

MINUTES
CATR/ACRT ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday June 6, 2019

12:45-2:15pm

Dorothy Somerset Studio, UBC

Recorded by Secretary Kim McLeod

Attendance:

Lisa Aikman, Conrad Alexandrowicz, Art Babyants, Amanda Baker, Roberta Barker, Naomi Bennett, Jenn Boulay, Claire Carolan, Sandra Chamberlain-Snider, Eury Chang, Sheila Christie, Selena Couture, Heather Davis-Fisch, Moira Day, Leah Decter, Katrina Dunn, Claire Fogal, Karen Fricker, Alana Gerecke, Catherine Graham, Stephen Heatley, Julia Henderson, Erin Hurley, Kelsey Jacobson, Kirsty Johnston, Matt Jones, Marios Kallos, Yasmin Kandil, Magdalena Kazubowski-Houston, Sasha Kovacs, Tabia Lau, Patrick Leroux, Ray Louter, Signy Lynch, Michelle MacArthur, Diana Manole, Hallie Marshall, Anna Mazurik, Ash McAskill, Scott Mealey, Yana Meerzon, Kim McLeod, Lisa Ndejuru, Nicole Nolette, David Owen, Anna Paliy, Mathilde Perahia, Ginny Ratsoy, Grahame Renyk, Andrea Roberts, Marlis Schweitzer, Rachel Shaen, Marie-Eve Skelling Desmeules, Annie Smith, Kim Solga, Jenn Stephenson, Fraser Stevens, Mark Swetz, Jacquy Taucar, Matthew Tomkinson, Jerry Wasserman, Robin Whittaker, Ashley Williamson, Florence Yoon

1. Report from Conference Organizers

- Kirsty Johnston thanks the conference programming committee, the regional team at UBC and many others who helped with the conference
- Johnstone provides a breakdown of the conference budget and notes that only 26% of the cost is covered by revenue from registration fees

2. Call to Order

- Meeting is called to order by President Erin Hurley

3. Approval of the agenda, minutes of the last AGM and matters arising therefrom

- Ashley Williamson moves to approve the agenda
 - o Ash McAskill seconds
 - o Motion carries

- Jacquy Taucar moves to approve the minutes of the 2018 AGM
 - o Roberta Barker seconds
 - o Motion carries

4. Report of the President

- President Erin Hurley highlights the board's priorities in 2018-2019: completing the incorporation process and harmonizing internal processes with new by laws; inclusion and increasing the involvement of the membership in the association (e.g. expanding nominations committee, new members on awards committees, introducing Indigenous host community initiative, creating a Code of Conduct)
- Hurley outlines board priorities for 2019-2020: returning to the Emerging Scholars Task Force (2017) to see what is still to do and what the data tells us; engaging regional representatives more actively to better communicate what's happening in various regions; Indigenization; considering member support; considering how to represent and speak to implications of Canadian policies on Canadian theatre and performance studies
- Hurley signals a concern: sustainability of our financial model.
 - o Hurley notes our budget priorities are consistent with the purposes set out in our incorporation documents (e.g. about half of membership fees go to *TRiC*, recent administrative costs for incorporating). Notes the conference is highly subsidized and has been for a number of years.
- Discussion:
 - o Eury Chang: Are there succession plans in terms of collecting materials from past conferences and, if so, how can it be accessed by members?
 - Kim McLeod: The files go to the Secretary who keeps them with the Secretary files. They also get placed in the CATR Archives (both are online locations).
 - Chang: Is it centralized? Where are hard copies of archives?
 - Robin Whittaker (head of Archival Committee): Documents are currently being digitized. Hard copies are at Whittaker's house as CATR has no central location. Members can request access to the documents.

- Ash McAskill: Is there a way members could find out more about how board members are educating themselves (e.g. in terms of Indigenization)? If this is transparent, other members can learn from it.
 - Hurley: We can make available readings we are doing and keep membership posted in communications we send out.
 - Whittaker notes questions for the board or specific board members can go to the Secretary who will then direct it as necessary. Secretary's address is on the CATR website.

5. Report of the Secretary

- No report

6. Report of the Treasurer

- Treasurer Sasha Kovacs notes this is our first year as an incorporated, not for profit charity and presents our unaudited 2018 year-end financial statements (prepared by Hogg, Shain and Scheck). We have a soft deficit and higher than usual administrative spending (required for our move towards incorporation). Kovacs thanks our donors and reminds members they can donate through our Canada Helps portal.
- Discussion:
 - Jacquey Taucar: Do you anticipate a reduction in administrative fees compared to 2017?
 - Kovacs: Yes. Projection for 2019 is \$3500.
 - Jenn Stephenson: Conferences in principle should break even. So it's not actually good that we had a profit from 2018. It should be affordable and members get what they pay for.
 - Kovacs agrees. Notes in 2019 it should be breaking even.
- Sasha gives an overview of our assets and notes the board has struck a financial committee to discuss reinvesting GICs that have come to term and ethical investments
- **Motion:** Sheila Christie moves to approve the 2018 year-end financial statements
 - David Owen seconds
 - Motion carries

- **Motion:** Katrina Dunn moves to approve the 2019 budget forecast
 - o Grahame Renyk seconds
 - o Discussion:
 - Karen Fricker asks why the graduate student donation projection is much higher than 2018
 - Kovacs notes this is because we are already in 2019 and we've had more donations.
 - Annie Smith asks how we project our number of members
 - Kovacs notes it is a modest projection drawn from 2017 conference numbers (as the conference will be in the east)
 - o Motion carries

- **Motion:** Sasha Kovacs moves that Hogg, Shain & Scheck CPAs be appointed as the public accountant for the fiscal year 2019 and that the Board of Directors shall determine remuneration
 - o Kovacs notes the projected remuneration is around \$1000
 - o Yasmin Kandil seconds
 - o Motion carries

- Kovacs reminds membership that a motion passed last year to exempt CATR from a financial audit in years our annual income is less than \$100,000. This motion carries forward in other years.

7. Report of the Elections Officer

- President Erin Hurley reports for Elections Officer Kirsten Sedeghi-Yekta

- Voting took place from March 1-15 and March 19-26, 2019 and 56 members voted. (versus 58 in 2018 and 53 in 2017). Reminder: the membership year starts in January and you need to be member to vote.

- Positions filled:
 - o Vice-President -- Robin Whittaker
 - o Atlantic Rep. -- Sheila Christie
 - o BC Rep. -- Kirsty Johnston
 - o Prairie Rep. -- Katrina Dunn
 - o Ontario Rep. -- Magdalena Kazubowski-Houston
 - o Grad. Rep. -- Signy Lynch

- Representative-at-large -- Alana Gerecke
 - Francophone representative -- Sylvain Lavoie
- Information on elections for 2019-21:
 - Will again have nominations committee with non-board members
 - Nominations in the fall; Elections in early March; positions begin after AGM 2020
 - Positions to be filled: President, Quebec, Alberta and the Territories, Representative-at-Large, Graduate Student Representative
 - Hurley thanks departing board members: Roberta Barker (Atlantic Rep), Ian Williams (Prairie rep), Kim McLeod (Ontario rep), Sebastian Samur (Graduate Student Rep) and Emilie Rollie (Member at Large)
 - Hurley: The Board has passed in principle a motion to convert one of our three representative-at-large positions into a “contingent faculty” or “unaffiliated scholar” position. It was passed in principle because we need to think more about language to describe the position, which would be for CLAs, sessionals (and potentially postdocs). The board aims to have the position in place for the next election cycle. Hurley notes other ways members can get involved: being on the archive committee, the nominations committee, the conference planning committee or awards committees.
 - Diana Manole thanks the board for this change.

8. Report of the Membership Coordinator

- Membership Coordinator Selena Couture thanks Barry Freeman for the work he did in this role. Couture notes there is a drop in membership numbers this year (which happens when the conference is in the west). There is also an ongoing issue with presenters not buying memberships when we are with Congress (Couture will be following up with the 30+ who registered without memberships). Couture notes donation option on registration has switched from CATR Awards to the Indigenous Host Community Initiative (it has \$175 this year).
- Discussion:
 - Sheila Christie: Does this mean the CATR Awards no longer need fundraising?
 - Couture: This is a discussion the board is having.

- Ash McAskill: Is there a way to do a review of diversity and representation in our association?
 - Couture: The board will discuss this at our next meeting
- Jacquey Taucar: Is there a way to think about the value of membership beyond the conference?
 - Couture: Membership is also a subscription to *TRiC* but this is a conversation to have.
 - Roberta Barker notes this was part of the thinking when the Working Groups were created.
 - Sasha Kovacs notes this is also part of the goal of the CATR Grants –to extend the activities of the association beyond the conference. This question continually comes up at the board level.
 - Eury Chang: There has been some discussion of extending membership to artistic communities. Could we consider a buddy system one year where every full member brings a contingent member?
 - Ash McAskill notes Working Groups are bringing in international and new members.
 - Karen Fricker: As someone who recruited practitioners for a session, she had to fundraise to support this. The fees feel like a barrier to bringing in artists, especially since there is no day rate at Congress.
 - Hurley notes there is history to this discussion. We had day rates in Kingston but can't in years with Congress. We've also discussed institutional memberships for presses and theatre companies.
 - Julia Henderson (2019 Local Area Coordinator) notes many people asked questions around rates and practitioners were excluded because they could not afford fees.
 - Scott Mealey thanks the association for the CATR Grant given to the Centre for Spectatorship. They appreciated the money but also appreciated that it gave credibility to their event and created good will towards the organization from those who sit outside of it.

8 . Report of the Federation Representative

- Kim McLeod reports for Peter Kuling: There are no major updates, the federation has prioritized campaigning the federal government for more funding, re-branding Congress and creating initiatives to have associations in more contact with one another.

9. Theatre Research in Canada Report

- Editor Kim Solga notes 2018 had two general issues. A double issue on festivals is coming out in November. If you are a digital subscriber and are having trouble accessing the journal, please send an email.
- Solga notes the journal has SSHRC funding again and gives a huge thanks to Cassandra Silver for spearheading that grant (almost \$60,000 for 3 years).
- Solga thanks Blake Sproule for production labour.
- Solga outlines challenges:
 - o SSHRC is no longer a reliable partner (earlier funding denials and pushed deadlines back). The management board is taking the issue of sustainability seriously.
 - o Staffing challenges: Solga took over as editor in 2016 and is now most senior person working for the journal. There was a gap with no managing editor for 6 months. Lisa Aikman is incoming Managing Editor. Editorial Assistants: Sarah Robbins and Jess Watkin. Online Editor: Jeff Gagnon.

10. Motion to approve new by-laws – discussion and vote

- **Motion:** Erin Hurley moves that CATR/ACRT approve the association by-laws prepared in accordance with the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act
 - o David Owen seconds
 - o Vote: motion carries

11. Report of the Committee on Conduct

- Kim McLeod highlights the committee's priorities in 2018-2019: providing an annual workshop on misconduct at the conference and developing a Code of Conduct for the Association. The Code of Conduct was approved at the CATR Board Meeting on June 2 and the English version is now on the CATR website.
- Discussion:
 - o Catherine Graham asks for clarification on “self reporting”
 - McLeod: This is intentionally open. The onus is on members to report when they are under investigation for misconduct but we realize that we cannot force members to report and that there are many different contexts that might be in play.
 - o Grahame Renyk: Does TRiC fall under the Code?

- Jenn Stephenson: No. It is run by the University of Toronto.
- Ash McAskill: Has the committee considered offering other kinds of workshop programming that relate to other conduct and equity questions (e.g. ageism)?
 - McLeod: This was raised last year so we are aware of this and think it would be an important addition. But for the past year the committee has been focused on fulfilling the two commitments we made at last year's AGM.

12. Other Business

- Roberta Barker (Scholarly Awards Coordinator) notes an ad hoc committee is being formed to look at current processes, especially in terms of inclusion. If you have any thoughts on this, please let Barker know as last year we were able to improve the O'Neill committee's process based on member feedback.

13. Adjournment

- Matt Jones motions to adjourn
- Meeting adjourned at 2:22pm