



Concise Minutes of the EAAS Board Meeting, Izmir 29-30 March 2012

1. Welcome – President

2. Minutes of Rome Board Meeting

The minutes, which have been available in draft form as a part of the online EAAS Newsletter for a few months, are unanimously approved.

3. Report of the President

Philip Davies (PD) distributes the following written report on the judges' work for the EAAS Rob Kroes Publication Award and ASN Book Prize.

EAAS Rob Kroes Publication Award

There were 7 entries, all of high standard, from Spain (1), Romania (1), Britain (1) and Germany (4). The winner was Dr Frank Mehring (John F. Kennedy Institut, Freie Universität Berlin) with his entry "The Democratic Gap: Transcultural Confrontations of German Immigrants and the Promise of American Democracy". Dr Mehring is now working with Hans-Jürgen Grabbe towards production of the volume in the series that Hans-Jürgen edits on behalf of EAAS. Our thanks are due to this year's judges, Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, Teresa Cid and Stephen Matterson.

ASN Book Prize

There were 26 entries from EAAS members based in the UK (8), Germany (7), Spain (4), Poland (2), Bulgaria (1), Romania (1), Sweden (1), Puerto Rico (1) and Australia (1). The standards were high and the judges, Philip Davies, Dietmar Schloss (Heidelberg), Isabel Duran Gimenez-Rico (University Complutense, Madrid) faced an exceptionally hard task.

The judges have voted to award this year's prize to:

Birgit Däwes, *Ground Zero Fiction: History, Memory and Representation in the American 9/11 Novel* (Heidelberg, Universitätsverlag Winter, 2011).

The short-list also included:

Paul Giles, *The Global Remapping of American Literature* (Princeton and Oxford, Princeton University Press, 2011)

Peter Swirski, *American Utopia and Social Engineering in Literature, Social Thought and Political History* (New York and London, Routledge, 2011)

Stephen Tuck, *We Ain't What We Ought to Be: The Black Freedom Struggle from Emancipation to Obama* (Belknap/Harvard, Cambridge, Mass and London, 2010)

4. Report of the Vice President

Meldan Tanrisal (MT) reports on her work for the conference that is due to start tomorrow.

5. Report of the Treasurer and of the Steward of the EAAS Trust Fund

Stephen Matterson (SM) circulates a copy of the accounts for 2011, noting that the cut-off point of December 31 is slightly misleading, since there was 2010 conference carry-over into the new year.

The Publications item includes some editorial assistance on conference volume, since Winter expects camera-ready copy.

Misc. includes translation work and notarizing of documents for the German court.

Travel grants have been budgeted within the regular EAAS accounts for 2012, which is a change of policy: the Amsterdam Trust Fund was called upon for that in the past, but there has been no need for that in the past six years, the ATF is picking up, so it would seem wiser to leave the fund as intact as possible, and make it an item on the EAAS budget.

Hans Bak explains the history of the ATF, and the clever and cautious investing of Rob Kroes, the treasurer of EAAS at the time. The ATF can step in when an EAAS conference cannot break even, say.

The Board approves continuing the Defensive risk profile asset management. Proposed new policy regarding signature card and authorization. Security regulations at ABN-AMRO make it incumbent on all authorized persons to have a copy of their passport certified by a public notary. The outgoing Treasurer has in the past become the Steward of the ATF, so it makes sense for that reason too to appoint the Treasurer as second signatory.

The Board approves authorizing the Steward and the Treasurer as the designated signatories for the ATF.

Hans Bak is willing to continue as Steward of the ATF; Stephen Matterson (the outgoing Treasurer, unless re-elected) indicates he would rather not, at this time.

6. Report of the Secretary General

GB briefly refers to his part in the preparatory work for the conference, which Board members will have witnessed in the form of regular emails, mentioning too that he has enjoyed the collegiate atmosphere among the team of officers, most business being shared, under the leadership of the president.

7. EAAS Articles: President's report on change to election cycle, approved by postal ballot completed on 16 January 2012

At the Rome meeting the Board indicated strongly that it wished the timing of elections for Officers to coincide with the EAAS conferences and general meeting of the membership. This required an amendment to the articles; waiting until the current meeting would have postponed the change to the next opportunity. Hence, a postal ballot in accordance with art. 9 (9) was conducted, which imposed on us (according to German law) 100% participation, which was duly achieved. Ballots were dispatched to all Board members, with a deadline for return of 16th January 2012. There was a 100% return of ballots, with 21 votes in favour of the Amendment and 0 votes against the Amendment. This result was reported by email to all Board members, and will be duly reported to the Register of Associations.

Amendment of the Articles of the European Association for American Studies
Replace Article 17 (1) to read as follows:

“In accordance with Article 8 (2) and Article 9 (6) pursuant to which, in the interest of continuity, two of the four Officers shall be newly elected every two years, in order to avoid the Officers’ terms of office simultaneously expiring; the terms of office for all Officers will be four years, and elections for Officers will be scheduled as follows:

- President 2012, and at four-yearly intervals thereafter;
- Vice President 2014, and at four-yearly intervals thereafter;
- Treasurer 2012, and at four-yearly intervals thereafter;
- Secretary-General 2014, and at four-yearly intervals thereafter.”

Replace Article 17 (3) to read as follows:

“The above Articles were passed on April 3rd, 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland, amended on 9th April 2011 in Rome, Italy, and further amended after a postal ballot that was completed on 16th January 2012.”

8. Election of Auditors

Yuri Stulov and David Rio volunteer to serve. The Board approves.

9. Application for EAAS Membership: Association for American Studies in South East Europe: discussion and decision

PD reports on the documents circulated with the agenda and on the fact that Peter Penda withdrew his proposal for another association in the same region.

After considerable discussion among board members, PD formulates the following resolution, for voting: that the officers be authorized to write to the officers of the umbrella association reporting that the Board approve their association’s membership. The same letter will make them aware of the sensitivities that emerged in the discussion of this application:

1. the name Association for American Studies in South East Europe concerns some existing members. The Board does not wish further consideration of the name to delay membership. The Board minutes

that approving this association will not be taken as an occasion to reorganize associations in the wider region of South East Europe and that the name AASSEE in no way implies any inclusion of existing member associations in the wider region;

2. in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 817 EAAS will use the term FYROM, rather than Macedonia, where necessary;
3. the field of American Studies: while broad, it does have the inter- and multi-disciplinary examination of the United States of America as its shared object

This resolution is approved with a 100% vote of yes.

10. Auditors' Report

The auditors certify that the accounts are correct.

11. EAAS Publications

- a. Dublin Conference Volume and past and future publications in the *European Views of the United States Series*

The Dublin volume is now with the publishers' after editorial finessing at the series level; EAAS will commit funds (up to 500€) to ensure speedy editorial processing at that level, which is important so as to have a conference volume out in a timely fashion

Editors for the next volume: Meldan Tanrisal, Tanfer Emin Tunc.

- b. *Status of American Studies in Europe: Newsletter of EAAS*

The officers propose to move all Newsletter functions to the website. In the past, the Newsletter has come out as fast as the slowest piece of information it needed to include; this has been esp. unfortunate regarding the conference. The Board decides to stop producing a Newsletter for now, an issue that can be revisited in the light of experience. Jacques Pothier will be in charge of the experiment (and look into stable archiving).

12. EAAS internet presence: Report of the Webmaster

JP reports on the creation of a Facebook page and a Twitter account of which there is also a feed on the EAAS homepage.

That homepage now has pages for new books and grants that may be of interest to members. There is a link to each member association; four clicks away from the home page. JP reports that the Bulgarian Association does not have a living website: subscription for the site has lapsed recently (a month ago). JP proposes expanding the web presence of EAAS Networks. JP also raises the issue of a database of American Studies colleagues, decided in principle at the Rome board meeting. He has given this considerable thought, but cannot see how we are to maintain this. It is already a challenge to keep up with the member associations boards.

Report approved as are all virtual expansion initiatives. Database of members is a no-go. [In later conversation, the possibility is mooted of using Academia.edu to this end: all EAAS members could be encouraged to create a personal page there (if they have not yet done so), which they themselves maintain as they see fit. At present, the only way to mention EAAS seems to be as a website you provide a link to. This won't turn up in search results, but GB has sent the team a query about changing this.]

PD proposes that JP be invited to all meetings of the EAAS Board in his capacity of Webmaster.

The owner of the website is still Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, who has proposed being relieved of that function; the Board decides to make JP the new owner, all fees to be paid by EAAS.

The Board unanimously agrees with both proposals.

11. EAAS Publications (continued)

c. *European Journal of American Studies (EJAS)*

At the time of the Rome Board meeting the then History/Politics/Social Science editorial team wished to stand down. In the light of the Board's discussion, and in consultation with the ongoing editors, the Officers have moved the Journal forward and commend to the Board the following:

- The Journal now has two Senior Editors, one in Literature, Culture and related topics, and one in History, Political and Social science and related topics. The two current appointments are, respectively, Pawel Frelik and Jenel Virden.
- In order to maximise expertise, retain continuity, and facilitate orderly turnover, Pawel Frelik will serve a term of 4 years from 2012, Jenel Virden will serve a term of 6 years from 2012, after which future editors will serve terms of 4 years, with a limit of 8 years maximum service as a Senior Editor. The Board will be responsible for appointing Senior Editors, and at the appropriate time may delegate this task to a working group created for the purpose.
- Each Senior Editor may recruit up to four Associate Editors in order to maximise the coverage and expertise of the editorial team. There are currently two Associate editors working with Pawel ~ Roxana Oltean and Jean-Yves Pellegrin, and one Associate editor working with Jenel ~ John Dumbrell.
- Members of the Advisory Board are expected to make themselves available for reviewing submissions and for other support, as called on by the Senior Editors. In order to draw upon the established and emerging expertise among European Americanists Membership of the Advisory Board will rotate. The Senior Editors will shortly present their plans to begin this rotation to the Officers.

- The Senior Editors will be responsible for regular calls for contributions to the Journal.
- The Senior Editors will report regularly on Journal business to the Officers and to the Board.

The Board approves the proposals and takes note of a detailed report on the current state of affairs at *EJAS* provided by Pawel and Jenel. The turnaround is very good, but the work involved is being carried by too few people: working associate editors are needed. As Pawel notes in his report:

- the position of an *EJAS* associate editor is not an honorary title, a reward, or a distinction *per se* – it involves hard and often mechanical work; please do not even suggest colleagues who are not willing and able to devote time and effort to the journal;
- additionally, at least some experience in editing scholarly texts is required as well as the ability to network and find reviewers for incoming articles outside your most immediate academic environment;
- candidates whose main field is Cultural Studies are particularly welcome.

National representatives are welcome to send suggestions and names of potential candidates to Pawel Frelik (pawel.frelik@umcs.edu.pl), but the final selection will be made at the discretion of the current editors.

David Rio and Marcel Arbeit insist on *EJAS* seeking recognition in ISI and similar indexes.

Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni, whose colleague Theodora Tsimpouki is in charge of the reviews section, reports that a considerable amount of personal money has been spent on sending out books. The Board agrees for EAAS to reimburse proven expenses.

13. Pre-Conference Reports

Covered under VP report

14. 2013 Board Meeting in Moscow

The dates are set for 25-27 April 2013. Arrival on 25th with dinner that night; business meeting on 26 and 27 AM; board members are free to leave from lunch on the 27th; those who wish, may move to the university close to the Kremlin for a small academic conference there; departure for most delegates on 28th.

15. 2014 Conference

a. Venue: The Hague

University College Leiden is willing to be the local host at The Hague (building a new campus near the railway station; to be ready by summer 2013); the

University of Leiden also has a campus at The Hague—so there are logistical resources aplenty. These colleges have good links to the Peace Palace, so that EAAS could get the non-commercial rate for a lecture there. City Hall might sponsor a reception. If we could showcase The Hague in our conference theme then town and province could more readily help fund the conference. The Convention Centre can help find hotel rooms in many ranges. There are also suggestions for the banquet, including tents on the beach, though this may be early in the year. The Board decides to hold the conference with a start of Friday 4 April 2014, in the afternoon; Board meeting to be held on the Thursday (all day) and Friday morning—board members to arrive on Wed. 2 April 2014.

b. Conference Theme

NASA proposes War and Justice, with several aspects outlined by Marietta. Jørn wonders whether we couldn't have half the workshops dedicated to the theme, and half open; other board members feel a unified approach is better, on the grounds of selection principles and the conference volume. After considerable, constructive discussion of several possibilities, the Board decides the following title offers the best combination of specificity and scope: "America: Justice, Conflict, War".

16.2015 Board Meeting: Venue

Zuzanna Ładyga repeats Warsaw (or Krakow) as offers on behalf of PAAS.

17.2016 Conference: Venue

PD reminds the Board of the Rome decision to hold the 2016 conference in Constanta, hosted by RAAS. Adina Ciugureanu reports the motorway between Bucharest (main international airport) and Constanta will be finished in good time. Ovidius university will be in charge—RAAS will be meeting there for its 2012 conference "Remapping Urban Spaces – American Challenges", October 4-6, 2012.

Hotels will be available at 60€ single; buses can, if needed, cover the distance from outlying hotels—which is a relative concept since none will be further than a fifteen-minute walk.

18. Proposed form to streamline the decision-making on and processing of workshop proposals

SM circulates, for the Board's consideration, a form that might help in assessing WS proposals. Discussion develops about the single/shared chairing of WS. The Board decides to impose shared chairing and thus make mandatory a criterion that we had always regarded favourable, so this category is dropped from the assessment proposal. The CFP will include the phrase: "Please use EAAS-L to circulate your ideas if in need of a co-chair". Other adjustments that emerge from the discussion:

Originality and strength of proposal instead of Interd/Am Stud
Other gets 10 points instead of 5, thus leaving a greater margin for considerations that cannot be neatly captured in pre-defined categories. It is also suggested that the CFP contain the instruction to present the proposed topic very clearly; and, of course, that the assessment criteria be made public alongside the CFP.

Some productive further discussion over coffee leads to a further amendment to the decision process, voiced by Rüdiger Kunow: there should be a two-tier proposal process:

1. proposals are submitted (using a googledocs spreadsheet with various compulsory fields) to the Secretary-General, who forwards the complete set, minus the field identifying the proposers, to all Board members, thus enabling the latter to undertake blind peer review of all proposals, using the assessment form to assign marks
2. at the Board meeting (or circulated along with the Agenda, if this can be managed), members receive the aggregate marks, and learn the identity of the proposers. Patterns that have formed (gender; geography; prominence) can then be discussed to arrive at a decision

Although some Board members are unsure that we suffer from problems that would be resolved in this way, the Board decides it is important to be able to state that proposals undergo blind review.

Parallel lecturers: since there were relatively few proposals for the Izmir conference, and some from colleagues with interesting topics, but at a stage of their careers where they are unlikely to draw a substantial audience on the basis of their prominence, we consider in future approaching colleagues we think would meet those criteria better and asking them to submit a proposal; in the CFP, the following formulation will be used: “we are looking for scholars of established reputation”.

19. Items for the General Meeting

Announcement of Prizes, Grants, financial report for two years

Amendment of articles

Policy change on double chairing

website instead of newsletter

Venue and theme for conference

New Grants

Newly elected officers

March 30 (Friday) 10:00-12:30

Marc Chénétier emailed PD to alert him to the publication last night of the *EJAS* special issue “Wars and New Beginnings in American History” (guest-edited by Rob Kroes and Jean Kempf) (see <http://ejas.revues.org/9479>)

20. EAAS (unfunded) Networks: formalizing of status (incl. update on health of ASN, item of discussion at Dublin Board meeting)

The Officers were contacted by Christof Decker (Munich) and Astrid Böger (Hamburg) who wish to expand their existing 'Visual Culture Network', giving it a trans-national, European reach, and who were enquiring about being included on the EAAS Networks page. The Officers could not find reference to any criteria for inclusion on the EAAS website, and suggest the following:

- Groups wishing to be included on the EAAS Networks page should submit their proposal to the General-Secretary.
- The Decision to include a new Network will usually be made by the Officers in consultation with the web manager, and will be reported to the Board at its next meeting.
- Groups wishing to be included on the EAAS Networks page should be able to demonstrate that they fit within the academic remit of EAAS, are likely to be of benefit to the EAAS membership, and that they have some tangible link with the EAAS and/or a national constituent member association.
- Groups are responsible for keeping their information up to date and accurate.
- The EAAS will assume no financial costs when including a Group on the EAAS Networks page.
- The Officers may remove a Group from the EAAS Networks webpage if it becomes inactive, fails to update its information accurately, or if for any other reason the listing is deemed inappropriate. Removal from the EAAS Networks list would be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

The Board unanimously approves of these criteria.

Regarding the American Studies Network, PD notes that ASN, like all organizations, depends on the enthusiasm and effort of a few people, currently led by Chris Bigsby. The Prize generated *really* good submissions, so almost for that reason alone the network is doing an excellent job.

21. EAAS Travel Grants (incl. conference travel)

a. Report on grants awarded

SM reports we gave 5 Transatlantic grants (support was given to research in archives rather than visits to libraries); all reports have been submitted; 12 applications last year; 30 this year.

b. Formalizing of grant criteria (incl. proposal for grants to Early-Career Scholars of our associations)

c. Proposal to offer grants to enable attendance at European Americanist conferences (incl. EAAS)

Items b. and c. are discussed together. Some confusion arises between the proposals under b (grant to conference organizers, possibly to be used primarily to enable early-career scholars to attend) and c (direct grants to scholars facing financial difficulties to present at European Americanist conferences). Several aspects are discussed, including concern over the relatively small size of the proposed conference grant (€300). MT proposes 3 grants of €1000 instead of 10 of €300. PD counters by pointing out that such grants, small as they are, will be welcome and will function in part as a way of buying publicity for EAAS quite cheaply. SM signals the need to have some standardized form for post-conference reporting, if we choose this avenue. JP is concerned about bank transfer costs for support on such a small scale. There is considerable support for proposal c, though Board members would remove several of the measures stipulated in an attempt to counteract the possibility of fraudulent applications, pointing out that they are very hard to meet and create a lot of paperwork. There is discussion of whether the EAAS should be planning to launch either of these forms of grants, rather than offering some grants to appropriate panellists in the EAAS' own biennial conference.

The Board decides to allow the officers to digest the various comments and concerns and come up with a revised proposal to be circulated among Board members that would be based on proposal c, but focus solely on the EAAS' own conference.

22. Election of President and Treasurer

Gert Buelens assumes the chair. Marietta Messmer, chair of the Nominations Committee (which also included Teresa Cid and Marcel Arbeit), reports that for each vacant position one candidate was found to be willing to stand, which does not preclude others from self-nominating. No other Board members come forward. The election results are as follows:

President (Re-election)

Philip Davies: 20 yes; no abstentions; 1 invalid vote

Treasurer

Adina Ciugureanu: 19 yes; 1 abstention; 1 invalid vote

Philip Davies and Adina Ciugureanu are duly elected as President and Treasurer respectively. They accept their election.

This change is to be reported to the Register of Associations.

23. AOB

Thanks to Yuri Stulov and JP who are leaving the Board, though JP is returning as non-voting participant in our deliberations. Also to Stephen Matterson for his service as Treasurer, and to Zuzanna Ladyga for deputising in place of Pawel Frelik.