



EAAS Board Meeting, Moscow 26-27 April 2013

26 April (Friday) 10:00-12:30

Welcome by RSUH Vice-President

1. Welcome – President
 - a. Philip Davies (PD) welcomes the new board members: Alena Smiešková; Tatiani Rapatzikou; Marc Amfreville; Juan Ignacio Oliva
 - b. Gert Buelens (GB) circulates the attendees' list; apologies are noted for our Treasurer, Adina Ciugureanu, who unfortunately had an accident but is back online and as sharp as ever—the Board sends its commiserations; Stephen Matterson will be acting treasurer for this meeting; Stipe Grgas is ill and cannot travel either but sent a report on AASSEE; Theresa Saxon, whose daughter is very ill, has resigned from the role of BAAS rep—Phil has been asked to represent her for this meeting, but Martin Halliwell is in place for the remaining four years of the term she had been elected to.
2. Minutes of Izmir Board Meeting approved
3. Report of the President
 - a. The transfer between treasurers was difficult because of legal checks now in place on associations' banking
 - b. Romanian bank charges are higher than expected but stay just within reason (10€ on each transaction to the Eurozone)
 - c. The AASSEE report is passed around for perusal
 - d. PD reports on EAAS having been approached by ASA, the US-based American Studies Association, through their international committee, with a request for participation in the Hague conference along lines that would break our workshop regulations. PD did not feel comfortable doing so, but has continued the conversation. He would now like to suggest that we offer Matthew Jacobson, current ASA president, one of the parallel lecture spots, plus create room for a shoptalk on the International Caucus. We might also introduce their presence on stage at our AGM. The Board agrees. Marietta Messmer will take this into account in planning the conference.

- e. PD extends thanks to officers and webmaster for their help, and to the former president for reminding us of certain points
- 4. Report of the Vice President
 - a. since Newsletter has gone, nothing to say on that
 - b. thanks to Stephen for help with the travel grants and Jacques for taking over the functions that the Newsletter fulfilled
- 5. Report of the Treasurer and of the Steward of the EAAS Trust Fund
 - a. Membership income is stable at around 25,000 €. The balance at the end of 2011 was 22,149; at handover October 30, 2012 23,137. Significant expenditure items are:
 - i. Board meeting Izmir: 7,615
 - ii. Publications: 5,945
 - iii. Travel grants: 8,645; the 2012 travel grants had been budgeted higher, but someone withdrew and someone postponed for valid reasons to 2013
 - b. draft budget 2013
 - i. Board meeting Moscow: 11,000 (maybe overestimation)
 - ii. Publications (both Conference and Rob Kroes Prize): 10,000
 - iii. Travel grants 11,000 includes the 1,000 hangover from 2012
 - iv. Officers' site visit The Hague: 2,000
 - v. we will be drawing on some of the surplus of 2012, but would still end with 12,600 in the account.
 - c. Amsterdam Trust Fund: reminder of its creation by Rob Kroes
 - i. we made 22,000 euro in 2012 compared to 2011
 - ii. we decide to move 20,000 euro from the ATF to the bank account so as to be able to do more for the profession, i.e. create a larger fund for travel and conference grants
 - iii. a reflection is, too, that if the money markets do well, we will earn a good interest again; if not, it is money we have spent wisely
 - iv. we stay with the ATF's defensive profile, which has served us well
 - d. bank charges
 - i. Adina has set up a deposit account that will offset most of the extra bank charges she incurs in part by being out of the Eurozone
 - e. Temporary Notice of Exemption from taxation issued by Finanzamt Wittenberg 16/11/2012 valid for two years
 - i. we need to get this extended: Rüdiger is prepared to help with this
- 6. Report of the Secretary General

GB indicates that his work largely takes place in full view of the Board (logistics for the Moscow Board meeting, for instance; organizing the workshop and parallel lecture selection process) so that little reporting is needed, but he wishes to single out the webmaster, Jacques Pothier, for his sterling assistance in setting up good systems for conference management

7. Election of Auditors: Kostadin Grozev and Teresa Cid
 8. Report on Preparations for the Hague Conference: Marietta Messmer
 - a. Site: Leiden Univ. College at The Hague—either just the old campus or possibly the new campus close to the railway station;
 - b. for keynotes Peace Palace would have been nice, but security issues make it prohibitively expensive; Schouburg is less expensive and also very nice
 - c. up to 15 rooms available which would allow for 30 workshops
 - d. 3 hotels with contingents booked (Novotel, Mercure, Ibis) 122€ to 95€ in downtown near conference—bookings to take place through the conference website; cheaper options are available but involve a tram ride
 - e. keynotes:
 - i. representative for NL: Willem van Genugten, professor of Int Rel at Tilburg plus many hands-on affiliations, plus a good speaker
 - ii. various other suggestions are discussed and will be pursued by Marietta
 - iii. dinner: Indonesian restaurant
 - iv. social program: tour of the tulip fields; the beach at Scheveningen; very attractive museums
 - v. performance artist Lisa Hayes, suggested by women's caucus
 9. Discussion of Plenary Lectures, Workshops, Shoptalks and Parallel Lectures for the Hague Conference
- 30 workshops are accepted:
- all those with an overall score of 7 and more (21): #11, 21, 6, 28, 16, 20, 27, 10, 15, 14, 5, 4, 9, 26, 29, 23, 33, 7, 12, 13, 2.
 - #30, 24, 31, 3, 19, 32, 37, 36, 25 after deliberation (scores lower than 7), considering also geographical spread in terms of associations

Lunch, (1:00–2:30 pm)

26 April (Friday) 2:30-5:30 pm

Russian State University of Humanities

10. Discussion of Plenary Lectures, Workshops, Shoptalks and Parallel Lectures for the Hague Conference continued (90 minutes)

parallel lectures accepted:

- #1, 3, 4, 5
- one slot assigned to Matthew Jacobson, invitation to be extended by Philip Davies
- SM proposes moving into new opportunities for dialogue and other forms of interaction and renewal

firm proposal: for 2014 we have parallel lectures for the final time, but only the top four; we invite Matt Jacobson to do a fifth; and explore the possibility of having an interview with Carla Del Ponte

other suggestions

- ASA Caucus proposal accepted
- Shoptalk proposal from Rodica Mihaila on Fulbright accepted
- suggestion of a session on internet resources for younger (and older) scholars; think more in terms of service to the profession
- speedpanel for young scholars to liaise (cf. Postgraduate forum in Germany, which keynotes are required to attend), possibly with a focus on methodological issues
- poster presentations considered by NASA; 1-minute “ignite forum” just punching the key points of their research (as practiced by IASA)

11. EAAS Publications

a. Izmir Conference Volume for the *European Views of the United States Series*

- i. will be ready for sending to HJG end of May
- ii. PD asks board members among their membership to advertize the volume as soon as it comes out

b. *European Journal of American Studies*: Pawel Frelik reports

- i. esp. the history and politics side has suffered from a dearth of submissions for a while but is now picking up under the recent stewardship of Jenel Virden and John Dumbrell; the literature and culture studies side, co-edited by Marek Paryz, Roxana Oltean and Jean-Yves Pellegrin, is doing fine
- ii. the Working Advisory Board is gently being overhauled in order to form a body of reliable professional reviewers—they are, if malfunctional, the bottleneck of the whole process
- iii. electronic submission is being considered, in part to automate the nagging process and to avoid having to resend the submission;
- iv. we record our thanks to Marc Chénétier for his essential help with revues.org; our thanks to all our editors, incl Theodora Tsimpouki, the book reviews editor.

- v. only one issue appeared last year, which may play havoc with the ISI recognition process
 - c. Interim evaluation of decision to move the functions of *American Studies in Europe: Newsletter of EAAS* to the website
 - i. main grounds for moving away from it remains that we were held back from publication by the slowest item of information to reach us
 - ii. we have no reason to doubt the wisdom of the move
12. EAAS internet presence: Report of the Webmaster Jacques Pothier
- a. hacking problem: “this site may have been pirated” warning; advice: retype www.eaas.eu into your browser window, instead of finding it through a search engine or your own bookmark
 - b. EAAS News, in the centre of the page, is essentially what replaces the Newsletter
 - c. JP explains the interlinking of Facebook, feeding into Twitter, feeding into the (latest) tweet mention on the EAAS website homepage, which itself could also feed into Twitter notifying of recent changes to the EAAS-pages
 - d. Minutes: GB would prefer these to also feature under About and will try and retrieve the separate doc-versions and send them to JP
 - e. JP encourages national associations to notify him of their national conferences
 - f. Some of the Networks we mention are not providing recent information: Postgraduate Forum, for instance, seems very quiet. JP would encourage the use of blogs, which revues.org has a section to support.
 - g. suggestion: have an online form for submission of travel grant requests and reports: JP is on it
 - h. remind members to join EAAS-L and use it. [GB: send board members an executive summary of the minutes with points of action; MT will ask board members twice a year for updates four months after the board meeting and again after four months; then we have the board meeting itself as a reminder]
 - i. we need to send out the announcement for the 2014 Rob Kroes Award: [GB will look up the announcement text (while looking for the minutes)]
 - j. we need three judges for the Rob Kroes Prize; submissions come in the form of a typescript (last time there were seven submissions): Tatiani Rapatzikou, Boris Vejdovsky, Yuri Stulov.
 - k. GB raises the issue of the disappointing number of submissions; propaganda machine should function better; get Winter to do a promo in The Hague

27 April (Saturday) 10:00-12:30

School of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University

13. EAAS (unfunded) Networks: report on activities (incl. ASN)

- a. ASN is meeting next in Madrid in May to discuss future activities
- b. Women's Caucus: offered suggestions for Hague conference, inter alia
- c. Southern Studies Forum is celebrating its 30th anniversary

14. EAAS Travel Grants

Report on grants awarded: given that there is a good income from ATF, and an excellent level among the 23 requests, the officers decided that more money could and should be spent. The grand total awarded is 13,925 € distributed over 11 awards to 9 different associations, with all of the UK winners actually being overseas students – from Italy, USA and Switzerland. 3 grantees received (almost) the full amount requested; 8 received 75% of their requested sum.

15. Discussion of formalized proposal to offer grants to enable attendance at EAAS conferences (20 minutes)

The Board decides to earmark a special conference travel fund within the EAAS budget (at least €6,000 for 2014) for the purpose of supporting speakers at the biennial EAAS conference. This opportunity is to be advertized as part of the CFP for the conference.

- applications must be submitted electronically to the EAAS Vice-President, Professor Meldan Tanrisal (vice-president@eaas.eu), by November 15, 2013;
- applicants can apply for a maximum of €500, to cover travel and/or accommodation and/or meals;
- applications should include a letter of acceptance of the paper from the organizers; a copy of the paper abstract; a budget covering the planned attendance (travel, accommodation, meals);
- special consideration will be given to early-career scholars and scholars from countries with a nominal GDP of less than 30,000 USD per capita (according to [the most recent IMF list](#));
- successful applicants will be notified by December 15, 2013 and should then promptly (and no later than December 31) confirm their attendance with their workshop chairs (who need to finalize the workshop program by January 15);
- successful applicants should submit original receipts for all expenses to be covered by the grant to the EAAS Treasurer within two months of the conference travel (by June 1, 2014):

Professor Adina Ciugureanu

Department of English and American Studies,

Ovidius University Constanta, Aleea Universitatii 1 (Campus), 900472, Constanta, Romania

E-mail: treasurer@eaas.eu

(possibly, the webmaster will set up an automated system for submission of applications and reports.)

The Vice-President will liaise with the other EAAS Officers to administer this conference travel grant programme, and will report to and advise the Board on the progress of the programme and on its possible continuance beyond the 2014 conference.

16.2015 Board Meeting: Lublin; date to be confirmed

17.2016 Conference

- a. Venue: Constanta
 - a. we are unsure whether access is going to be an issue; one board member strongly urges Bucharest as an alternative. [local organizer Adina Ciugureanu is not opposed to this and will discuss the option with her Romanian colleagues]
- b. Conference Theme: to be decided at the Hague Board
- c. Proposal to revise the procedures for the conference
 - a. PD feels unhappy with the current system of awarding per diems to conference workshop chairs and parallel lecturers, and would prefer to funnel this considerable sum of money (about 10,000 euros) into the Conference Travel Attendance Fund, along with the 6,000 euros we committed. In this way, a truly robust Fund would be available to assist where necessary.
 - b. PD also proposes abolishing workshops and having the proposals be vetted by a Conference Committee, composed of Board members with a specialist interest
 - c. There is wide support for the idea; SM also points out that the rules on workshops are systematically broken (in that speakers read out papers). Discussion addresses this and related issues. E.g. we do away with much of the problem of fixed-number sessions: 4 OR 8. Speed panel, roundtable again promoted. You do away with the need to try and fit in your paper in several workshops to increase your chances of being in. We need to ensure, though, that the internationalism is preserved in the selection process and structuring format. There are likely to be more papers accepted than in the current system.
 - d. There is also considerable desire to change the format of the panels, so that more room for interaction is created. Talkshops should be the model (or true workshops) rather than papers being ready.
 - e. The Board asks the Officers to formalize this proposal for the next meeting so that it might be implemented for 2016.

18.2018 Conference: Venue possibilities?

Exeter proposed by PD, with Jo Gill as an experienced organizer (Heathrow, then Reading and direct train; total 2.5 hrs)—student halls of residence accommodation is excellent, with beautiful views; plus hotel option in Exeter—this would tie us to the local Easter break but would still give us about three weekends to play with (further arguments: it has been a long time since EAAS was in Britain; it also makes sense to move somewhat West after Izmir and Constanta) [in the mean time, PD has been discussing this option with BAAS colleagues and London has surfaced as an alternative, plus the possibility of a joint BAAS-EAAS conference]

19. Appointment of a Nominations Committee for the 2014 elections (Vice-President and Secretary-General)

Stephen Matterson, Ralph Poole, Tatiani Rapatzikou

20. Auditors' Report

the auditors approved of the treasurer's report

21. AOB

PD notes that we are in a room honouring the value of Russian journalism to Russia and wishes to join in this gesture.