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

Board members present: Piotr Konderak, Todd Oakley, Göran Sonesson, Monica Tamariz, Kristian Tylen, Jordan Zlatev.

Friday 28 November 2014

Video conference

Agenda

1. Opening the meeting, electing a secretary for keeping the minutes and two people to check them, formalizing the board offices. TO
2. Update on Organization Bank Account. KT
3. Revisions to the IACS website, both substantively and stylistically. GS and PK
4. Linking membership dues to journal subscriptions
5. Ground Rules (if any) and/or approval of possible affiliate organizations
6. Update on IACS 2014 volume "Establishing cognitive semiotics"
7. Update on IACS 2016. PK
8. Closing the meeting

Minutes

1. Opening of the meeting, electing a secretary for keeping the minutes and two people to check them, formalizing the board offices

TO opened the meeting. MT elected as secretary to take the minutes, TO and JZ to check them.

GS suggested to formalize the board member offices. These posts were approved by the board:

TO as president
GS as vice president
PK as public relations officer
MT as secretary
KT as treasurer
JZ as past president

2. Update on Organization Bank Account (report by KT)

The bank needed some extra documentation, including the GA minutes, signed by board members, which he arranged and sent. Bank account should be functional within one day.

Now the account is open, all should be quick and easy; the bank will not require further GA minutes.

Asked about setting up different internet payment systems for fees and other payments. Paypal is probably the best, as it would cost around 100 DK a month to set up other systems.

GS pointed out a problem with Paypal namely the need to use a credit card number. KT suggests we ask the bank to issue a credit card for that purpose.

Issue: collection of membership and conference fees:

JZ suggests to PK for IACS 2016 in Lublin to collect the membership fee together with the conference fee --JZ asked whether this could be a problem, since some universities would not allow extra money in their accounts and they would have to transfer the membership money to IACS afterwards. KT suggests invoicing the university for the membership fees that were collected with the conference fees, as he had done before. PK is not sure of the situation; things in Poland tend to be very formal, but Lublin University is changing to an electronic payment system, so this suggestion may be possible. He will find out. KT suggests people could pay for the conference plus membership fees through Paypal into the IACS account, then once all the monies were collected, he would transfer the conference fees to Poland and retain the membership fees. PK points out this would delay issuing individual invoices for participants. KT and GS agree this could be problematic. GS suggests PK finds out about the new system in Lublin university and reports back at the next meeting. JZ makes an extra suggestion: to get people to make two separate payments for the conference and the membership fees at two separate locations. KT objects that in that case some people might not join the association and motions to decide on this issue in the future.

KT goes back to the Paypal theme and raises another issue: If someone wants to become a member next week, how could he pay? We should specify a payment method on the website so anyone can join at any point in time. GS replies that there is already some information about payment on the website, but no corresponding bank account! That will be rectified soon.

3. Revisions to the IACS website, both substantively and stylistically. GS and PK

TO moves on to point three on the agenda stating that PK, as public relations officer (because he is in charge of the next conference) and JZ have put together a list of proposed changes.

GS informs us that he can change things so PK has access to the website; he can make a better website, and then PK can add ongoing updates. He has changed the colour scheme since the conference, but has not uploaded the changes yet.

TO asks JZ for comments on what the website needs. JZ says it needs a serious update/revamp. Ten people including PA Brandt have complained about the drawing. The website also needs to look alive, with updates, news, minutes etc. He suggests special functions exclusively for members such as links to their website etc.

TO acknowledges the need to update the website in view of these criticism and He mentions that PK can update contents, but how to go proceed regarding the design? He suggests GS and PK can work on it during the coming weeks and then show us and wonders whether they can do this or need extra help.

PK apologizes that he has not worked on the website yet. He will be in Lund soon and could take the chance to work together with GS on it. TO summarizes: PK and GS should update the content and style: change the colours; change the banner (which is too busy at the moment, with too many elements, too many words); update links to membership information, specifying fees in Krona, euros and US dollars; remove the menus from the bottom, leaving those at the top only; and standardize terminology, e.g. use "constitution" instead of "rules"; update links to the journal (include a link to the official de Gruyter page and another one to the free online issues published by P. Lang).

JZ suggests all of us send a list of things we would like to have changed in the website to GS and PK. He proposes that PK and GS produce a new website by the end of the year including our suggestions. We all agree to do this.

4. Linking membership dues to journal subscriptions

TO tells us he and GS met with Rebecca, from Mouton de Gruyter (MdG); the association was set up at their request, so that they would publish the journal. She wants to link membership to journal. We need to keep the journal alive, otherwise MdG might not continue with it. One possibility is to decouple the membership and the conference fees. One possible use of the membership fee is subscription to the journal. If we transferred money from the fees to MdG in bulk they might give us a good discount. TO is not sure he likes this linkage between membership and journal subscription, and not sure what the best way to make people subscribe is.

KT seems attracted to the idea. He thinks it is not a good idea to simply accumulate the money. He states that the IACS constitution does not specify how the membership monies should be spent, but this linkage to the journal is a good way to promote cognitive semiotics, as per the constitution mandate. He thinks that we should do this only if we get a great deal from MdG, because subscription to the journal is very expensive.

JZ agrees on not just accumulating money. There are now 3200 euros in the account, which is not a lot. Another possible expenditure are conference

fee grants for students from poorer countries. The board may decide to pay for one plenary speaker at the next conference. As for the linkage to the journal, he thinks some people do not need the journal (their universities already subscribe), so it could be optional.

TO will put this possibility to Rebecca, and argues that MdG will be more interested in giving us a good price if the journal subscription was mandatory as part of IACS membership. He points out that in that case, KT will have to separate monies for the journal from those for IACS.

5. Ground Rules (if any) and/or approval of possible affiliate organizations

JZ got an email from Vlado Susac, University of Zadar, Croatia saying they were interested in forming a national association of IACS. We should decide what to do with this.

MT says it is a good idea. KT says these affiliates could be very small, e.g. there would be only 2 people in a hypothetical Danish branch, but if it makes sense for them, then it's fine. TO thinks that if someone is a member of a branch, they should also be a member of IACS, as is the case for the Cognitive Linguistics association. JZ will find out the rules for Cognitive Linguistics. He thinks we should not impose too much central control, but at the same time we don't want to lose control of IACS. GS is worried this may lose us members. KT responds the aim of IACS is not to have members but to disseminate Cognitive Semiotics, so any initiative related to Cognitive semiotics should be welcome. Plus, if members of branches attend the IACS conferences, they will also become members. TO comments that Vlado Susac was complimentary about the IACS conference; he asks JZ to draft an approval template: if the applicant's view of Cognitive Linguistics is similar to ours, accept, otherwise, reject. KT feels uneasy about us deciding what is Cognitive Semiotics and what is not. He prefers a bottom-up approach. JZ defends a combination of bottom-up and top-down control approach. KT then asks what an affiliation to IACS would entail, maybe just a link to them in the IACS website and vice versa? JZ thinks it is purely symbolic, and emphasizes the need to have control, with an application procedure. TO suggests to decide on this once we have seen the template from Cognitive Linguistics.

6. Update on IACS 2014 volume. JZ and GS

JZ would like to have a consultation on how to do this volume best. There is only 1 month to the submission deadline. We should send a reminder. As for the style sheet, should we ask for submissions to adjust to it/ It seems fair to all those whose papers will not be accepted.

TO reminds that P. Lang had their own style sheet; we could use the same for Cognitive Semiotics.

JZ responds that P. Lang promised to format the papers themselves. A generic template such as APA would be appropriate. KT recommends to follow journals that do not require a formatted first submission. MT seconds that. TO likes JZ's idea better. JZ is not sure how many submissions they will get. They need 30 chapters to make up the 500 pages in the contract. TO is considering submitting. KT points out that less senior academics need to submit to high-impact journals. JZ encourages all to submit theory papers. He is concerned that a volume with 15 papers cannot be called "Establishing Cognitive Semiotics". TO suggests including short, 3000 word papers on theory, something each of us could easily put together by the deadline. JZ agrees to send an email with a reminder of the deadline to the members.

7. Update on IACS 2016. PK

PK informs us that the dean of his faculty promised to part-finance IACS 2016. This has translated into payment for two plenary speakers in past conferences, and he hopes the same for IACS. The technical preparations necessary are the website, a dedicated email address and an easychair account. We discuss possible dates: second half or June or September.

JZ says we should fix the date at the next meeting; now we should think about plenary speakers. He asks who will fund the remaining 3 plenary speakers. TO responds that conference fees should be calculated taking those expenses into account.

GS suggests applying to the Polish research councils PK will look into that, although in order to apply for funding you need to have confirmation from speakers. PK tells us that the conference venue will be provided for by the university.

8. Closing the meeting

TO adjourns the meeting.

9. *Addendum*: *Membership Dues*

On December 11, 2014 TO motioned that the IACS board adopt the following fee structure for the next two years: **35 euros (faculty); 15 euros (students)**. There were 5 votes in favor of the motion; 1 against the motion; and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

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