**7th General Meeting of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies**

**Date and place of meeting: 24 September 2021, on-line**

**Present**

38 CEACS members

**1. Opening**

CEACS President Katalin Kürtösi (KK) opened the meeting at 15:00.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

 Election of the new Executive Committee

 President’s Report on CEACS activities 2018–2021

 Financial report 2018–2021

 Discussion

 AOB

 Announcement of voting results

 Closing

No change was made to the draft agenda.

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

KK asked Diana Yankova (DY), as the only elected member of the Executive Committee who was not running for re-election, to take the Chair for this point on the agenda.

DY explained the procedure that would be followed for the election of the new Executive Committee. There were five candidates, who had been nominated by their national chapters for four positions: Carmen Andrei (Romania), Michelle Gadpaille (Slovenia), Katalin Kürtösi (Hungary), Diana Popović (Serbia) and Don Sparling (Czech Republic). They had been asked if they were willing to serve as President: the only one who had answered in the positive was Katalin Kürtösi. This meant that there would be two ballots. The first would enable them to vote for or against KK or abstain; the second would allow them to vote for up to three persons from the list of four candidates. DY then asked the five candidates for election to introduce themselves briefly and describe their qualifications for being members of the Executive Committee. After this was done, voting on-line began; it was announced it would continue until after item 7 on the agenda (Any other business).

**4. President’s Report on CEACS activities 2018**–**2021**

KK resumed her role as Chair of the meeting. She opened her report by reminding the association’s members that when she had been elected President at the General Meeting in Prague in 2018 she had promised to be as open and transparent as possible. Despite the difficulties created by the COVID pandemic, she felt she had succeeded in this, and thanked the members for the support and feedback she had received. She noted that her official report on CEACS activities from 2018 to 2021 had been sent out to all the members in advance, so she would not be going into the past three years of activities in detail. But she would like to reiterate that we could all be proud of the results – two issues of the *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies* (Volumes 14 and 15, and Volume 16 in the works); the major project celebrating Margaret Atwood’s eightieth birthday, and the album created to record it; activities being undertaken this year to mark Alice Munro’s ninetieth birthday; several conferences organized by national chapters; ICCS doctoral scholarships won by our student members; Petr Kyloušek receiving the ICCS Certificate of Merit; and many other activities of merit, especially in the area of publication. In closing, she expressed the wish that, as the COVID crisis (hopefully) passes, CEACS members will be even more active in the coming three years

**5. Financial report 2018**–**2021**

The CEACS Treasurer Don Sparling (DS) presented the financial report. In its first part, the Treasurer’s Report, he began by thanking the organizers of the 8th CEACS triennial conference in Prague in 2018, for having taken full benefit of the financial opportunities offered by Charles University to run the conference without the need for any grant from the CEACS. This eased financial pressure in succeeding years, something that was also helped by the fact that only about half the time in the past three years was “normal”. In “normal” times, the main expenditures are on publications (approx. 30% of the budget), conference grants (approx. 20%–25%, and research stays in Brno (approx. 10%). Other regular expenditures are on the legally required auditor and webhosting (each about 5%). Normal annual income is 3500/3600 EUR. In addition, the English Department in Brno covers the cost of the student assistant at the CEACS Secretariat. Owing to the abnormal situation beginning in 2020, no conference grants and no Brno research grants were given. To reflect the fact that members were not receiving all the usual benefits of membership, membership fees were slashed for 2021; as a result, the income for this year was approximately 2300 EUR. There were, however, larger expenditures than usual on publications – not only Vol. 14 of the association journal, but also *Canada Consumed*, the bulky publication marking the end of the second translation research project. Nevertheless, costs were kept in line by printing a minimum number of hard copies of the publications; most went to contributors as well as to the legal deposit libraries required by Czech law.

The second part of the financial report was the Financial Inspectors’ Report. This had been done by two CEACS members, Lucia Grauzľová (Slovakia) and Martina Horáková (Czech Republic). Their inspection of the financial documents found no irregularities; they also noted that recommendations made in the previous report (2018) had been dealt with, and that the system in pace in present works well and that there seemed no need this time to make any specific recommendations for changes.

DS concluded the financial report by saying that the overall state of the association’s finances was good: that the resources on hand were more than enough to cover the expenditures anticipated at the moment: the publication of Vol. 15 of the journal, support for the 9th CEACS conference in Budapest in 2022, and conference grants at the beginning of 2022.

The Financial Report 2018–2021 was approved, as was the re-appointment of Lucia Grauzľová and Martina Horáková as financial inspectors for the period until the next General Meeting.

**6. Discussion**

In view of the relative lack of activity in the recent eighteen months, and the uncertainty as to how things might develop, discussion was rather limited, though a number of topics were touched on.

- One concern was the desirability of launching a new CEACS project that would bring together participants from the various members countries. Two suggestions were enhancing diversity in secondary-school curricula by promoting Canada in secondary schools (this might draw on the expertise in this area of Judit Nagy and her team in Budapest and Albert Rau in Germany, and the reflection of events in Canada in Central European media.

- When Canadian writers and other speakers visit the region, they tend to visit only one institution. Some system should be devised to maximize their presence, for example, holding on-line talks or interviews that could be shared by the whole membership, or planning in advance so they could appear in person at more than one institution (and perhaps in more than one country).

- A concerted effort should be made to improve the CEACS Facebook site: more frequent uploading of material, perhaps by someone who is charged with doing this; a wider range of material; more use of the site by members looking for material for their academic work.

The Executive Committee was urged to consider these suggestions, and to get in touch with the whole membership, asking them for their input to the discussion.

**7. Any other business**

No new matters were suggested.

**8. Announcement of voting results**

KK declared the voting for a new Executive Committee had now ended, and asked DY to report on the results. DY declared that KK had been re-elected President, and that the three other elected members of the Executive Committee would be Michelle Gadpaille, Diana Popović and Don Sparling. KK thanked the members for supporting her, and congratulated the three new members of the Executive Committee on their election. She also thanked Denisa Krásná, the student assistant at the CEACS Secretariat in Brno, for the organization of the whole voting process and for ensuring it ran so smoothly and efficiently.

**9. Closing**

KK declared the meeting closed at 16:40.