



Minutes of EAAS Board Meeting, Lublin 26 March 2015

Present and representing member associations:

AFEA Marc Amfreville
DGfA Carmen Birkle
BLASA Gert Buelens
RAAS Adina Ciugurenau (Treasurer EAAS)
BAAS Philip Davies (President EAAS)
ASAT Tanfer Emin Tunc
AASSE Stipe Grgas
NAAS Maria Holmgren Troy
PAAS Izabella Kirmak
AISNA Andrea Mariani
AEDEAN Juan Ignacio Oliva
CSAA Michal Peprnik
AAAS Ralph Poole
HELAAS Tatiani Rapatzikou (Sec.-Gen. EAAS)
SANAS Boris Vejdovsky
RSAS Irina Arkahngelskaya
BELAAS Yuri V. Stulov

Pawel Frelik (Vice President EAAS)
Jacques Pothier (Webmaster EAAS)

1. Opening address

- a. Formal welcome from Dean and Vice Rector from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland.
- b. EAAS President – Philip Davies (PD): special thank-you and warm welcome of EAAS board members.
- c. EAAS Vice President – Pawel Frelik (PF): thanks everyone for traveling to Lublin and for their participation in the 2015 EAAS Board Meeting.

2. Approval of 2014 EAAS Board Meeting in The Hague

- a. EAAS Secretary General Tatiana Rapatzikou (TR) provided an overview of The Hague EAAS Board Minutes, these having been circulated in draft form after that meeting by then Secretary General Gert Buelens (GB).
- b. These Minutes were approved, with the request that the final draft be re-circulated after this meeting in Lublin. [Action: The Hague Minutes were re-circulated to the satisfaction of the Board, and added to the EAAS website.]

3. Financial Report

- a. EAAS Treasurer – Adina Ciugureanu (AC):

GB asked for certain clarifications and suggested that a few corrections need to be made in Sheet I on the basis of the Amsterdam Trust Fund. AC commented on the figures used and finally all was approved as regards Sheet I. She then presented Sheet II featuring the income and expenses in 2013 and proceeded with Sheet III featuring the budget for 2015-16. For Sheet III, AC presumed that some profit will be made but not of the same amount as the one gathered in 2014.

- b. The EAAS membership in 2015 seemed to be reduced bringing into the EAAS bank account as of March 2015 the amount of €38,600.00.
- c. As regards expenditure, EAAS needs to consider the publication costs of the Rob Kroes Book Publication Awards plus the conference volume from the EAAS conference in The Hague in 2014. The expenses of the EAAS travel grants plus the website expenses need to be considered here as well. However, the money to be spent for the EAAS Board Meeting in Lublin was anticipated to be less than €8,000. This amount together with the €1,000 to be gained from the EAAS publication projects (since publications will be split between 2015 and 2016) can move to the EAAS Travel Grant amount. PD and PF asked the board members whether they approve of the above money transfer. **Everyone agrees.**
- d. As for 2016, AC said that we could have a surplus if €10,000 is transferred from the Portfolio to EAAS Travel Grants and Conference Grants. She asked for the approval of the other members of the board [Action: the amount of €10,000 will be transferred from the Amsterdam Trust Fund to the EAAS current account].
- e. AC stated that more money will come into the EAAS bank account due to the membership dues that will be paid at the conference in Constanta. As for the cost of the EAAS Board Meeting to be held there in 2016, AC mentioned that it will cost less. The Romanian Association for American Studies (RAAS) is also expected to contribute to the EAAS Conference Grants, which will allow EAAS to increase the amount that goes for publications and travel grants.
- f. AC commented on the dues of the various EAAS member associations. The Bulgarian Association (BASA) needed to send its dues and number of members. The same was the case with the Irish Association. Finally the British Association (BAAS) needed to confirm the number of its membership (a number of 550 members has been reported recently). As for the total amount collected from the dues of all the member associations, this as of March 2016, come up to €26,544. The Board noted that Treasurer would complete updated final accounts once all the relevant transactions (as referred above) were complete. The Board Approved the Treasurer's accounts as presented. PF commented on the Polish Association (PAAS) and its effort to clean up its member lists and hold on to those members whose fees have been settled.
- g. PD commented on the difficulties AC and Hans Jurgen Grabbe (HJG) have faced so as to achieve an acceptable tax status for EAAS on the basis of the German Tax Authorities. PD warmly thanked both the EAAS Treasurer and HJG for their great work and invaluable help. [Action: The German Tax Office documentation states that the EAAS accounts for financial year 2016 must be presented to the Tax authorities in 2017. It would be most helpful to the Treasurer if all Member Associations of EAAS settled their accounts with EAAS early in 2017, to allow the Treasurer to present finalized accounts to the Board Meeting in 2017].

- h. PD proposed that the Board confirm the EAAS subscription rate remains at its current €6.00 per individual member of the Constituent Associations of EAAS. **The Board Approved the continuation of this membership subscription rate.** PD and AC recommended that the Board continue to follow a defensive-risk policy and the Board Approved this strategy. PD and AC proposed that Hans Bak continue to act as Steward of the Amsterdam Fund for a further year and the Board Approves, and Hans Bak accepted this appointment. [Action: HB needs to compose a letter and send it to the bank].

4. Election of Auditors

- a. At this point PD asked for the appointment of two Auditors for a final check and confirmation of EAAS finances. The two board members selected are: GB and Andrea Mariani (AM).

5. European Journal of American Studies

- a. PD reported that EJAS aims to publish three (3) issues per year. It has in the past been difficult to maintain a consistent periodicity of publication. This has posed problems for the indexing of the journal & the editors recognize the importance of managing this.
- b. The new editorial board has now a steady plan for the next 3-4 years. They have been looking for a user-friendly platform where articles can be submitted and edited electronically. There is a concern though that not many proposals are coming in currently. As for the cost of using a user-friendly platform may come up to €1,500 to €2,000.
- c. A new editor in the History/Social Sciences section of the journal may be needed due to Jenel Virden's early withdrawal from office in 2016.
- d. Overall PD was very pleased with the journal future plans and team dynamics. He informed the board about the EJAS cards [he distributed them to everyone present in the room in Lublin]. They can be used to boost the promotion of the journal and to attract interest for future proposal submissions.
- e. Carmen Birkle added that the EJAS issue she had been coediting with a colleague from Spain is due any time in 2015.

6. EAAS Conference in Constanta, Romania

- a. AC presented to everyone the conference website (www.eaas2016.org). Information about accommodation will be made available soon. For any further inquiries, she said that everyone is welcome to use the Contact information on the website.
- b. What needs to be taken into consideration with regard to the conference in Constanta is that local authorities are not very supportive. So very much depends on the registration fees. As for the venues to be used, these are the Old Building and the Auditorium (capacity 300 people) plus Buildings A and B on campus as regards panel presentations.
- c. PD reminded everyone of the new conference format and invited all EAAS board members to help with the promotion of the conference. As for the selection of the papers to be presented at the EAAS conference, the local organizers will work closely with the EAAS Officers who may also turn to the board members in case further advice is needed. Particular attention will be paid to diversity of nationalities and subject matter. In the case of individual

papers, the conference committee is responsible in organizing them in functional panels.

- d. PD reminded colleagues that that the new EAAS conference format is similar to the existing BAAS conference format. With that closeness of fit, and the combined experience of the organizing teams, the EAAS 2018 conference to be held in London might well be the largest ever American Studies conference event to be held in Europe. [Action: PD invited board members to let TR know of the lists board members have used for the promotion of the 2016 conference].
- e. GB proposed that the cfp of the EAAS 2016 conference should be sent to single-author societies and communities relevant to American Studies as well as List-servs. As for the EAAS 2016 submission form, it will be administered by TR. So any technical inquiries should be sent directly to her. PD then proceeded with the presentation of the conference keynote speakers. The expenses of two of them will be covered by the ECCLES center (Garry Gerstle) and the American Embassy (Linda Cox).

7. Rob Kroes Publication Award

- a. Stipe Grgas informed the members of the board, on behalf of the Rob Kroes manuscript evaluation committee, about the winning title. This is Ahu's Tanrisever's "Post-Heroism: Fathers, Warriors, and Vigilantes in Post-9/11 US Culture." The decision of all three members is unanimous.
- b. PD announced that the next Rob Kroes Publication Award cfp will be discussed during the 2016 Constanta board meeting. Further clarifications about the manuscript selection criteria will be provided in due course.

8. EAAS Travel Grants

- a. PF informed the board about the number of applications received (20 in total). The maximum amount to be awarded is €2,000. The EAAS Officers evaluated all submitted proposals immediately after the board meeting [Actions: board members to be informed about the travel grant selections; earlier deadline is needed for 2016 travel grants for much more timely assessment].
- b. PF explained that all candidates have been asked to specify minimum and maximum amounts needed. As for the thematic spread, this has been very broad and diverse.

9. EAAS Website

- a. Jacques Pothier (JP) commented on the status of the EAAS website. The website received 210,000 visits over the last 12 months, 16,000 last month. Its mission is primarily to post EAAS activity (minutes, conference, grants, publications, networks, member association reports). On the requests of members from the affiliated associations, it also posts news about—"other conferences," "other grants," "other publications." He saw no reason to change the lay-out of the site.

He shared his belief that attention should be paid to the Twitter feed (514 subscribers) and Facebook page (674 followers). While the FB page, the Twitter account (with its Twitter feed on the right of the website—which does not seem to work on all browsers) mostly record any changes and additions to the official website, it can also disseminate some temporary information that

has no place on eaas.eu, such as lectures and seminars. With PF he has been thinking of turning the Facebook EAAS page into a closed group for security reasons since not all followers are members of an affiliated association.

- b. JP informed everyone about the opportunity of creating a sub-site on the EAAS main website without any extra cost and explained that this can be an interesting feature for EAAS networks. Currently only the European Association for American Studies Women's Network has opened such a sub-site at women.eaas.eu (1,946 visits since Jan. 1).
- c. JP shared with the present members his interest in developing the EAAS Listserv services that have been now taken over by PF. The list serves 1,400 subscribers, but too many messages from the list are rejected as spam, presumably because subscribers have failed to indicate to their e-mail client that messages from list@eaas.eu are not spam. A more sophisticated listserv system could be built with a cost.
- d. JP asked whether any board member would be willing to take over the EAAS website administration.

10. Future EAAS Board meetings

- a. TR informed everyone that the 2016 EAAS board meeting is going to take place in Constanta, Romania; 2017 EAAS board meeting is going to take place in Lausanne, Switzerland; 2018 EAAS board meeting in London, UK; 2019 EAAS board meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece.
- b. PD added that new potential conference locations need to be considered. [Action: all board members need to discuss this with the members of their associations and report back to TR].

11. Nominations Committee

- a. PD and AC tenures are coming to an end in Spring 2016. None of the two can be re-elected.
- b. The members of the nominations committee for the candidacies for the President and Treasurer positions are: TR, Maria Holmgren Troy and Irina Arkahngelskaya.

12. News from Associations

- BELAAS:** Three (3) books published; one (1) PhD defended in American Studies.
- CSAA:** Two conferences are coming up, one in June 2015 in American Studies and one in September 2015 in Anglophone Studies. The volumes from the 2012 and 2013 conferences are about to be published very soon. The association is very active journal-wise with its five journal titles focusing on English and American Studies, Cinema and Pedagogy.
- BLASA:** Association is under restructuring. The new board will invigorate events. The Dutch association has a new acronym now and it will soon announce its new officers.
- AEDEAN:** Annual conference in November 2015; one panel will be devoted to American Studies. The Spanish Association is now holding its annual conference. Two (2) conferences take place on an annual basis.
- AAAS:** Conference in Graz. The association is clearing its member list. The

- next meeting of the 19thc Network will take place in September 2015.
- PAAS:** A new board has been elected. The annual conference of the association will take place in Warsaw in September 2015. Another conference is taking place in Lublin in April 2016.
- ASAT:** The 37th International ASAT conference will take place at Akdeniz University in Antalya on November 25-27, 2015, and will be on the theme of Transnational American Studies. As for the journal, JAST, it is doing well with two (2) issues per year. This year, a general issue and an issue on Latino/a Studies will be published. A symposium will take place in Lublin in March 2015 as part of the EAAS Women's Network; the next EAAS WN symposium will take place in 2017. The EAAS board was asked whether it would consider sponsoring network events.
- AASSE:** Efforts have been made for Bosnia to be included in the association but this is still in progress. A conference in American Studies is going to be organized in September, followed by a workshop in American Studies in Zagreb. Also a collection of papers has been published.
- AFEA:** A new president will take over in May 2015. The conference with the title "Movement, Place, Fixity" is organized at the end of May 2015. A dissertation on Eugene O'Neil has been published while the next one focuses on Don DeLillo and 9/11.
- SANAS:** Member numbers are rising. The association has been reaching out to other international associations. The proceedings of the last two biennial conferences are published. The theme of the next conference will be announced soon.
- HELAAS:** A new board has been elected. An international conference with the title "The War on Human" was held in Athens in November 2015. The association is working on the organization of its e-journal.
- RAAS:** A conference in collaboration with the Fulbright commission was held in Oct. 2014. The association has been trying to set up an e-journal. The first issue has been published and they now try to index it for greater visibility. The title of the first issue is "Space and the City in American Culture." All articles included in it have been peer reviewed. A volume will be published with the papers presented in the conference in October.
- AISNA:** The next conference of the association will be organized in Naples in September with the title "Ports and Harbors." A meeting with the Fulbright Foundation has been scheduled in May. As for the journal of the association, it has a steady development with an issue per year. Finally the association is clearing up its member lists.
- RSAS:** The membership of the association has not increased. A conference was organized in December 2014. Russian was the main language of the conference. A volume will be published with the papers from that conference. The title of the 2015 conference is "Building Peace in American Studies." There is an idea of developing a journal within the context of International Relations with one issue devoted to American Studies.
- NAAS:** All members agree to their constitution change with regard to Art. 6 concerning the tenure of each elected board so as to match the four (4)-year run of the EAAS board. The next president to be elected will

come from Finland. As for the Swedish branch of the association, it has managed to increase its membership numbers due to the conferences it has organized. The next conference will be organized in May 2015 with three (3) U.S. keynote speakers. The conference will take place in Finland. As for their print journal in American Studies, it is now digitized so all previous issues till 2012 can be accessed online.

DGfA: A new board is elected. The annual conference is taking place in May 2015 with the title “Knowledge Landscapes North America” (Bonn, 28-31 May 2015). The association website has been restructured and the journal is now available via JSTOR.

BAAS: The annual conference will be taking place in Newcastle in April 2015, while Belfast will host the next one in 2016 in collaboration with the Irish Association for American Studies. Membership numbers are stable. The *Journal of American Studies* is doing well. The same goes for the postgraduate branch of the association.

American Studies Network: Their meeting has been scheduled for late May 2015 in Warsaw.

13. Auditors’ Report

- a. The auditors (GB and AM) met, consulted the accounts and relevant documentation, and reported back to the Board that the financial audit indicated that the handling of the accounts is correct.
- b. The Auditors signed a report to this effect (lodged with the Treasurer’s files) and the Board accepted the auditors’ report unanimously.