



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2024, 9:00 – 10:30am, Pavillon Lionel-Groulx, Carrefour des arts et des sciences, Salle C-3061, Université de Montréal and Zoom
Minutes prepared by Shlomo Gleibman

Attendance (23)

online: Samuele Ellena, Shlomo Gleibman, Doris Hambuch, Ivan Jimenez Williams, Agata Mergler, Sorhab Mosahebi, Shahab Nadimi, Layla Rosser, Irene Sywenky, p1112073 (Pouria?)
in person: Lee Campbell, Chris Corker, Luigi De Angelis Soriano, Ludwig Deringer, Alicia Edwards, Louis Thomas Leguerrier, Jack Leong, Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard, Margot Mellet, Markus Reisenleitner, Laurence Sylvain, Josh Synenko, Rachel Wong

Reports from the Executive

President's Report– Jack Hang-tat Leong

Much positive feedback on the program was received, esp. for the Chinese opera presentation, which saw great intergenerational appreciation. The program chair's and local organizer's efforts to make it successful and enjoyable in overcoming extraordinary hurdles came in for special praise.

Long-term preservation of CCLA/ACLC materials: AGM minutes, Conference Programs and Keynotes up to 2023 have been deposited to YorkSpace for open access and long-term preservation.

Responding to a member's concerns over the association's position on academic freedom, on behalf of the board, Jack clarified our actions over the last few years that demonstrated our strong position on upholding EDI and academic freedom.

On behalf of the association, Jack expressed deep concerns to the Federation and to McGill about the ongoing strike of the Association of McGill Professors of Law (AMPL) and the protesters in the encampment to the extent of considering boycotting Congress completely. In the end we decided that in view of the development of these two incidents, we would host a hybrid

conference for our annual meeting and not hold any events on the McGill campus but only use the Congress online platform to avoid paying cancellation fees of \$3000.

The Federation's Congress 2025 will be hosted at George Brown College, Toronto, May 30 to June 6. A discussion will be held at the end of the meeting to get a sense whether we will join Congress next year. It will be our election year.

VP and Program Chair's Report – Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard and Margot Mellet (local organizer)

Jeanne described issues in working with Congress, including a lack of sufficient attention to bilingual formats and multiple errors in translation. Jeanne recommended remaining with the Federation but not with Congress.

Margot confirmed experiencing organizing issues in preparing the conference with Congress and reported that it had been easier to organize the conference outside of Congress, after we decided to move to the University of Montreal, than with Congress prior to this decision.

Jeanne mentioned that moving off Congress did not involve any increase in expenses, rather the opposite: we did not pay any cancellations fees; catering at U of Montreal was less expensive, and one of the rooms and the technology were free thanks to the Chaire de recherche du Canada sur les Écritures Numériques.

For next year at Trent, Jeanne proposed that Josh be the local organizer. Ideally it would run for three days with no keynotes to allow more speakers, no parallel panels, only in person (not hybrid) and fully bilingual. Some discussion occurred about the question of in-person, and several members argued that planning for a hybrid component was more realistic.

Josh: The facilities at Traill College downtown are very suitable, and there are residences that can be tapped into for housing. The dates for next year conference should not overlap with convocation at Trent.

Jeanne thanked Margot for her great help in organizing this year's conference and presented her with a thank-you gift (a puzzle).

Treasurer's Report - Joshua Synenko

CCLA accounts:

Scotiabank

Date	Deposit	Withdrawal	Description
3/8/2023	--	1	Bank fee
3/8/2023	--	250	EC award

16/8/2023	--		40.67	Website
16/8/2023	--		1	Bank fee
29/2/2024		50	--	Member
29/2/2024		90	--	Member
8/3/2024	--		670.52	Congress
8/3/2024	--		1	Bank fee
8/3/2024		50		Member
22/3/2024		50		Member
22/3/2024		90		Member
1/4/2024		90		Member
1/4/2024		50		Member
1/4/2024		50		Member
1/4/2024		90		Member
1/4/2024		50		Member
5/4/2024		75		Member
5/4/2024		50		Member
5/4/2024		50		Member
5/4/2024		50		Member
5/4/2024		150		Member
10/4/2024		90		Member
10/4/2024	--		447.48	Website
10/4/2024	--		1	Bank fee
22/4/2024		90		Member
30/4/2024		50		Member
30/4/2024		50		Member
30/4/2024	--		3	Bank fee
31/5/2024	--		8	Bank fee
7/6/2024		75		Member
12/6/2024		50		Member
		1020	1423.67	

Paypal

Date	Deposit	Withdrawal	Desscription
29/3/2024	150	6.15	Member + Paypal fee
3/4/2024	150	--	Member
3/4/2024	150	--	Member
	450	6.15	Balance: 2, 359

Total:	6,900
Paypal:	2,359
Grand	
total:	9,209

Josh mentioned that not going to Congress solves the problem with Congress fees. If we stay with Congress, we need to explain the fees better on our website.

Josh also shared challenges in identifying student and under-employed members, who are eligible for fee exemption.

Media and Communications Officer's Report – Shlomo Gleibman

Shlomo summarized the activity of the CCLA channels. Numbers are up; our social media presence is growing.

We have been doing sendouts from admin@complit.ca and updating the membership mailing list, updating the CCLA website (complit.ca), and circulating information on social media (Facebook and Twitter).

The website had over 4,000 views and about 2,000 visitors between June 2023 and June 2024.

The Facebook group currently has 1,600 members. Between June 2023 and June 2024, it had 7,353 views. The group is public, but member requests and posts require admin's approval to avoid spam.

Our Twitter @complitca currently has 417 followers.

Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée – Irene Sywenky, Editor

* The Editor has not been receiving teaching relief for the editorship of *CRCL/RCLC* since July 2020; the journal's home department at the University of Alberta (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies) continues to provide support in the form of two research assistantships per year (fall and winter semesters).

2023-2024: Published issues:

49.4 General issue

50.1 Special issue *World Literature and the Production of the Minor* (Guest Editor Núria Codina Solà, University of Leuven)

Delayed and forthcoming issues:

- Special issue *Divergence and Convergence in Comparative Literature* (Guest Editor Jack Hang-tat Leong, York University)

- Special issue *Two Solitudes: Canadian Graphic Novels* (Guest Editors Christian Reyns, University of Alberta; Sylvain Rheault, University of Regina) [in copyediting and typesetting]
- Special issue *Legacies of the “Chinese School” of Comparative Literature: in Memory of John Deeney (李達三)* (Guest Editors Sheldon Lu, University of California, Davis; Daniel Fried, University of Alberta) [in copyediting and typesetting]
- Two general issues [one almost completed]

Other special issues (submitted or proposed):

- Special issue *Reckonings and Reimaginings in Comparative Literature* (Guest Editor Jack Hang-tat Leong and Shlomo Gleibman, York University) [submitted]
- Special issue *Literatures and Cultures of the Indian Ocean World* (Guest Editors Asma Sayed [Canada Research Chair in South Asian Literary and Cultural Studies] and Pushpa Raj Acharya, Kwantlen Polytechnic University) [to be submitted in September 2024].
- Special issue *Tropes of Globalization* (Guest Editors Vid Stevanović and Claudine Bollinger, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München / Universität Bern) [in preparation]
- *Bridging the Caribbean: Literature, Hermeneutics, and Methodology / Brancher les Caraïbes: Littérature, herméneutique et méthodologie* (Guest Editors Erica Durante, Brown University; Amaury Dehoux, Catholic University of Leuven)
- Special issue in honour of Mario J. Valdés (Cristina Santos, Brock University; Jonathan Allan, Brandon University)

CRCL/RCLC funds (June 12, 2024)

SSHRC funds (after commitments): \$62,811.83

Operating account funds (after commitments): \$88,846.31

Important updates:

- 2024 SSHRC/CRSH triennial competition has been postponed until summer 2025; current award holders have received an additional year of funding.
- *CRCL/RCLC* regularly participates in the events and activities of CALJ/ACRS (Canadian Association of Learned Journals/ Association canadienne des revues savantes); *CRCL/RCLC* Editor has joined the Executive Board of CALJ/ACRS (May 2024)

Early Career Scholar Representative’s Report – Lee Dylan Campbell

The Tribune last year went very well.

The Esther Cheung Award evaluation was different this year: it was done on the spot as opposed to evaluating submissions afterwards. The monetary value of the award has doubled (from \$250 to \$500).

There were a lot of strong papers. The winner this year is Zaynab Ali for her paper “The Summoning Networks: The Ethics of Readership & Critique.”

Other Business

Markus: consider a motion of non-confidence in Congress or another signal, such as communicating to them that we are considering leaving the Federation.

Margot: Hybrid is challenging because of technical difficulties but still needed, it cannot be avoided. It is better to prepare it in advance than last minute.

Josh: Agreed, we just need an IT person. Without concurrent panels it would be easier to do the hybrid format.

Markus: In favour of hybrid. Longer breaks between panels can help in fixing technical issues.

Jeanne: With a hybrid option, we may have fewer participants in person.

Agata: Financial considerations for students, not everyone can afford to attend in person. An online option can help to accommodate more participants.

Susan: Success is a collective effort. Encouraged Exec members to reach out for support when needed. We can use Google docs for program to encourage flexibility. We can also encourage combining papers as opposed to individual presentations. As well, we can encourage papers in many languages.

Jack: We can incorporate performance.

Jeanne: We can have alternative formats: shorter presentations, thematic panels, something between round table and full paper form.

Jeanne: What would be reasons to stay with Congress?

The translator position is a big job for one person. We need to post position descriptions for next year's elections.

Ivan: In favour of expanding to other languages, adding Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Hindi-Urdu, Arabic.

Sohrab: Punjabi and Persian.

Jeanne and Lee: Award evaluations can be done by members outside of the Exec.

Jeanne: Proposed a vote to be out of Congress next year (but may return if they change).

Jack moved. Majority voted in favour.

Margot: We should communicate with other associations on the matter of leaving Congress.

Jack: We can write a letter expressing our concerns how Federation handled the Congress.

Samuelle Ellena: We can create an alternative Congress. Offered to mediate with Tribune and APFUCC.

Doris: Do we still have ICLA membership?

Jack: Yes.

Louis-Thomas: We need to have a description of the task of the translator.

Susan: We should revisit our Constitution, to add or rethink positions to accommodate changed realities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.