

IACS meeting - 27 February 2017

Informal skype meeting of IACS board members with Peter Coppin (OCAD University) and Jamin Pelkey (Ryerson University) to discuss the possible change of venue for IACS 2018 from Cleveland (Case Western) to Toronto

Present: Peter Coppin, Jamin Pelkey, Todd Oakley, Jordan Zlatev, Kristian Tylen, Hannah Little, Esther Pascual, Piotr Konderak, Monica Tamariz

Todd opened the meeting by explaining the reasons why he thinks having the 2018 IACS conference in the US is not a good idea: new, ever-more stringent border and migratory policies that will likely not change at least until late 2018, when mid-term elections take place.

Peter and **Jamin** offer Toronto as a solid possible alternative venue. Approval from their respective universities has still not obtained, but the outlook is positive, as the academic atmosphere is now very good in Canada and there are places to apply for conference funding. The exact role of the OCAD and Ryerson to be confirmed at a later date.

Peter and **Jamin** had several practical questions and requests, which were answered as follows:

- Cost of past conferences - about \$12,000.
- Contribution from IACS - usually 1 plenary (travel and accommodation) out of the 6 conference plenaries, but this could be increased in this exceptional case.
- Contribution from participant fees - usually about half of the total costs.
- Division of labour regarding reviewing abstracts - in the past, a scientific committee (about 30 members) was appointed including board members, local organisers and some external academics, and each reviewed around 10-12 abstracts.
- Do local organisers need approval from the board for their decisions? - No, the board gives local organisers freedom to decide the conference theme, plenaries etc; the IACS board can be consulted and asked for help and advice.

Other points:

- **Todd** had already invited Yashuhiro Shirai (Case Western) to be a plenary in Cleveland; Shirai could pay for his own travel to Toronto if he is finally invited to go there.
- Paul Buissac, who **Jamin** works with, is organising a symposium in Toronto in June 2018. There may be a possibility to integrate that with IACS somehow, e.g. invite some of their invited speakers as plenary speakers at IACS.

It was agreed that:

- **Peter** and **Jamin** would confirm with **Todd** whether the conference takes place in Toronto in June 2018 in March.
- **Todd** will draft an official letter from IACS pledging financial contribution to support funding applications.
- As conference organiser, **Peter** is now a member of the board.
- Towards the end of the meeting, **Peter** and **Jamin** said they were confident they would be successful in obtaining approval and funding, so they agreed that the change of venue from Case Western to a partnership between OCAD University and Ryerson University can be announced soon.
- **Todd** will draft a change of venue statement and circulate among board members, then **Hannah** will put it on the website and **Monica** will send it to members and other contacts.
- Case Western will sponsor IACS 2018 in Toronto with \$1,000 (the exact expenses to be decided, perhaps students who work for the conference).
- IACS will contribute \$2,000 to the conference Toronto (**Peter** and **Jamin** to send a request for funding which will be put to the board).