

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Canadian Association of Slavists

June 2, 2019

In attendance: 40

1. Welcome Association President Alison Rowley opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the meeting and to the conference.

2. A minute of silence to remember members of CAS who have passed away. - Carter Eldwood, Andrii Makuch, Gust Olson and members of CAS

The Association also recognized the 65th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Slavists.

3. Approval of the Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was moved Natalie Kononenko and seconded by Elena Baraban. Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2018 AGM was moved by Andrii Krawchuk and seconded by Katherine Bowers. Carried.

### 5. **President's Report by Alison Rowley**

- In her report, the President, Alison Rowley, recognized the hard work of Katherine Bowers in organizing and preparing for the Conference. The President also recognized this year's book celebration, thanking Natalie Konenko for the idea and insisting that this be made a regular event of the CAS Conference.
- The President also recognized the recipients of this year's CAS Student Essay Prizes. The recipient of the graduate award was Sean Patterson, and two undergraduate students received the award, Flora Deverell and Hannah Rudderham. Thanks to the prize committee.
- Dr. Rowley also recognized that this year's Canadian Association of Slavists/Taylor & Francis Book Prize was awarded to Lynne Viola for her book, *Stalinist Perpetrators on Trial: Scenes from the Great Terror in Soviet Ukraine*. Thanks as well to the prize committee, Joy Demoskoff, Allan Reid & Maryna Romanets. Reading for

the next prize is underway. Taylor & Francis has also increased the value of the prize.

- The President recognized the winner of the first Canadian Association of Slavists/Taylor & Francis Article of the Year Award. The prize was awarded to Professor Jeffrey S. Hardy for his article, "Of pelicans and prisoners: avian-human interactions in the Soviet Gulag," which appeared in a special issue of CSP guest-edited by Eva Plach. The article is available for free download for the next year.
- She also recognized the special issue guest-edited by Eva Plach.
- The President said it is important to recognize the work of Heather Coleman for her contribution to the quality of the journal and relationship with our publisher, Taylor & Francis. Thanks as well to Brad Smith, the journal's editorial assistant, and to Iaroslav Kovalchuk for compiling this year's newsletter.
- ICCEES News - The next CAS conference will take place at the ICCEES 2020 World Congress in Montreal at Concordia University. The CAS AGM will also take place there. It will be possible to have CAS or CAUS panels.
- The President noted that the call for proposals went out a little over a month ago, and the first submission was made within 24 hours.
- The President thanked Maryna Romanets for her work as Secretary Treasurer, and recognized the importance of the support of the CAS Executive and their dedication to the Association.

## 6. Executive Reports

### Secretary Treasurer's Report by Maryna Romanets

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

<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/CAS%20secretary%20treasurer%20report%202018-19.pdf>

- In beginning her report, Maryna Romanets, the Secretary Treasurer, recognized the positive outlook for CAS funds. She noted that the CAS funds are in GICs, which generate interest that is earmarked for student travel subsidies. In the 2018-2019 year, membership dues were collected for CAS by CSP. CSP contributed \$5000, but it was deposited after the end of the fiscal year. Last year's conference brought in \$458.75 in society registration fees, less than the previous year in Toronto. Dr. Romanets continued, noting that last year's expenditures followed the pattern of previous years, with spending on travel grants and membership dues to the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences for the 2019 calendar year. This year, CAS tried to make all transactions electronically, e-transferring students travel grants so as not to use cheques. CAS started the 2018-2019 fiscal year with an opening balance of \$15,479.06, there was a loss of \$166.31.
- Moving on with the Financial Report, Dr. Romaets noted that this year's conference income was estimated at \$1500. Plans for the next year include contributing money toward the world congress, budgeting for Dr. Rowley's course release, which was approved by the CAS executive, and \$6000 earmarked for student travel grants.

Today's Conference is already in the next financial year. Around \$2000 were allocated this year for student travel grants. In line with last year's expenses, CAS plans to spend \$1000 for AV equipment. Dr. Romanets explained that she expects a net income of \$2970.00, which will bring our equity to \$17338.99, meaning more money for the world congress, for the course release and travel grants.

- Dr. Romanets continued, noting CAS is required to file a Registered Charity Information Return. Finally, noting the end of her term as Secretary Treasurer, she expressed gratitude to the 3 CAS presidents she has worked with, and to Heather Coleman.
- Questions
- Question from Heather Coleman
  - Considering the Association's plan to drastically reduce the registration cost of graduate students coming to ICCEES next year, Heather Coleman asked if, because the Association is a registered charity, we could we appeal to members or potential donors to increase our travel grant funding.
    - Maryna Romanets responded, confirming that would be possible. She also clarified that the Association would try to offer subsidies of \$250 for graduate student registration, hoping to attract as many students as possible.
    - Alison Rowley noted that the Association is aiming to match the funding of ICCEES executives, but also open funding to MA students.
- Question from Megan Swift
  - Megan Swift asked whether, in addition to the \$6000 set aside for the graduate student registration, the Association would still be able to provide travel grants.
    - Maryna Romanets clarified that there will be two separate funding pools, so the usual travel grants will still be offered.
- A motion to approve the Secretary Treasurer's report was moved Maryna Romanets and seconded Elena Baraban. Carried.

### ***Canadian Slavonic Papers Editor's Report by Heather Coleman***

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

<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/CSP%20Annual%20Report%202018-2019.pdf>

- Heather Coleman, the Editor of CSP, opened her report by noting that 2018 was a good year for Canadian Slavonic Papers. The year marked the publication of the journal's 60th volume, and this was celebrated at the ASEES Conference with a cake provided by Taylor & Francis. This year, CSP featured two double issues with 23 refereed articles, 1 roundtable, 1 research note and 1 review article. She also noted that this year the journal included two special sections: one featuring the Canadian contributions to the Congress of the International Council of Slavists, guest-edited by Olga Mladenova, and another on animals in Eastern Europe, proposed and curated by Eva Plach. She thanked both the guest editors for their hard work. Dr. Coleman reviewed subscriptions for the last year, noting a significant drop in member subscribers due possibly to the location of the previous Congress in Regina. She noted that the journal's core subscribers are institutional subscribers, with 500

institutions subscribed in the last year through electronic packages through Taylor & Francis. She also noted that electronic distribution continues through EBSCO and JSTOR. Moving on, the Editor announced the recipient of the first “Article of the Year” Award. In honour of the 60th volume, Taylor & Francis agreed to fund an article of the year prize. The Editor chooses a short list of the articles that were published in CSP, and a committee then chooses from the short list. This year the prize was awarded to Jeffrey S. Hardy for his article “Of pelicans and prisoners: avian–human interactions in the Soviet Gulag.” The article is available for free access until the end of April 2020.

- Turning to matters of administration, Dr. Coleman recognized CSP’s continuing partnership with Taylor & Francis. The publisher manages CSP’s physical production and publicity, while CSP retains copyright and takes charge of everything related to content and editing the contents of the journal. In this, she also recognized the work of CSP editorial assistants Brad Smith and Oksana Vynnyk, as well as Iaroslav Kovalchuk, who has contributed to editing and who compiled this year’s newsletter.
- Dr. Coleman noted that a major new project has been to revamp the CAS/CSP websites and databases, which were put together 10-15 years ago and are out of date in many ways. The CSP team has been working with Sergiy Kozakov to develop a new website, which should launch this year. The new website will feature improved navigation, a news page and a French version of the website.
- Turning to book review editors, Dr. Coleman thanked Tanya Richardson (Social Science), Jeff Sahadeo (History), Joseph Schallert (Language & Linguistics) and Kate Holland (Literature & Culture) for all their hard work, as well as that of the associate editors, article reviewers, referees, and book reviewers.
- In reviewing CSP finances, Dr. Coleman noted that the full finances are in the report. She clarified that, while the journal had \$47390.51 in income and \$33,402.208 in expenses, the surplus is not actually so high. The CAS transfer was not completed by the end of the fiscal year, so there is, in fact, \$5000 less than is marked here. The journal’s assets as of 31 March 2019 were \$212,467.23. This puts CSP in excellent shape, though she noted the journal needs to have \$100,000 as cushion in case anything ever happens. This is CSP’s 4th year of making money since working with Taylor & Francis. Some of the accumulated assets are going to special projects like the new website and databases. She ended this section of the report by recognizing that, while CSP is no longer eligible for SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals, the journal has enough income from its association with Taylor & Francis to continue.
- Moving on, Dr. Coleman thanked CAS for all the support and encouraged members to think of CSP as a venue for publishing research. She asked members to encourage friends and students to subscribe, and to disseminate the journal by downloading articles, assigning them to students and publicizing articles on social media.
- Finally, Dr. Coleman invited members to consider becoming the next Editor of CSP. She is coming to the end of her second term as Editor, and encouraged everyone to consider this rewarding position. She noted that the Executive will send out an invitation for individuals or teams to apply to become an Editor of CSP. Those interested can contact Alison Rowley and Heather Coleman for more information.

- A motion to approve the Editor's Report was moved by Heather Coleman moved and seconded by Alison Rowley. Carried.

### **Programme Chair's Report by Katherine Bowers**

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

[https://sites.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/CAS\\_AGM-conference\\_organizer\\_report-2019.pdf](https://sites.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/CAS_AGM-conference_organizer_report-2019.pdf)

- Katherine Bowers, the Programme Chair, opened her report by recognizing that this year's CAS conference is the largest of the last 5 years, with 112 participants and proposals for 17 panels. The 2019 CAS conference features 4 open events: a literature reading; a film screening & Q&A; a roundtable on Russian security; and panel on Soviet science. One additional special event was the book celebration. Presentations at this year's conference include many by grad students and the conference also features 2 professional development sessions organized by CAS graduate student representative Alex Averbuch. Dr. Bowers thanked Alex for his work, as well as the 3 student volunteers at the info desk.
- Questions
  - Noting that one presenter from Finland gave their conference presentation by video, a member asked whether it is productive to include this kind of conferencing?
    - While the presentation was successful, it was noted that it is much better to have people in a room together, and video conferencing would not recommend this in the future.

### **CAS Rep to ICCEES report by Andrii Krawchuk**

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

<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/2019%20CAS%20Report%20ICCEES.pdf>

- Andrii Krawchuk, CAS Rep to ICCEES, opened his report by noting that the ICCEES executive committee had met in Montreal the previous week. The website of the world congress is already live and the call for papers has been issued. Dr. Krawchuk noted that Concordia, the host university, is receiving ICCEES and CAS, not just as guests off the street; they are in with both feet; they are proud to have us. They have made this a Concordia event. This is a major partnership, reducing costs such as venue rentals. The ICCEES executive has committed \$45,000 to help students from around the world and CAS is trying to match that by supporting Canadian students. Moving on, he also asked CAS members for help, whether with connections that might offer support or by spreading the word. The deadline for ICCEES applications is this coming fall. Dr. Krawchuk recognized the hard work of Alison Rowley in organizing the event and working with Concordia, as well as Heather Coleman and others offering support.
- Alison Rowley joined in, stating that we are still trying to make sure that people realize that ICCEES is a CAS event. She said she wants include CAS members in keynote events, work with Canadian publishers to have book presentations, and to make CAS stand out. If CAS members have a book coming out in 2019-2020, they are encouraged to get in touch with CAS for an opportunity to display it. She said it's

important to give CAS members the opportunity to talk about their research in front of delegates from abroad. In addition to publishers' booths, there could we have a room to display works by Canadian authors.

- Finally, Dr. Krawchuk noted that all scholars based in Canada must be members of the Canadian Association of Slavists to participate in the world congress and he encouraged members to visit the ICCEES website, look it over, and also make suggestions.

A motion to accept all of the reports was moved by Heather Coleman and seconded by Andrii Krawchuk. Carried.

#### 7. **Other business**

- This year the nominating committee suggested that we increase the term of the honorary president to two years.
  - A motion to approve this change was moved by Alison Rowley and seconded by Nigel Raab. Carried.

#### 8. **Nominating Committee Report & Elections.**

##### Nominating Committee Reports

Elena Baraban presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

- The report was prepared by Elena Baraban, Svitlana Krys, and Megan Swift.
- **Honorary President, CAS. 2019-2021. Natalie Kononenko.** University of Alberta, nataliek@ualberta.ca
- **Vice president, CAS 2019-2020. Maryna Romanets.** University of Northern British Columbia, Maryna.Romanets@unbc.ca
- **Nominating Committee Members, 2019-2020**
- **Elena Baraban.** University of Manitoba: elena.baraban@umanitoba.ca
- **Svitlana Krys.** MacEwan University, kryss@macewan.ca
- **Mark Conliffe.** University of Calgary, mark.conliffe@ucalgary.ca
- **Members at Large, 2019-2020**
  - **Serhy Yekelchyk.** University of Victoria, serhy@uvic.ca
  - **Joy Demoskoff.** Briercrest College and Seminary
  - **Katherine Bowers.** University of British Columbia, Katherine.Bowers@ubc.ca
  - **Lyudmila Parts.** McGill University, lyudmila.parts@mcgill.ca
  - **Marko Stech.** CIUS U Toronto, m.stech@utoronto.ca
- **Graduate Student Representatives, 2019-2020**
  - **Alex Averbuch.** University of Toronto, averbuchalex@gmail.com
  - **Emma Murray.** University of Victoria, emmamurray60@gmail.com
- **Secretary-Treasurer, 2019-2022. Volha Iskava.** Central Washington University, volha.isakava@gmail.com; IsakavaV@cwu.edu

- **International Relations Committee, 2019-24. Megan Swift.** University of Victoria, maswift@uvic.ca
- Other positions in CAS are not up for re-election.
- Nominations from the floor are possible.
- There will be no program chair next year because CAS will meet at the ICCEES Conference in Montreal.
- Elena Baraban moved and Natalia Khanenko-Friesen seconded. The meeting accepted and approved the report of the Nominating Committee.

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was moved by Katerine Bowers and seconded by Nigel Raab. Carried.