**6th General Meeting of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies**

**Place and date of meeting: Hollar, Room 14**

**Smetanovo nábř. 6, Prague**

**Czech Republic**

**22 September 2018, 11:45-13:30**

**Present**

38 CEACS members

50 CEACS members represented by powers of attorney

**1. Opening**

CEACS President Diana Yankova (DY) opened the meeting at 11:55. As a total of 88 members were present, either personally or through their proxies established by powers of attorney, she declared that there was a quorum as defined by §6.1 of the Association’s current Constitution (one-third the total membership of the association, which is currently 189). The General Meeting unanimously agreed to Don Sparling as keeper of the minutes.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**President’s Report on CEACS activities 2012-2015**

**Financial report 2015-2018**

**Draft version of new CEACS Constitution and discussion of specific changes**

**Election of the new Executive Committee**

**Approval of Association members to inspect its finances**

**Discussion on current situation of the CEACS, priority goals in the coming three years and possible new joint projects**

**AOB**

**Closing**

The draft agenda was adopted by all those present.

**3. President’s Report on CEACS activities 2015-2018**

DY reminded the participants that the President’s Report on CEACS activities from 2015 to 2018 had been sent to all CEACS members by e-mail, and stated that she had received one comment: the Slovenian representative had asked for the Report to include mention of events that had taken place in Slovenia in the period under review. The President had explained that this absence of information on Slovenian activities resulted from the fact that the Report focused rather on more large-scale actions and projects, none of which had occurred in Slovenia. Nevertheless she agreed with the request of the Slovenian representative for events that had taken place in Slovenia to be included in the Report. The President then asked the participants to adopt the Report with the proviso that she would add to it the suggestions made by the Slovenian representative. The amended Report would then be posted on the CEACS website. The President's Report on CEACS Activities 2015-2018 was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

**4. Financial report 2015-2018**

As CEACS Treasurer, Don Sparling (DS) presented the financial report, which had been prepared by two CEACS members, Lucia Grauzľová and Martina Horáková. He explained the background to the report, including the implications of the only source of its funding being membership fees. He asked the participants to approve the financial report, which they did unanimously by a show of hands.

**5. Draft version of new CEACS Constitution and discussion of specific changes**

DS explained that changes in the current Constitution were necessitated by the new Czech Republic Civil Code (Law 89/2012 Sb.), as a result of which a member of the Association, Prof. Petr Kyloušek, had been appointed legal guardian of the Association with the task of revising the Constitution in order to bring it into line with the requirements of this law. He noted that members had received a copy of the draft version of the new Constitution, and then went through it to explain the changes that were included therein. After answering several questions, he asked those present to approve the wording of the new Constitution as presented to the General Meeting, in particular the change in name of the Association (the addition of "z.s." to reflect the provisions of the new Civil Code) and the change of its official address from Arna Nováka 1 to Durďákova 340/33, Brno. The draft version of the new Constitution was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

**6. Election of the new Executive Committee**

DY asked Jason Blake, as the only member of the Executive Committee present who is not elected by the General Meeting, to take the chair for this point on the agenda.

Jason Blake (JB) explained the two-round procedure laid down in theCEACS Constitution for the election of the Executive Committee members. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee (who serves as President of the Association) is elected in the first round, and the remaining candidates in the second round. He also noted that, in line with the procedure followed by the International Council for Canadian Studies in Ottawa at its Annual General Meeting, the precise vote totals in these rounds are not announced publicly, only the name/names of the person/those who have been elected.

JB then asked the four candidates for election, who had been nominated by their national chapters – Carmen Andrei (Romania), Katalin Kurtosi (Hungary), Don Sparling (Czech Republic) and Diana Yankova (Bulgaria) – to introduce themselves briefly, describe their qualifications for being members of the Executive Committee, and declare whether they were interested in standing for election as Chairperson of the Executive Committee (and as such President of the Association). The four individuals in question did so, with only Katalin Kurtosi stating her interest in running for the position of Chairperson of the Executive Committee (CEACS President).

Two volunteers, Klara Kolinská and Martina Horáková, were unanimously approved as scrutineers.

**6.1 Round 1 – election of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee** (CEACS President) The only candidate was Katalin Kurtosi. In voting by secret ballot, she was elected by a majority of the votes cast.

**6.2 Round 2 – election of the other three regular members of the Executive Committee.**  After the election of the Chairperson, three candidates remained for three positions in the Executive Committee (Carmen Andrei, Don Sparling, Diana Yankova). In voting by secret ballot, all three candidates were elected by a majority of the votes cast.

Following the announcement of the result of the elections, DY resumed her role as chair of the General Meeting.

**7. Approval of Association members to inspect its finances**

Previous to the General Meeting, the Executive Committee had asked Lucia Grauzľová and Martina Horáková if they would be willing to continue inspecting the finances of the Association and prepare the financial report for its General Meeting. They had responded positively to this proposal, which was approved unanimously by those present.

**8. Discussion on current situation of the CEACS, priority goals in the coming three years and possible new joint projects**

DY pointed out the detailed description of CEACS activities in the President's Report, which indicates that the situation is stable: the number of conferences, papers presented at conferences, articles, etc. remains roughly the same each year; a joint project continues to run; and the income from membership fees remains steady (though small). She then asked those present to suggest possible activities, goals or specific projects for the coming three-year period.

For the association as a whole, proposals included strengthening ties with BACS so that cooperation would continue smoothly post-Brexit; becoming more proactive in providing CEACS members with information on conferences, grant opportunities (in particular grants for taking part in conferences), etc.; and increasing the publication frequency of the CEJCS. Where individual national chapters are concerned, it was suggested that intercultural training sessions for new employees of Canadian companies operating in the region could be organized as a means of acquiring some income, which could be used, for example, for student grants. The only joint research project that was suggested was one for the creation of practical materials for teaching about Canada at high schools; our Hungarian colleagues, who have much experience in this area, could organize such a project.

DY ended the discussion by saying that the CEACS Secretariat would send out a message to all CEACS members that would summarize what had been discussed at the General Meeting and invite them to comment and make additional suggestions and proposals.

**9. Any other business**

The General Meeting charged the newly elected members of the Executive Committee with the task of working with Prof. Petr Kyloušek to ensure the registration of the results of the discussions of this General Meeting in the Commercial Register of the Regional Court in Brno.

**10. Closing**

DY declared the meeting closed at 13:30.