



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
June 4, 2013
University of Victoria (BC)**

Prepared by Asma Sayed

Meeting commenced at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

20 members present; including the Executive: Susan Ingram (President), Markus Reisenleitner (Vice-President), Paul Morris (Treasurer), Asma Sayed (Acting Media and Communications Officer), Lauren Beard (Graduate Student Representative)

Opening Remarks:

President Susan Ingram opened the meeting; she welcomed the CCLA members and moved to approve the agenda; Jolene Armstrong seconded. The agenda was approved.

Paul Morris moved to approve Minutes from 2012 AGM meeting; Rachel Stapleton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Susan raised concerns about funding changes; due to cuts in SSHRC grants, CCLA can no longer offer travel funds to graduate students. She added that there is a desire among the members to involve other associations so that there can be more interdisciplinary panels. She thanked Markus for putting together the program.

Conference Program Chair's Report:

Markus Reisenleitner, the 2013 Conference Program Chair, thanked the participants; he mentioned that there were more submissions this year compared to previous years. There were no no-shows; all the participants were required to pay the fees ahead of the conference.

Markus also provided details of possible adoption of an online payment system, the details of which were discussed at the Executive Meeting as well; he mentioned that as per CCLA's current budget, the system seems expensive. The members discussed possible ways of increasing revenues so that the association may adopt an affordable system. It was proposed that this item be revisited at the next AGM.

Media and Communication Officer's Report:

Asma Sayed, the acting Media and Communications Officer, mentioned that she attended the Federation meeting on behalf of the CCLA. At the meeting, information about recent and ongoing activities of the Federation was provided. A "Big Thinking Series" was organized at the Parliament Hill as part of the Federation's outreach; more than 60 MP's and senators attended. Efforts are being made to engage community through FB and Twitter; new slogan "Ideas Can..." has been adopted. The next Congress will be at Brock from May 24-30, 2014; theme will be "Borders without Boundaries. The 2015 Congress will be in Ottawa from May 29-June 4, 2015. The Federation is working toward making the Congress more international and interdisciplinary. Asma added that some members at the Federation meeting raised concerns that the Federation wasn't lobbying enough, and that it should do more to cultivate 'intelligent citizenship' and defend humanities.

Grad Student Representative Report:

Lauren Beard mentioned that more can be done to promote CCLA via social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. She proposed that a job market roundtable should be organized at the next annual meeting of CCLA. She also suggested that some fundraising events could be held to collect funds to support grad student travel, and to organize more 'meet-up' events such as the one organized by CCLA at the ACLA in Toronto.

Regional Representatives' Report:

It was proposed by the members that all the regional reps should send a report to the CCLA Communications Officer for a proposed Bulletin, which will be put together by the Communications Officer; the report and the bulletin could include news from the discipline, highlights for people who cannot attend the CCLA annual conference, and other details that may be of general interest to the membership.

Jolene, the Western Region Rep, spoke briefly of the state of the discipline at Alberta and Athabasca; there are concerns about the possibility of the Comparative Literature program at U of A being merged with another department. Susan mentioned that the CCLA will be happy to support the U of A's Comp Lit program's efforts to save the program, if necessary. Asma added that courses in Comparative Literature are also offered at Grant MacEwan University in Alberta, and are very successful.

Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the budget report was provided to all members present. Paul Morris, the Treasurer, mentioned that the CCLA budget is in the black. CCLA lost the \$ 3000/- grant which it used to receive from the Federation; in the past, this money was used to fund the grad student travel to the CCLA AGM. As per the discussions at the CCLA Executive Meeting, Paul will look into registering CCLA as a charity; if CCLA becomes a registered charity, it will be easier to attract donations. A funding application for an international keynote speaker was rejected. A new position for fundraising could be created. Paul will

also look into a possible e-mail bank transfer of funds, both for membership dues and donations to the association.

CRCL Report:

Copies of the report from CRCL were circulated. Cindy Chopoidaló, assistant editor of CRCL, presented the report. Susan acknowledged Cindy's work for the journal and noted that neither the managing editor nor the editor of the journal had attended CCLA meetings for the past few years. Cindy mentioned that both could not attend the 2013 meeting due to prior commitments. Cindy provided copies of the table of contents of the upcoming two issues and mentioned that the publication of 2013 issues was on track.

Markus acknowledged Cindy's contributions and mentioned that CCLA is responsible for the functioning of CRCL; that it is CCLA's responsibility to see that the journal has an editor who is capable of fulfilling the role; that in the past, editorship was confirmed every year but that practice had fallen by the wayside in recent years; and that the practice of confirming the editorship annually should be reinstated. He further mentioned that CCLA would like to see the journal catch up with overdue back issues; that receiving 2011 issues in 2013 is not appropriate and that if that continues to happen, the CCLA should invite open competition for editorship. Paul mentioned that the journal is very important for the association, its face, and the international face of Comparative Literature in Canada. Susan noted that it is standard practice for associations to know the details of the operating cost of the journal; she also added that if the journal were online, it would attract more readership.

It was proposed that the journal editor be informed that the CCLA membership would like to see a reasonable catching up by the end of the year, failing which the CCLA will look into opening a discussion on editorship at the next Congress meeting. The motion was moved by Markus and seconded by Rachel. All in favour.

Election of the New Executive:

Susan clarified that all the executive positions were for a period of two years, except that of Treasurer, which continues for five years. Paul Morris will thus continue as Treasurer. In the absence of Sheena Wilson, who will return from maternity leave in June 2014, Asma Sayed, who took over the position on behalf of Wilson in February 2013, will continue to act as the Media and Communications Officer until Wilson's return. As the former Vice President, Markus will take on the role of the President of the CCLA.

The following executive was elected unanimously:

- Vice President: Albert Braz
- Webmaster: Susan Ingram
- Ontario Rep: Jessica Li
- Quebec Rep: Kevin Wilson
- Eastern Rep: Don Gamble
- Western Rep: Jonathan Allan

- Graduate Student Rep: renamed Early Career Rep, the consensus was that it is desirable to have different universities involved, therefore need to consult those not present and appoint a suitable candidate who will agree to do it.

Meeting adjourned: 5:20 p.m.