable) loan from the fund. The decision was taken at the ICCS annual meeting in May 2014 to cancel membership fees; however, member associations now have to pay all costs relating to their representative’s attendance at the annual meeting. At the moment the ICCS is in the process of re-writing the constitution.

* 1. **Cooperation with the ENCS, update on the ENCS meeting in Brussels (Don Sparling)**

DS reported that cooperation with ENCS is healthy. DS offered to re-start the European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies, and ENCS initiative, but some difficulties have cropped up, including problems with conference clashes and clashes with similar seminars, such as a GKS graduate seminar in Vienna and another student seminar in Bratislava. DS noted that the EU-Canada study tour has come to an end because the Canadian side cancelled the EU-Canada agreement within which the European Commission funded the tour.

* 1. **Cooperation with Canadian Embassies**

There were no new developments or major comments made under this point.

**9. AOB**

VP underlined the need to “network” in terms of visitors from Canada (pointing out how well this worked with Mark Jarman last summer, Linda Warley a few years ago, etc.). It was remarked that the embassies are not always as adaptable as we are, and JB argued that personal levels work best. It was agreed that if a writer or academic is in Ljubljana, we should remind him/her how close Zagreb is (and likewise for Budapest and Bratislava, etc.).

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

JB reminded all that the next meeting will take place in at the time of the CEACS conference in Zagreb in October.

**11. Closing**

The meeting ended at 18:53.