

**Minutes from the IACS board meeting**  
Friday Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 2021

[taken by Kristian, completed by Esther, checked by Todd and Jamin, and reviewed by Donna]

**Present:** Sara Lenninger, Irene Mittelberg, Todd Oakley, Esther Pascual, Jamin Pelkey, Paul Sambre, Martin Thiering, and Kristian Tylén

President Esther Pascual opened the meeting.

Kristian Tylén was elected to take the minutes.

It was agreed by all present to record the meeting for reference in the minute-writing stage.

**1) Update on the journal Cognitive Semiotics** (by Associate Editor Todd)

Generally, things are good. The preparation of the two special issues is going very well. The Editorial board welcomes ideas for special issues; those interested should contact Editor-in-Chief Peer Bundgaard with a proposal. Moreover, the journal will soon need a new production manager, since the current one is leaving. The board is encouraged to contact potential candidates with relevant editorial skills and invite them to contact Editor-in-Chief Peer Bundgaard. Usually, students fill this role (remuneration is approx. 2,000 euros a year); the job can be done from anywhere.

**2) IACS4-2022: keynote speakers; workshops; announcement** (by the local committee)

A recent meeting on the conference between local organizers at Aachen Martin and Irene and the Leuven colleagues Paul, Kurt, and Geert was very fruitful. The following was decided in that meeting:

- The new dates of June 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 are confirmed. However, June 16<sup>th</sup> is a holiday, which presents some complications for room bookings (it is not possible to retain a reservation for that day) – solutions are still being investigated (e.g., host that day of the conference in or near Leuven).
- The plan is to contact very soon those colleagues whose papers have been accepted and ask whether they are still committed to present at the conference, and if they know if they will do so face-to-face or remotely. If so, they will be invited to improve their abstracts by November 2021.
- All plenaries have accepted the invitation for the new dates, except for one whose confirmation is still pending. All organizers of the theme sessions and pre-conference workshop have also confirmed their participation.
- Since the COVID-19 situation is still uncertain both in Europe and globally, the plan remains to offer the conference as a hybrid event with the options to participate either physically or virtually. Two of the plenaries will probably give their talks online. The venue is very spacious and will allow participants to keep distance requirements; and they are well-equipped with good technology, especially the workshop rooms (2 screens, microphones). The local committee will double-check that the rooms have the best equipment for optimal online conferencing. A technician from the university will be present during the entire time.
- Currently, the plan is not to open a new call for papers. However, if enough the accepted paper submissions choose to withdraw their papers, we might consider reopening the call – despite the extra work and complications that would involve. The board recommends sending out a short online survey to ascertain how many of the original submissions we can

expect- it should be sent the week after this meeting with a mid-October deadline for responses– the final decision will be based on the results.

### **3) IACS5-2024:**

Sara suggests that we should start thinking about the next IACS conference (in 2024). So far, we do not have any official bids:

- Universities in India and Estonia have previously been mentioned as possibilities;
- Lund University was suggested by Jordan Zlatev;
- Sara suggests Aarhus University, where IACS was originally founded. Kristian, who has vast experience with such conference organization, will ask around in his department.

### **4) IACS bank account**

- Kristian reminded us that, after the closing of the IACS bank account due to new bank legislation in Denmark, the associations funds are in a private account in his name-- all other options led to a dead end. This solution is not sustainable. The board discussed two solutions: 1) to base the association's bank account in another country with more liberal rules, or 2) to turn IACS into a money-free association (with individual local committees handling the conference fees and costs, as the *Language, Culture, and Mind* conference series does). Jamin inquired in vain with various Canadian banks. Todd will ask his US bank in case such regulations were not global. Also, since other similar academic international associations seem to have found solutions, Jamin will contact the treasurer of the International Association for Semiotic Studies to inquire about its bank affiliation(s). Were the board to decide on the money free solution (i.e. not charge membership fees in the future), the IACS constitution will need to be changed. This requires approval by the General Assembly at the next conference (and require that members be notified two weeks in advance). Todd pointed out that the consequences for De Gruyter (re: the journal) of the money-free option are unclear.
- Todd pointed out that, since we still have money in the account (i.e. a little less than 3,000 euro), we should plan on spending it. It was agreed that this should be done through giving out stipends to student delegates. No concrete decisions on the next step were taken.

### **5) Other business: IACS website, Newsletter summer 2021**

The Board does not consider it necessary to send out a newsletter at this point. The Board recommends that the website should soon be updated with the confirmed speakers for the IACS4 conference.

On behalf of the board,

Kristian Tylén