

## 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies

(Chaired by out-going President Katalin Kürtösi)

**Place and date of meeting: Miklošič Room**  
**Rectorate, University of Maribor**  
**Slomškovo trg 15, Maribor**  
**Slovenia**  
**13 September 2024, 13.30-14.55**

### **Present**

33 CEACS members

### **1. Opening**

The meeting opened at 13:35 and was conducted in English and French.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. President's Report on CEACS activities 2018-2024 (forwarded to members by e-mail in advance)**
- 4. Treasurer's report**
- 5. Vice-President's report**
- 6. Report on the *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies***
- 7. Discussion**
- 8. Elections**
- 9. Any other business**
- 10. Closing**

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

### **3. President's Report on CEACS activities 2018-2024**

Katalin Kürtösi stated that as her report had been forwarded to members by e-mail in advance, she would only mention a few of the highlights.

- **Membership.** She had inherited a strong membership from her predecessor, Diana Yankova, and this had remained solid throughout her Presidency.
- **Communication.** Every effort had been made to provide information to the membership regarding grant possibilities, Canadian Studies conferences within the association and elsewhere, and significant developments affecting their work in the discipline. KK had instituted the practice of sending the monthly newsletters of the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) and the Association internationale d'études québécoises to the membership. She had been greatly helped in her efforts by the student assistant at the CEACS Secretariat in Brno, Denisa Krasná.
- **Transparency.** This had been her central goal as President, in particular in connection with activities linked to the ICCS, hence her regular reports on the ICCS Annual General Meeting and

changes in the functioning of the ICCS Secretariat and its move from Ottawa to Toronto. Concerning the CEACS itself, she stressed the importance of on-line meetings with the Executive Committee as well as joint meetings of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board.

- Activities of members and chapters. Thanks to the on-line google activities sheet we have a much fuller record of these activities than virtually any other Canadian Studies association. These have proved invaluable for preparing the annual report to the ICCS, which were greeted very positively by the ICCS executive as well as representatives of its national and regional Canadian Studies associations. In particular the anniversary celebrations of Alice Munro and Margaret Atwood were much praised (and envied!).

- Recognition of members' achievements. In addition to the CEACS's Certificate of Merit, Petr Kyloušek and Jason Blake were awarded the the ICCS Certificate of Merit, István János Molnár its Pierre Savard Award, and Jana Marešová received the ICCS Best Doctoral Thesis in International Canadian Studies Award.

#### **4. Treasurer's report on financial issues and the CEACS Secretariat at Masaryk University, Brno**

##### **4.1 Financial issues**

Don Sparling as CEACS Treasurer reported that the CEACS auditors, Martina Horáková and Lucia Grauzlová, had found the financial records in order, and had not made any recommendations for changes.

The association's finances are in good shape. Though there is currently something in the order of 4000 EUR in the association bank account, most of this is earmarked for expenditures on the Maribor conference, the publication of vol. 19 of the *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies*, conference grants, grants for research stays in Brno, and administrative charges. The association should end the current fiscal year (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025) slightly in the black.

Virtually all the association's income is from membership fees; country representatives were urged to do their utmost to maintain and increase membership in order to enable the association to keep offering its members so many benefits.

One other source of income in this fiscal year was a contribution of 350 CAD from the ICCS to enable grants to be given to emerging scholars taking part in the Maribor conference; these were awarded to Lucie Altmannová, Attila Takács and Dalibor Žila.

##### **4.2 CEACS Secretariat at Masaryk University, Brno**

DS pointed out that one other source of income, from the Department of English and American Studies at Masaryk University, covers the work of his student assistant at the Secretariat. S/he is responsible for communications with members, keeping the website up-to-date, arranging details concerning publications, the stays of researchers in Brno and a host of other duties and responsibilities. Without a student assistant, the Secretariat would cease to function.

## **5. Vice-President's report**

Michelle Gadpaille spoke about the decision from the previous General Meeting in Budapest on 29 October 2022 to pursue the possibilities of initiating a new project that would enable members from all countries to participate. Much time and effort had been put into this, but in the end this proved impossible, owing to the wider range of fields and topics now represented by CEACS members as well as increased commitments within their departments and universities that have left little or no time to pursue a new activity. However, she urged anyone with a proposal for a research project to get in touch with the Executive Committee.

As far as grants are concerned, MG said there had been a steady but modest number of applications for CEACS conference grants; members should be encouraged to apply. Also, other sources of support aside from the CEACS and ICCS should be explored. In this connection, it was pointed out that the John F. Kennedy Institute in Berlin no longer offers grants for research stays there; this information should be removed from the CEACS website.

## **6. Report on the *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies***

As the Editor-in-chief of the *CEJCS* was unable to be present at the General Meeting, Don Sparling was asked to report in his place. He noted that vol. 18 of the journal had appeared in 2023, and that this was the fifth year in a row that one issue had been published. He also spoke about its unique feature – each issue begins with an interview with a Canadian author, and many of these (mostly carried out by Jason Blake) have been outstanding – and its main problems: a lack of articles being submitted, and the difficulty at times of finding articles in French.

A long and lively discussion followed, which centred on the fact that without the journal being on some reasonably prestigious index, it was unrealistic to expect that scholars would submit more articles, and that without a change we could in fact we expect even greater difficulty in obtaining articles in the future.

Many suggestions were made to improve the journal's standing, among the most frequently mentioned being:

- ensure regularity of publication
- publish twice a year (this being a basic criterion for being included in a prestigious index, though some members present claimed this was not true), even if this meant very slim issues
- ensure articles had DOI numbers
- as a first step, make the effort to be included in a less prestigious index
- find ways of being available in Open Access form (many variants on this were offered).

After a discussion which had taken much longer than anticipated, the new Executive Committee was asked to make the issue of the journal a priority in their upcoming three-year mandate.

## **7. Discussion**

There was no time for any further discussion - see item 6 in the agenda – so the meeting proceeded to item 8.

## 8. Elections

Katalin Kürtösi invoked paragraph 6.1 of the CEACS Constitution, which reads as follows:

The General Meeting is the highest official body of the Association and is composed of all the members of the Association. A minimum of one-third of all members coming together at one particular time shall constitute a quorum. Should a quorum not be gathered within an hour of the appointed beginning of the meeting, the members present shall be deemed sufficient to form a quorum.

She then announced that four individuals had been nominated to be members of the Executive Committee – Victor Kennedy (University of Maribor), Octavian More (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca), Don Sparling (Masaryk University, Brno) and Andrea Szabó (University of Pannonia, Veszprém) – and that only one of them, Octavian More, had expressly expressed a commitment to run for the position of Chairman. She then called on all four candidates to introduce themselves briefly to the General Meeting.

After this had been done, KK announced the meeting could proceed to the actual voting. All those present would receive two ballots, one with the name of the single candidate running to be Chairman of the CEACS Executive Committee (and, automatically, President of the CEACS), and the other with the names of the three remaining candidates. For each, the choice when voting would be “yes”, “no” or “abstain”.

The election committee, headed by Attila Takács and with two additional members, Krisztina Kodó and Tomáš Pospíšil, collected and counted the ballots and announced the results of the elections as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain
For President			
Octavian More	30	0	1
For the Executive Committee			
Victor Kennedy	30	1	1
Don Sparling	32	0	0
Andrea Szabó	31	0	1

## 9. Any other business

No topics were suggested.

## 10. Closing

Katalin Kürtösi declared the meeting closed at 15:10.