

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Canadian Association of Slavists  
2 June 2013, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting came to order at 15:40 and was chaired by Allan Reid. CAS President, Megan Swift, asked each CAS Executive to introduce him- or herself to the CAS members.

**2. Remembrance**

Members stood for a minute of silence to remember members of CAS who recently passed away: Adam Bromke (2008) and Victor Buyniak (2013).

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion to adopt agenda as posted. Moved by David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye and seconded by Oleh Ilnytskyj. Carried.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved by Natalia Pylypiuk and seconded by Svitlana Kryz to approve minutes of the 2012 AGM held at Wilfrid Laurier University/University of Waterloo. Carried.

**5. Presentation by the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Megan Swift announced that due to the financial constraints, the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences is no longer able to send its representatives to each Association's AGM. Instead, they ask a representative from each association to attend their general meeting, held during the Congress. David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye attended the meeting on CAS behalf. Megan thanked David for representing CAS at the Federation's meeting and also expressed her gratitude to Jeff Sahadeo who attended the Federation's regular meetings in Ottawa during the academic year on her behalf.

**6. Executive Reports**

**a. President's Report**

Full text of the report is posted in PDF format at:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/reports/2013%20President's%20report.pdf>

Megan Swift introduced a CAS high school Russian essay contest. This initiative came from Rob Ennest in Plamondon, AB. The initial proposal is to have two essay prizes: one for an essay written in Russian and the other one for an essay about Russia, written in English. The cash prize is supposed to be funded through fund-raising in the Russian community. Megan asked all members to advertise the contest among their colleague who teach Russian in high schools and invited those CAS members who are interested in serving as jurors for this (as well as our regular CAS undergraduate / graduate essay contest) to contact her by e-mail at [maswift@uvic.ca](mailto:maswift@uvic.ca).

Megan also thanked CAS members and Universities for sending her their enrollment statistics for Slavic courses for her on-going project to trace the current state of the field/profession. Megan is mainly investigating the enrollments in Russian courses, but she invited other members to do the same for other Slavic languages. Discussion followed.

Finally, Megan introduced the initiative, proposed by David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye, to start a CAS Book Prize contest. Members deliberated on the possible categories and criteria for the prize. David volunteered to chair the committee, and Nigel Raab volunteered to serve on the committee. Megan invited other CAS members who are interested in serving on the CAS Book Prize committee to contact her by e-mail at [maswift@uvic.ca](mailto:maswift@uvic.ca).

**b. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report (presented by Megan Swift on behalf of Bohdan Nebesio)**

Full text of the report is posted in PDF format at:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/reports/SECRETARY%20report%202012-13.pdf>

Megan Swift read the Secretary-Treasurer’s report in Bohdan Nebesio’s absentia. At the end of the report, members applauded Bohdan for his long service at CAS and CSP.

Megan also spoke about the need to raise the membership fees as discussed among the Executives before the AGM. Bohdan Harasymiw moved and David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye seconded to increase the membership fees as of January 1, 2014 as follows. Carried.

**Members in Canada**  
Payable in **Canadian Dollars**  
Includes postage

**Members Outside Canada**  
Payable in **US Dollars**  
Does not include postage

— Canadian Regular	\$90	— Foreign Regular	\$90
— Canadian Joint*	\$115	— Foreign Joint*	\$115
— Canadian Emeritus	\$50	— Foreign Emeritus	\$50
— Student / Under-employed	\$40	— Student / Under-employed	\$40
— Canadian Life	\$1000	— Foreign Life	\$1000

Elena Baraban called for re-opening of the discussion about life-membership fee at the 2014 AGM at Brock University.

**c. 2012 Organizing Committee Report**

2013 Conference Chair, Serhy Yekelchuk, thanked all individuals who contributed to the organization of this year’s conference including the CAS Executive. Serhy reported that this year’s conference had 83 participants, and there was a reasonable balance among various disciplines.

He also commented on the problems associated with late submissions and the visible increase in cancellations (including the cancellation of the entire panel) due to the elimination of the travel grant subsidy from SSHRC this year. Because of this, the conference ended earlier than planned. On a bright side, Serhy noted that the CAS was truly an international conference with the participants coming from all over the world. However, the overall attendance is down from previous years.

Serhy finished his report by thanking the participants for their flexibility with scheduling the panels and for their willingness to chair panels and serve as discussants.

On behalf of all participants, Allan Reid thanked Serhy Yekelchuk and Olga Pressitch, the CAS local coordinator, for organizing an excellent conference this year.

#### **d. *Canadian Slavonic Papers*: Editor's Report**

Full text of the report is posted in PDF format at:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/reports/CSP%20report%202013.pdf>

Heather Coleman stressed the journal's difficult financial situation and presented the CAS membership with the initiative, discussed at the earlier CAS Executive meeting, about signing the agreement with the British publisher, Taylor & Francis (a division of Routledge), to publish our journal.

Nicholas Žekulin moved and Oleh Ilnytzkyj seconded to approve the exploration of the Taylor & Francis proposal with its possible future adaptation. After the motion was carried, Oleh offered an addendum to the motion to give the Editor, Heather Coleman, the authority to make a decision on the proposal before the 2014 AGM due to the financial constraints that the journal currently faces. Carried.

Heather also stressed the need to find current solutions to the journal's financial situation while she investigates Taylor & Francis's proposal. Heather moved and Natalia Pylypiuk seconded that if, after careful calculations, it is determined that the journal may gain savings from printing less hard copies, the current membership will come with electronic (i.e., pdf) subscription only and that the members who will require a hard copy will be asked to pay a \$25 surcharge to cover the shipping and handling costs. Carried.

### **7. ICCEES report**

Andrii Krawchuk, CAS Representative to the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) as well as a member of ICCEES Executive, updated CAS members on the organization's activities during the past year and outlined the benefits of CAS's continuous participation in the international organization.

Andrii asked members for their ideas on how to subsidize the participation of the Slavic graduate students at the 2014 ICCEES Congress in Tokyo, Japan and to identify the potential sources of funding. He estimated that approximately \$25,000 will be needed to

cover the travelling and lodging costs of the graduate students. Discussion followed. Members are also encouraged to contact Andrii by e-mail at [akrawchuk@sympatico.ca](mailto:akrawchuk@sympatico.ca) if they can think of further possible fund-raising opportunities.

## **8. New Business**

Megan Swift presented the petition against the attack on academic freedom that the Levada Centre in Moscow currently faces that Zina Gimpelevich asked her to bring to the attention of CAS members. Megan asked all members who are willing to support Levada Centre to visit their web-site [www.zeitschrift-osteuropa.de/support-levada/en](http://www.zeitschrift-osteuropa.de/support-levada/en)

Natalia Pylypiuk, the President of the Canadian Association for Ukrainian Studies (CAUS), which is a member of CAS, and Serhy Yekelchuk brought to the organization's attention the discussion at the earlier CAUS meeting about possibly issuing a statement from CAS in regards to the elimination of Slavic graduate specialization (Slavic Languages and Literatures, Slavic Linguistics, and Ukrainian folklore) at the University of Alberta. Oleh Ilnytskyj moved and Gust Olson seconded to have the incoming Executives draft a letter of concern to the U of Alberta's President, Dean of Arts, and the Chair of the Dept. of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies. Oleh also stressed the urgency of the matter. Carried.

## **9. Nominating Committee Report and Elections**

In the absence of Zina Gimpelevich, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Elena Baraban, a member of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's report.

Honorary President, 2013-14

Natalia Pylypiuk

President, 2012-2014

Megan Swift, continues in office

Vice Presidents, 2013-2014

Bohdan Nebesio

Volha Isakava

Secretary-Treasurer, 2013-2016

Maryna Romanets

Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, 2011-2016

Heather Coleman, continues in office

Programme Committee Chairs, 2013-14

Bohdan Nebesio and David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye (Brock 2014)

Programme Committee Members, 2013-15

Volha Isakava (Ottawa 2015)

Members-at-large, 2013-14

Ross Bilous

Tristan Landry

Tim Ormond

David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye  
Serhy Yekelchyk  
Nominating Committee Chair and Immediate Past President, 2012-14  
Zina Gimpelevich, continues in office  
Nominating Committee Members, 2013-14  
Elena Baraban  
Bohdan Harasymiw  
International Committee of Slavists, 2013-18  
Olga Mladenova  
CAS rep to ICCEES, 2011-2014  
Andrii Krawchuk, continues in office  
International Relations Committee, 2009-14  
Natalia Pylypiuk, continues in office  
Graduate Student Representative, 2013-14  
Janick Roy  
Dorotka Lockyer

All positions were acclaimed. The Meeting has accepted and approved the report of the Nominating Committee.

**Meeting adjourned at 17:56**

Recorded by Svitlana Krysa, Assistant Editor of CSP, in the absence of the CAS Secretary-Treasurer, Bohdan Nebesio.