



Minutes of EAAS Board Meeting, The Hague, 2 April 2014

Present and representing member associations:

AAAS	Joshua Parker
AASSEE	Stipe Grgas
AEDEAN	Juan Ignacio Oliva
AFEA	Marc Amfreville
AISNA	Andrea Mariani
APEAA	Teresa Cid
ASAT	Meldan Tanrisal (Vice President)
BAAS	Martin Halliwell
BASA	Madeleine Danova
BelAAS	Yuri Stulov
BLASA	Gert Buelens (Secretary-General)
CSAA	Michel Peprnik
DGfA	Rudiger Kunow
HAAS	Tibor Glant
HELAAS	Tatiani Rapatzikou
IAAS	Stephen Matterson
NAAS	Maria Holmgren Troy
NASA	Marietta Messmer
PAAS	Pawel Frelik
RAAS	Adina Ciugureanu (Treasurer)
RSAS	Irina Arkhangelskaya
SANAS	Boris Vejdovsky

Present, non-voting:

President	Philip Davies
Webmaster	Jacques Pothier

2 April (Wednesday) 10:00-12:30

1. Welcome by President, Philip Davies (PD):
 - a. The past year has been a normal year for the association. A number of things will come up in the course of the meeting, such as the small conference attendance grants
 - b. Pawel Frelik stood down as editor of *EJAS* (succeeded by Marek Paryz) as did Marc Chénétier as webmaster (succeeded by Cara Rodway).
2. Minutes of 2013 Moscow Board Meeting: the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Report of the Vice President:
 - a. As the EAAS Newsletter has been discontinued, a major role of the VP's has been to collect association information for posting on the web (by the webmaster)
 - b. The VP has also administered travel grants and the new small conference grants: putting the charts together is tedious work but it is pleasant to be able to help so many colleagues, if in a small way.
4. Report of the Treasurer and of the Steward of the EAAS Trust Fund:
 - a. Report on 2013:
 - i. membership is down in most associations, but up by large enough numbers in several associations to make the total of dues collected higher than the previous year: IAAS doubled its membership from 93 to 184; BAAS is up by 100 to 477; GAAS has reported 990 = by far the biggest association. Total EAAS membership is now at 4,546
 - ii. a challenge has been the level of bank fees in Romania: 10€ for each transaction outside the country.
 - b. Draft budget for 2014:
 - i. 2014 sees the cost of two book publications simultaneously: the Izmir conference volume and the 2012 winner of the Rob Kroes Award – a long and therefore expensive book to produce. Our budget here works out at about 6,500 per annum
 - ii. Conference travel grants: 28 x 200€ per person; 500 for Lisa Hayes performance; 400 made available to local organizers of 2014 EAAS conference to increase the total available for workshop chair per diems
 - iii. It is as yet unclear whether a physical handover meeting is necessary; the digital age may make other forms of communication possible.
 - c. Report on the Amsterdam Trust Fund:
 - i. Hans Bak has reported in writing that the ATF did very well, with an increase by 18,000€ over its value in the previous year. The current worth of the ATF is 245,618€, taking into account the transfer of 10,000€ to the regular bank account of EAAS as decided at last year's board meeting to spend on activities (esp. the EAAS conference attendance grants)
 - ii. we regard income from the fund as best used for our activities; on the other hand, we don't need a lot of money for 2014 as such, except if we see useful ways of spending the money: e.g., on more or higher grants

- iii. The Hague: 360€ per diem for board members (120€ a day).
 - d. Reminder: Temporary Notice of Exemption from taxation issued by Finanzamt Wittenberg 16/11/2012 (valid for two years) needs to be extended: Rüdiger will assist and get a notary-public to handle this and charge the bill to EAAS.
- 5. Report of the Secretary General: duties have included:
 - a. draft agenda for board meeting
 - b. write minutes
 - c. report to the court of law
 - d. conference: in the past, parallel lectures and esp. workshops
 - e. correspond with WS chairs up to the point where the local organizers take over
 - f. be a conduit for messages (forwarded to President)
 - g. esp. act as one of four officers that jointly run the association between board meetings
 - h. the President thanks the VP and Sec-Gen for their sterling help and regrets they are leaving office.
- 6. Election of Auditors: Stephen Matterson and Andrea Mariani.
- 7. Report of the Nominations Committee for the 2014 officers' elections (Vice-President and Secretary-General):
 - a. Stephen Matterson sketches the role of this committee which mainly tries to avoid a panic at the meeting as to who could serve
 - b. Three people expressed a lack of reluctance: Boris Vejdovsky and Pawel Frelik for VP; Tatiani Rapatzikou for SG
 - c. Others are still welcome to stand!
- 8. Last-minute words on the 2014 conference by the local organizer:
 - a. Marietta Messmer informs the Board of a few last-minute changes relating to the unavailability of the Ambassador, for justice-based reasons
 - b. PD thanks Marietta for her great work in organizing the conference and NASA for putting in 1,500€ to support the student workshops.
- 9. 2016 Conference:
 - a. Location will be Bucharest for practical reasons, though the road to Constanta is now finished. The Board is most grateful to Adina Ciugureanu for all her preparatory work. [Subsequent to this meeting the Bucharest location withdrew, and the Board agreed by email to accept Prof Ciugureanu's offer to locate the conference in Constanta.]
 - b. Conference Theme: should there be a theme? After extensive discussion of various pros and cons the Board decides at forthcoming conferences to have an open call for conference

papers/panels/presentations. This can be supplemented with a list of topics as examples, giving some ideas of the breadth and range of disciplinary approaches, current theoretical debates, and specific themes, to help stimulate colleagues' enthusiasm to make proposals. Some of the pros included that a theme can be usefully linked to local interest (such as The Hague: justice), and that a conference volume may be easier to put together if there is a predefined theme, which led some board members to remark that not having a theme up-front results in having a theme post factum, decided in more nebulous ways. Some of the cons included that a theme often becomes so general that it is non-committal, and at the same time does put off esp. younger people who are working increasingly in niche subjects, while others twist themselves in intricate turns to fit in. Having a theme has also tended to exclude important developments like Digital Humanities.

- c. The form of future conferences – draft call for papers:
 - i. PD circulates draft and explains its engaging character
 - ii. there is considerable support for the proposed CFP, with only a few suggested changes, such as having proposals mention a few keywords; that the deadline should be 15 June 2015 rather than 15 August
 - iii. Conference committee: various proposals included suggestions that local organisers, EAAS officers, and EAAS Board should all be represented, with possible addition of others from the American Studies community. Committee should be kept relatively small for efficiency. Officers to take this discussion into account in constructing the committee
 - iv. all submissions to be electronic using a form; all evaluations too
 - v. keynotes (incl. creative writer?) to be approached sooner than publishing CFP
 - vi. the discussion returns to the conference volume: should we indicate the ethos of EAAS by selecting a focus? can our various journals not accommodate the work of panels? do we want to restrict ourselves to European views? can we just focus on excellent panels / papers that are linked? do we even need a volume? beautifully produced as it is, it does not sell well, is not read much, except for specific papers people want. A miscellany may not be such a problem, alongside the other suggestions made. The Board agrees that the officers (outgoing and incoming) go away and come up with a practical proposal taking into account all these points.

10. 2015 and 2017 Board Meetings:
- a. Poland in 2015: Lublin: two-hour train ride from Warsaw or shuttle to be arranged; last week in March or third week in April
 - b. Switzerland in 2017: Lausanne (40' from Geneva airport).
11. 2018 Conference:
- a. London bid accepted: King's College has a substantial array of rooms; UCL can be called on too; the Eccles Centre could also step in if needed. Good that the two colleges work in synergy here. Main location will be the Strand (KCL)
 - b. the organizers will be asked to look into the challenge of visas: the UK has very strict policies, which may hamper delegates for example from Belarus and Russia
 - c. the estimate of 350 delegates looks conservative: 450 seems more realistic
 - d. KCL waives fees for rooms over Easter (three-week break).
12. Publications:
- a. *EJAS*
 - i. Pawel Frelik is handing over to Marek Paryz, senior editor for literature and culture. Cara Rodway is a third editor, succeeding webmaster Marc Chénétier [Action: Jacques to add Dr Cara Rodway as third editor for main reference on website]
 - ii. three associate editors on literature side; one on history side: to be examined
 - iii. discussion of indexing status, which is linked to steady stream of submissions—the key point that ISI uses as a selection criterion; our new conference model will lead to one special issue; why not offer the better student papers a chance to publish in *EJAS*?
 - iv. PF points out that submissions have been quite good, but processing has been the stumbling block.
 - b. Publication of EAAS Izmir Conference volume & Rob Kroes prize volume 2011:
 - i. Hans-Jürgen Grabbe is bringing a copy of the Izmir volume to the conference (vol. 6 in the series); congratulations to the editors for producing this in such good time
 - ii. Frank Mehring's *The Democratic Gap* will be out on 17 April 2014 (2011 prize); the 2009 prize was out in 2010. Can we speed up the process (again)? The Board decides to set a deadline of 1 October 2014 for submission of MSS for the Kroes Prize, so that a decision ensues around Christmas (Jan. 2015 at the latest) for publication in spring 2016. MSS to be restricted in length [Action: Tatiani to check appropriate length with HJG] and clearance of copyright issues as soon

as the decision is announced. [Action: Jacques to adjust submission instructions on website appropriately].

13. Website, e-list and social media presence:

- a. JP reports on a less difficult year than before, when we were under cyber-attack; now secured for a more serene future
- b. Facebook 300; Twitter 500 subscribers
- c. evaluation of our decision to cease publication of *American Studies in Europe: Newsletter of EAAS* and invest more heavily in website
 - i. it works; we can phase out references to the Newsletter [Action: Jacques to make appropriate website adjustments]
 - ii. statistics: 200,000 visitors; average visit takes 45 seconds; on average, a visitor consults 3 of our pages
 - iii. archiving will start to become an issue
 - iv. thematic networks, per board decision, encouraged to be more present [Action: Tatiani and Jacques to liaise and carry this forward]
- d. refashioning of e-list (1,200 subscribers): more sensible to attach to website itself, which has a list feature (actually, five lists can be run from it)
- e. PD points out that people visit sites if information changes; so you need material
- f. added item: request from *Comparative American Studies* to inform members “about the latest developments for this publication”: agreed.

14. Awards:

- a. Travel Grants: 90% ask for the total amount:
 - i. we have no way of checking whether indeed they don't have any other funding. Honest applicants state they might be able to travel on say 75%. Those who scored the maximum number of points after vetting by the officers received their requested amount minus 10%; next group minus 15%; etc. there were 12 applicants; 10 awards were made, ranging from 600€ to 1800€; 12,260€ in total
- b. Conference Grants Awarded and Evaluation of this new category:
 - i. 200€ was awarded to each of 30 out of about 60 applicants
 - ii. 400€ (5 times 80€) was awarded to applicants who were also workshop chairs
 - iii. 500€ was awarded to performance artist Lisa Hayes for her appearance in The Hague, per the Board's Moscow decision
 - iv. 6,900€ was awarded in total
 - v. The criteria need to be underlined more heavily
 - vi. People must not think this will cover their attendance: we should announce clearly that the award is for 200€ max.

- vii. Budget will be larger for the future, because the almost 8000€ for workshop chairs and parallel lecturers will no longer be offered, that is assuming that we wish to continue to impose this “tax”, which essentially means that 400 people pay €20 extra: to be further discussed among the Officers
 - c. Rob Kroes prize winner 2013: Andrew Gross for *The Pound Reaction: Liberalism and Lyricism in Mid-Century American Literature*. HJG has already started work on producing the MS.
15. News of networks:
- a. ASN: The American Studies Network Book Prize 2014 was awarded ex aequo to Celeste-Marie Bernier (University of Nottingham) for *Characters of Blood: Black Heroism in the Transatlantic Imagination* and to Paulina Ambroży (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań) for *(Un)concealing The Hedgehog: Modernist and Postmodernist American*.
The runner-up was Fabian Hilfrich (University of Edinburgh) for *Debating American Exceptionalism: Empire and Democracy in the Wake of the Spanish-American War*
 - b. Postgraduate Forum: to be reconsidered? Current leadership to be ascertained.
16. News from member associations:
- a. BLASA: co-organizing of conference of Transatlantic Studies Association in July
 - b. NASA: strong for a small country; also co-organizes with GAAS
 - c. AAAS: Space Oddities; special issue of journal on Austrian-American relations
 - d. SANAS: reaching out internationally and nationally, this year with Philosophy Association: Ethics in Crisis
 - e. GAAS/DgfA: has just reached the 1000 membership limit, with a great number of young people and a majority made up of women
 - f. HAAS: change of leadership; new-style conference with very open theme; also reaching out to secondary-school teachers, who find the conference very useful indeed
 - g. BELAAS: trying to keep afloat; little support; dissertations not approved by university authorities; PAAS is a lifeline; visitors from abroad much appreciated
 - h. RSAS: low membership, in spite of a great number of scholars in the field—yet, not the same problem as in Belarus
 - i. AEDEAN: big, also includes English Studies; conference in Alcalá near Madrid; separate associations for American Studies will have conference in 2015 in Madrid
 - j. AASSE: conference in Sarajevo managed to pull together colleagues from all universities in Bosnia for the first time ever. Very encouraging

- k. AISNA: Trieste board meeting changed the leadership; biennial conference in preparation; close collaboration with other associations such as IASA; North and South America connection
 - l. NAAS: next conference in Oulu, Northern Finland: American Values
 - m. BAAS: 59th conference next week; 60th in Newcastle next year; BAAS and IAAS collaborated on a postgraduate conference; increased membership partly due to catching up on lapsed members but also widening. BAAS Paperbacks series (Edinburgh UP) with new editors Martin Halliwell and Emily West: looking for contributors
 - n. CSAA: Michal Peprnik new chair; new scholarly journal *Moravian Journal of Literature and Film*; conference: A View from Elsewhere
 - o. BASA: declining membership, alas; conference early November; investing in postgraduate level
 - p. APEAA: conference next week—Horizon 2020 dimension; challenge of keeping people in Portugal; Teresa's last board meeting. Please also visit!
 - q. AFEA: doing well; problem with payment for meeting rooms at university for the first time; new book series with two volumes published a year; fellowships available for US students coming to AFEA conference
 - r. PAAS: annual conference on "Wild Zones" in national park near Belarus end of October—CFP open until the summer
 - s. HELAAS: legal review to modernize the association; big international conference in Athens "The War on Human" (Dora Tsimpouki in charge): please respond to CFP by end of June; new e-journal; FB page is a very effective means of communication
 - t. IAAS: grown steadily since organizing EAAS conference; doubled since last year (in part lapsed, in part result of postgraduate work; collaboration with BAAS helps as does being less Dublin-based); Stephen's final appearance on the board
 - u. RAAS: annual conference in Constanta; e-journal RJAS first issue to appear; prize for best MA and PhD dissertation defended between two conferences
 - v. ASAT: after successful 2012 joint conference with EAAS, next biannual conference in May 2014 American Dreams and Fantasies.
17. Election of Vice-President and Secretary-General:
- a. Tatiani Rapatzikou is elected unopposed to the position of Secretary-General. Tatiani accepts her election as Secretary-General
 - b. Boris Vejdovsky receives 10 votes; Pawel Frelik 11 votes; there is 1 abstention. Pawel Frelik accepts his election as Vice-President.
18. Auditors' Report:
- a. The auditors approve of the accounts.

19.AOB:

- a. The Rob Kroes Prize judges will be Marc Amfreville, Stipe Grgas, Martin Halliwell
- b. Terms of Board members are not fixed by EAAS, i.e. associations determine the duration of a term (one year, in some cases; up to five years in others); two terms is the maximum.