

Online Committee Meeting 16th June 2023, 5:00 UTC

Present: **Chair:** Gregory Claeys, **Secretary (interim) and treasurer:** Zsolt Czigányik, **Committee Members:** Alexandra Sippel, Artur Blaim, Barnita Bagchi, Burcu Kayışçı Akkoyun, Corin Braga, Fátima Vieira, Jose Eduardo Reis, Sorin Antohi, Susanna Layh.

Apologies from Nathaniel Coleman and Nicole Pohl.

After Gregory Claeys welcomes all present, the committee accepts the agenda unanimously.

1, The committee thanks Justyna Galant for her work as **secretary** and accepts that after her resignation Zsolt Czigányik takes the role of secretary.

2, **EDI and ECR officers:** How should we deal with the resignations? Shall the posts be eliminated or amalgamated? Several members take part in the debate. Barnita Bagchi emphasises that an objective of the EDI position is that the members of the society (including the committee) should feel safe, and polarisation needs to be reduced rather than enhanced. The officer should take into consideration the interests of various underprivileged groups impartially. Equality and diversity issues should always be on the agenda of the committee. Burcu Kayışçı suggests that a detailed statement on EDI issues be made and agrees that the issues be permanently on the committee agenda. GC adds that an important function of the ECR officer is holding writing, presenting and publishing seminars for early career researchers during the conferences. Sorin Antohi opines that the positions may be eliminated and the committee should publish a statement on EDI policies. Artur Blaim claims that eliminating the positions would send a wrong message and the AGM should decide on this issue. Susanna Layh agrees that eliminating the positions is a wrong signal and amalgamation is also problematic, as the two fields have very different foci. Fátima Vieira also believes that neither eliminating, nor amalgamating EDI and ECR positions is a good decision. **It is decided that the secretary will send an invitation for nomination of EDI and ECR officers to members of the society** (those who paid the membership fee). The AGM should decide on the persons of the officers. Should this not be possible due to lack of nomination or support, the committee keeps these issues permanently on agenda. It is emphasised by both BB and GC that members of the committee did not feel safe in the past period and anxiety should be avoided in the future.

3. **Forthcoming Cluj conference.** Corin Braga reports that 107 papers have been submitted by 110 speakers (some papers with two speakers). The conference will last 3 days, every morning starting with a keynote presentation in the grand hall, followed by 3 parallel hybrid sessions (32 online papers). Programs and badges are being printed. 5580 EUR were collected as participation fee (about 28000 lei), and the Romanian Ministry of Education offered a supplementary grant of 63.440 lei, which allows for some free accommodation and reduced hostel prices for 27 participants, lunches, coffee breaks and even 3 dinners provided for all participants. Select conference papers (ca. 50) will be published in *Caietele Echinox*, the university's prestigious journal (listed in Web of Science, CEEOL and Ebsco, etc.). **The committee accepts the report and**

thanks the work of Corin Braga and the generous hospitality in Romania with a round of applause.

3. Treasurer position. Zsolt Czigányik, having accepted the role of the secretary, would like to give the role of treasurer to another person, however, he will continue the operations as long as necessary. **It is agreed that an invitation for nomination to the treasurer position will be sent to the members and it is hoped that the next AGM can elect a new treasurer.** As the current treasurer, ZC reports that the society's bank account contains 8022,33 EUR, 106 members having paid a 20 EUR membership fee (one Transferwise transfer unidentifiable). All eight appeals for travel bursaries have been accepted, participation fees for these applicants already wired to the conference organisers. It is suggested that in the future a larger bursary may also be paid.

4. Size of the committee. Susanna Layh comments that election officers will be needed. Sorin Antohi volunteers (one more officer will be needed, any member of the USS may serve as election officer). GC opines that a large committee's operation is problematic. Artur Blaim nominates Jorge Bastos da Silva as a member. ZC seconds JBS's nomination and reminds the committee that if all the new officers are elected, the committee will have three more members. SL points out that most members' membership expires in 2025 and it should be avoided that the committee becomes unserviceable.

5. 2024 Conference. Zsolt Czigányik informs the committee that Central European University's Democracy Institute in Budapest accepted to host and co-organize the 2024 conference. The committee believes that it should be in the usual time (first week of July), preferably 3-5 July. Budapest is a more expensive city than Cluj, especially catering could be dear and local financial sources cannot be secured. The participation fee therefore will be higher, and it is suggested that simpler catering is preferred to help to keep participation fee at an acceptable level. The campus is in the central part of Budapest (15 Nádor Str.), which also means that hotels and restaurants nearby are expensive (low budget accommodation will be available, though not in the vicinity of the conference venue). The technical background for a hybrid conference is available in high quality. The committee accepts the proposal.

6. The next committee meeting should be during the first day of the Cluj conference if necessary.