

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada

May 2018, University of Regina

## 1. Adoption of 2017 Minutes

The minutes of the AGM from 29 May 2017, distributed in the Winter 2017, no. 97 issue of the HSAC Newsletter, were adopted. (S. Jobbitt / C. Adam)

## 2. Reports of the Executive

- a. President's Report: Oliver Botar, having reached the end of his term, would be handing over the HSAC presidency, whilst indicating that he is available for the remainder of the calendar year to assist with the transition and/or to continue as acting president, for incoming president, Steve Jobbitt. Oliver updated the membership on the status of the Dreisziger Medal—a project that he has been coordinating. Both Margit Lovrics and Judy Young have been recipients of the medal which, through artist Andrew Benyei and the work of ArtCast has been designed and cast at what was a very reasonable price for the organization. This year, Oliver played the lead role in coordinating the day trip to the former Hungarian settlements of Kaposvár, Békevár and Esterhazy and connecting with local communities. This day trip proved to be a major highlight of the conference and its value, as a community building exercise for HSAC, was reinforced by members at the AGM. Discussions about local programming for the HSAC membership in Vancouver at the 2019 conference and the need to find a local organizer, ensued. While it was recognized that turn-out for the Regina conference was lower than in the previous year, the conference—thanks to the calibre of the papers and related programming—was of exceptional quality.
- b. Treasurer's Report: Margit Lovrics distributed a written financial report for the period between 1 May 2017 and 30 April 2018 outlining major categories of revenues and expenses. During this reporting period, expenses (\$6,958.83) surpassed HSAC's revenues (\$6,427) and the timely collection of annual membership dues has sometimes proven challenging. Expenses during this reporting period include a one-time, larger cost associated with the production of ten Dreisziger Award medals, which does not represent an on-going liability. The report also acknowledged the financial contribution of the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation to the 2017 conference at Ryerson University. M. Lovrics informed the membership that after over two decades of service, she would be stepping down from her role as Treasurer and would work with her replacement, Ilona Sándor, during the period of transition. By the time of the HSAC AGM, preliminary discussions between Margit and Ilona to this effect had already started. (M. Palasik / S. Jobbitt.)
- c. Secretary's Report: Judy Young-Drache confirmed her intention to step down from her role as HSAC's Executive Secretary following the 2019 conference. Traditionally in HSAC, the Secretary has played the most active role within the Executive when it came to the day to day work of the organization—including correspondence/communication and conference logistics. Flexibility is a key aspect of the job which comes with a lot of detail and deadlines but the human contact is also important; maintaining a personal touch with members and conference participants makes for the friendly atmosphere of HSAC meetings. Flowing from prior discussions, ideas as to a more appropriate title and/or the creation of a new position to share part of the heavy responsibilities of this role and/ or a more pro-active executive were raised. It was noted that in 2017-18 Kristen Csenkey assisted Judy in the production of a newsletter and Kristen was thanked for her contribution. HSAC's declining membership numbers were mentioned, especially among Canadians, and the need to re-engage long-time or previous members who have not attended conferences recently. Drawing in new members can be achieved through collaboration with other associations and reaching out to scholars in various disciplines. On a positive note, HSAC has reached out to the younger generation of scholars over the last 8-10 years with some success and this should continue.

### 3. Reports from the Committees

- a. Publications: Nándor Dresziger was unable to attend the conference but submitted a written report on the status of the Hungarian Studies Review. He noted that while the 2017 volume of the journal was of high academic quality, the situation around the 2018 volume is troubling. To date, only a handful of papers or proposals had been received for this issue and due to the editor's deteriorating health, the issue may not be ready for publication until 2019. Nándor suggested the idea of transitioning to an electronic version—which is both less expensive and less time intensive to produce than the print edition. Overarching concern about the future of the journal was expressed and a discussion ensued about the possibility of forming a more active and collaborative editorial committee to assume responsibility for the journal in the future. It was agreed that the Executive would discuss possibilities prior to the 2019 conference.
- b. Program Chair (Steve Jobbitt): The Committee for the 2019 Conference at UBC in Vancouver includes as Chair Steve Jobbitt, and members Christopher Adam, Oliver Botar, Orsolya Kis, and Mária Palasik. The 2019 conference, as part of the Congress theme of "Circles of Conversation," would encourage papers and panels that explore the interaction between institutions of higher education and research with other agencies, including government and non-profit. This opens the door to examining how academic research can assist or help form public policy and the grassroots work of NGO groups.
- c. Planning and Nominations and Election of the Executive: Éva Tömöry submitted a written report ahead of the AGM and indicated that she would be stepping down from her active role in HSAC. Éva was thanked for her many years of service for HSAC. The Committee, which also included Magdolna Velki and Oliver Botar, submitted the following slate of officers for 2018-2020: Steve Jobbitt (President), Christopher Adam (Vice President), Judy Young (Executive Secretary until June 2019), Ilona Sándor (Treasurer). The slate, as nominated, was elected.

### 4. Other Business

- a. As part of an effort to build a more active and collaborative Executive, the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Secretary would plan regular meetings, mainly using Skype or teleconference, to share the responsibility of running HSAC and planning for the future. Further discussions around the future of the HSR and future opportunities or directions of the association as a whole will occur and would be presented at the 2019 AGM. It was noted that HSAC has, in the past, thrived because of its ability to transform, thus remaining relevant to changing times and circumstances.

Prepared by Christopher Adam