



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

### **June 2, 2015**

### **University of Ottawa**

Meeting commenced at 4:30 p.m.

#### **Attendance:**

Executive: Markus Reisenleitner (President), Albert Braz (Vice-President), Paul Morris (Treasurer), Susan Ingram (WebSysAdmin)

Members present: Rasoul Aliakbari, Kathryn Franklin, Doris Hambuch, Jessica Tsui-Yan Li, Barbara Ludwiczak, Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard, Miguel Nenevé, Josh Synenko, Josh Trichilo, Andrea Valente, Kevin Wilson, Tegan Zimmerman, Guangxu Zhao.

#### **Opening Remarks:**

Markus Reisenleitner opened the meeting, welcomed the members and thanked Albert Braz for doing a tremendous job of organizing the conference in the absence of a local organizer. To begin on a positive note, he announced that York's Graduate Diploma in Comparative Literature was approved in April 2014 and had its first intake in September. Josh Trichilo was part of the cohort. Josh demonstrated the archival work he did as a GA for the website ([complit.ca](http://complit.ca)), which now contains the Learned's/Congress programs and information on the members of the Executive from 1969 to 1995.

Markus reported on the ACLx in Columbia, South Carolina and the rethinking of graduate programs in Comparative Literature (particularly course work) that is his contribution to the ACLA's state of the discipline report. He linked the report's website format (<http://stateofthediscipline.acla.org>) to the decentering of the discipline.

The XXIst Congress of the ICLA will take place in Vienna July 21 – July 27, 2016, and the deadline for individual proposal submissions is August 31, 2014.

The penultimate item Markus reported on was the most interesting item of last year: the change in editorship of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* (CRCL). Jonathan Hart took early retirement from the U of A, so a new arrangement had to be found as well as the successful SSHRC grant

application sorted out. Irene Synwenky became the interim editor, and the U of A is continuing to support the journal.

A general discussion of problems with Congress took place, and a motion passed unanimously to reevaluate the association's relationship with Congress next year.

### **Conference Program Chair's Report:**

Albert Braz thanked members of the Executive for translating the CFP into French, assisting with French communication, vetting abstracts, and helping with the room and a/v arrangements. He underscored the importance of disseminating the CFP widely, particularly on French forums. He also thanked Rachel Stapleton for seeing to the University of Toronto's continued sponsorship of the programs.

The Roundtable on translation brought in Federation funding for interdisciplinary scholarship, and the keynote, Roseann Runte, donated her stipend to support graduate student travel.

47 papers were presented this year (51 accepted), with 24 by graduate students. Albert emphasized how important it was to let the Program Chair know in as timely a manner as possible if one has to withdraw, so that the final program is as accurate as possible. It was the most international meeting of the CCLA in recent memory, with participants from Brazil, Egypt, France, Italy, UAE, and Poland, and also an excellent record of papers presented partly or completely in French.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Paul Morris presented the budget, and reported that the CCLA budget remains in the black, with a healthy bottom line of \$7460.00, and 104 active members.

There were three main expenditure items: to the CFHSS (\$688.78), the ICLA (\$975.26 CAD – \$800US), and to reimburse graduate student fees (13 X \$90 = \$1,170.00), and two deposits: \$300.00 from Mosaic and 65.47 as the balance from Congress.

The Executive approved reimbursing concessionary association fees for Vongress again this year.

A motion was made to waive concessionary association fees for next year (and only next year) in view of the exorbitant fees the Federation is charging. It passed unanimously.

The establishment of a prize for the best graduate student paper given at Congress was announced. It will be in honour of Esther Cheung, the Chair of Department of Comparative Literature in Hong Kong, who gave the CCLA's keynote in 2006 and passed away in January 2015. An announcement will be sent to the graduate students who presented papers and a committee established to evaluate them.

### **Report on the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*:**

A report on the CRCL was circulated. The financial statement shows it is doing well with a bottom line for 2014-2015 of \$46,707.09.

Three related motions were made to set parameters to deepen our relationship with the CRCL as the official journal of our association. The need for good communication, reporting and a positive relationship was stressed, as well as the fact that the editorship is not intended to be a lifetime job. The term according to the Constitution passed last year is 6 years, with it being confirmed every 2 years.

Motion 1: the CCLA continues to support the CRCL as its academic publication.

Motion 2: CCLA encourages the CRCL to give at least one year's period of notice when s/he intends to resign.

Motion 3: the CCLA membership encourages the editor of the CRCL to refresh the Advisory Board and seek wide representation from across Canada and the world and encourages the editor of the CRCL to consider appointing a member of the CCLA executive to the advisory board.

Albert made a friendly amendment to split the motion into two parts.

After a brief discussion, all 4 motions passed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

Josh Synenko raised the issue of recruitment strategies. He noted the strong papers given, the robust conversations that ensued, and the demographic changes the association has been undergoing. He asked for clarification about the dissemination of the CfP. There was a lively discussion of ideas for outreach.

Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard reported on her French outreach with the Tribune, a bilingual event for graduate students once a year, ideally twice. The inaugural event in Montreal featured 15 participants from 4 universities. The next one will be held Oct. 30 at the U of T. Jeanne noted how exemplary this year's keynote by Roseann Runte was in its bilingualism. The association thanked Jeanne for her work on the translation of the Constitution.

Markus Reisenleitner announced the results of the call for nominations for the Executive: President – Albert Braz; Vice-President – Jessica Tsui-Yan Li; Early Career Representative – Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard; Members at large – Don Gamble, Kevin Wilson, Sheena Wilson, Andrea Valente. Paul Morris agreed to continue as Treasurer and Susan Ingram agreed to continue as the WebSysAdmin to provide continuity.

Interim Editor Irene Sywenky submitted a strong application package with support from the U of A.

There were no nominations for the Media Coordinator position. Markus reported that at the Executive Meeting Jonathan Allan had agreed to serve on a subcommittee to fill the position. After a discussion of what the position entailed, Josh Synenko volunteered.

The slate was elected unanimously.

There was a Skype call with Irene Sywenky to congratulate her on her successful election as editor for 6 years. Markus informed her of the 4 motions the membership had unanimously passed. Irene thanked the membership and announced that she will be making important changes to the journal and expressed the hope that the journal and the association will work together closely going forward. Given the journal's healthy budget, she would like to support graduate travel to Congress. Applause followed.

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.