

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

May 29, 2017, Victoria 303, Ryerson University

Prepared by Susan Ingram

The meeting commenced at 4:50 p.m.

Attendance:

Executive: Executive: Albert Braz (President), Jessica Tsui-Yan Li (Vice-President), Paul Morris (Treasurer), Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard (Early Career Scholar Representative), Markus Reisenleitner (Past-President), Andrea Valente (Member at Large), Kevin Wilson (Member at Large), Susan Ingram (WebSysAdmin), Irene Sywenky (Editor, CRCL) + 16 members.

Opening Remarks:

Albert Braz opened the meeting, welcomed members and thanked everyone for their efforts in making this an exceptionally successful conference, esp. the VP, Treasurer, and local organizers extraordinaires, Monique Tschofen and Aleksandra Bida.

Conference Program Chair's Report:

Jessica Li seconded Albert's thanks to all for participating and added her thanks to individual member of the Executive:

- Albert Braz – for his excellent advice and kindness.
- Paul Morris –for taking care of the budget, the ads, payment of the a/v, catering and the soirée. She reminded everyone to get a free drink coupon from him at the soirée.
- Irene Sywenky – for her help with the special issue from last year's Congress.
- Josh Synenko – for the sendouts.
- Andrea Valente – for organizing and helping vet and sort the abstracts.
- Kevin Wilson – for reviewing papers.
- Mark Terry – for recording the keynote.
- Special thanks to Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard for sending email, editing the booklet and folding the booklets by hand (prolonged applause).

- Also special thanks to our very committed local organizers Monique Tschofen and Aleksandra Bida, who worked all winter semester on the program, sent reminder emails for fees, and put together the SCHED, as well as to Markus Reisenleitner and Susan Ingram for their continued devotion to the association and providing backup and advice.

Jessica reported that this year there were three instead of the usual two parallel panels on the program and the number of papers presented almost doubled this year. There were 130 proposals, of which 110 were accepted: 50 were from professors, 45 – grad students, 15 – unwaged, 1 – retired, and 15 – international.

She invited all presenters to submit a revised version of their presentations for possible publication in the *CRCL*. Again this year she will guest edit a special issue and will send out an email invitation. The CfP for Congress 2018 in Regina will be out in September. People are encouraged to submit panels and to volunteer to help with any and all aspects of the program preparation.

Treasurer's Report:

Paul Morris reported that our current situation is favourable. The balance is currently \$12,625.75, and there are 110 active members. Both numbers will rise once those who paid dues at Congress are included. Since 2011 there has been a gradual growth in our membership numbers.

Paul thanked the *CRCL* for its \$5,000.00 subsidy for the Congress expenses of graduate students and the unwaged. He requested the itemized submission of receipts for fees, travel and accommodation by August 1.

Websysadmin Report:

Susan Ingram reported that the website (complit.ca) has been reorganized so that the archival material (past congresses and executives) is more easily accessible. There is also now a database for Canadian PhDs in Comparative Literature. All those who have completed their dissertation at a Canadian university are encouraged to register it on the website, especially the two very recent graduates present: Rasoul Aliakbari (University of Alberta) and Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard (University of Toronto). It was suggested that categories for supervisor and committee be added, something which will be incorporated.

She further reported on discussions held in October 2016 with Federation representatives about their Membership Management System. Given that they are still 3-5 years away from integrating it with the Congress registration system and that there is a \$350 migration fee as well as annual user fees that are only marginally less than Paypal's, it was decided that we will continue with our own system for the time being.

Finally, she thanked Josh Synenko for the work he has taken on as Media & Communications Officer and requested volunteers to join a social media sub-committee and help to tweet. Everyone is encouraged to follow us (@complit.ca) and retweet.

Early Career Scholar Representative Report

Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard reported on the Tribune, a bilingual, one-day event at which young scholars present their current research. Three successful events have now been held, and the programs are available on the CCLA website under “links.” She thanked the *CRCL* for its generous support and expressed the hope it would continue.

Editor’s Report on the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*:

Irene Sywenky encouraged submissions, sections, formats, and contributions, esp. from junior scholars. She is committed to helping with the CCLA’s travel fund, and to fostering positive relations with the CCLA, such as the CCL(x), the successful pre-Congress event held the day before the official Congress program, which will become a special issue of the journal and be published in time for the 50th anniversary in 2019. She informed members that there will likely be changes to the way SSHRC funding works for journals, which will likely be announced in the winter. She promised to keep the association informed.

Other Business

Josh Synenko reported that he had attended the annual Federation dinner on behalf of the association. The Federation’s budget is strong, but they nevertheless cut funding for students and are working on an alternative model.

Elections: As outgoing Past-President, Markus Reisenleitner chaired this item. He began by stressing the need for transparency and institutional memory, a legacy that we owe Karin and Stan Beeler. Their commitment to the association helped to set a sustainable model for collegial engagement, which made it possible to repatriate our Constitution in 2014 (the contributions of Rachel Stapleton in drafting and Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard in translating it were acknowledged and applauded). We are mandated to hold elections for positions on the Executive every two years (except the positions requiring continuity: the Treasurer is elected every five years, and the Editor of the *CRCL* is reviewed every six years). The Executive sent out calls for nominations over the past few months via sendouts and Twitter and received a number of nominations, which the Executive discussed at their Executive meeting two days previously and which Markus presented to the membership:

- President: Jessica Li
- Vice-President: Josh Synenko
- Media and Communications Officer: Mark Terry
- Early Career Scholar Representative: Shlomo Gleibman.
- 5 members at large: Monique Tschofen, Doris Hambuch, Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard, Kevin Wilson, and Don Gamble.

Paul Morris indicated that he is happy to continue as Treasurer, and Susan Ingram confirmed that she can continue as WebSysAdmin. Markus reminded nominees that all members of the

Executive are expected to be present for the annual Executive meeting and AGM at Congress, which will be held at Regina in 2018 and UBC in 2019. He then moved that we accept the slate. Karin Beeler seconded the motion. The new Executive was unanimously elected.

A representative from SSHRC appeared and shared updates about the next funding cycle. There will be two streams of Insight grants: a) for smaller amounts (\$7,000-\$100,000); and b) for \$100,000-\$400,000. There will be the same merit review committee for both. "A" will have guaranteed higher success rates and more awards. She explained that this was a direct response to concerns. There will also be new Partnership Engagement grants: public/ private for short term research needs (\$4,000-\$25,000), 4 x per year.

In respond to questions from the membership, she let us know that for the literary committee, there were 72 applications last year, of which 30 were funded. The success rate for last round of Insight grants was 41.7%. She did not know how this broke down for the various kinds of literature. She does not anticipate any changes this upcoming year except that they will be trying to fund more with the same budget.

Albert closed the meeting at 5:40 and invited everyone to join us for the soirée, which Monique Tschofen had arranged at the Wickson Social.