

Minutes of the 2017 Board meeting of the International Association of Cognitive Semiotics

Board members present: Todd Oakley (TO), Monica Tamariz (MT), Jordan Zlatev (JZ), Peter Coppin (PC), Jamin Pelkey (JP), Piotr Konderak (PK), Kristian Tylén (KT) (arrives late)

Place: The meeting takes place on Skype.

Time: November 24, 2017

1. Electing a president of the meeting

The meeting was opened by TO, as current IACS president.

2. Electing a secretary for the meeting, for keeping the minutes

MT will take the minutes

3. Electing two persons to co-sign the minutes

TO will check the minutes.

4. Membership

MT does not have a full updated membership list. She will ask KT offline for the list of members and the date each of them paid in order to generate an updated list. KT reports only 3 new members have joined since the last conference, but this is normal, as most people join at the time of conference registration.

5. Newsletter

TO would like to send a newsletter to members in early 2018 and asks what could go in it. JZ says membership procedure could be included in newsletter.

6. Updates on IACS 3

JP and PC report on venues, banquet and other activities, and on the involvement of Art Gallery of Ontario, Image Art Center and possibly York University as well as Ryerson in the conference, as venues as collaborators.

JP informs that they have secured about C\$10,000 internal and C\$20,000 external funding for the conference to cover scholarships and plenary speakers.

Very few submissions so far (6 abstracts, no themed sessions). JP will announce the conference to the Toronto Semiotics Center, a list of about 250 people, to try to boost submissions. PK says submissions tend to come in late, but, for Lublin, themed session proposals came in early. PC and JP between them will submit 3 themed sessions, and TO will submit another one with colleagues. JZ proposes to send a last call for papers on 1st December to remind people of deadlines. PC will do that (MT to send him the membership list), and TO will add a message from the president to it.

TO will very likely be in a position to contribute between US\$500-US\$1000 sponsorship from Case Western Reserve University.

7. Publication outlets for conference papers

PC reports the *American Journal of Semiotics* have reserved a double special issue (about 15 papers maximum) to be called "Cognitive Semiotics" for papers related to the conference, especially relevant to the conference theme. JZ asks about Open Access and JP responds that they will know in a few months, and is hopeful that OA will be funded by the grant they are putting together.

JZ welcomes this as a great alternative to past conferences' books published by Peter Lang (which was costly, lots of work and problematic).

TO contributes that the journal *Cognitive Semiotics* allows one special issue per volume, so this would be another possible outlet. (TO also reports that the publishers seem to be happy with the quality, but the main problem is to get enough good quality submissions; ideally when the journal is abstracted and indexed things will be better in this respect.)

PC says that alerts us that Design could be a group to target the conference and publications to, as cognitive semiotics is a rich theoretical framework revolving around representation, so better for design than cognitive science. TO asks PC to act to encourage the design community to submit to the conference.

JZ proposes other outlets for conference-related publications such as book proposals with Berghahn Books.

8. Possible venues for IACS 4.

There has been one show of interest from China, via a message from Göran Sonesson. There is consensus in the group that it would be better to alternate Europe with other continents, in which case IACS 4 would take place in Europe; we need to encourage proposals. Moreover, China may pose problems with visas, conferences being more national than internationally-oriented, and the fact that there are no current IACS members from China.

9. Junior scholars

TO proposes a junior scholar plenary, but the consensus is that rather than have a dedicated slot, we should strive for diversity of age, academic status, gender and geographical origin in the conference organization, and incorporate those principles into our best practice.

9. Board membership

TO reminds us that his term as president has to finish at the next conference, and encourages other Board members to put themselves forward for this post. Also, board members who do not wish to continue serving should contact TO. JZ proposes we organize the next election better, as last time there was some confusion (i.e., do our best to ensure several people run for president). TO will announce this in the forthcoming newsletter too.

10. Finances

KT reports IACS account has US\$4,859.

It is decided that IACS will contribute to IACS 2018 conference Maxine Sheet-Johnstone's speaker fee of US\$1500 (to be transferred to the local organisers after the conference) plus 2500 euros for student travel scholarships. The decision to pay a speaker fee is an exceptional one, and we all agree that IACS can cover exceptional costs such as this.

11. The meeting is closed by TO

Minutes checked and approved by TO.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ted O'Connell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.