

MINUTES OF THE ICLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
University of Chicago, USA, 5–6 September 2012

In attendance: Hans-Joachim Backe, Sandra Bermann (6 September), Hans Bertens, Jean Bessière, Lucia Boldrini, CHO Sung-Won, Eduardo Coutinho, Manfred Engel, Dorothy Figueira, John Burt Foster, Gerald Gillespie, Marina Grishakova, Margaret Higonnet, INAGA Shigemi, KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi, Alfons Knauth, Pirjo Lyytikäinen, Marc Maufort, OSHIMA Hitoshi (as an invited observer on 6 September), Anders Pettersson, Haun Saussy, Manfred Schmeling, Steven Sondrup, Monica Spiridon, William Spurlin, Micéala Symington, Hein Viljoen, YANG Huilin, ZHOU Xiaoyi.

First Session, 5 September 2012, 9:30 am.

The session was opened at 9:30 am by the AILC/ICLA President, Steven Sondrup. He thanked Haun Saussy for having made arrangements for the Executive Council's meeting at the University of Chicago. Haun Saussy then welcomed the Executive Council's members and expressed pleasure at their participation in the colloquium "Intersections, Interferences, Interdisciplines: Literature With Other Arts," to be held following the Council meeting. The assembled group expressed its sincere gratitude to Haun Saussy.

The minutes for the Council's 2011 meeting at Goldsmiths College, University of London, as well as the 2012 agenda were unanimously approved.

The President presented a report on his activities over the past year. He gave an account of his collaboration with Anne Tomiche, the director for the 2013 congress in Paris. Together they examined the most promising strategies for assuring distribution of information about the congress. In his capacity as ex officio member of the Nominations Committee, Steven Sondrup consulted with Manfred Engel in order to guarantee the quality of the list of candidates. As had been agreed at the London meeting, he also worked on giving the Association a presence on Facebook as well as on finalizing a method for electronic voting. Besides these activities he made provisions for the transition between the two editors-in-chief of *Recherche littéraire / Literary Research*, which led to numerous changes in the production and distribution of the journal. Finally, he represented the AILC/ICLA at a colloquium in honor of two former presidents of the Association, Earl Miner and KAWAMOTO Kōji, which was held in November 2011 at Ōtemae University in Japan. The President's report was given unanimous approval.

John Burt Foster, the American secretary, gave his report. He began by mentioning his English translation of the official French minutes of the 2011 Council meeting in London. In addition, he represented the AILC/ICLA at the annual meeting of the Comparative Literature Association of India, which was held at the Central University of Rajasthan in Kishangarh in February 2012. He devoted a major effort to effectuating the transition of the annual journal *Recherche littéraire / Literary Research* and to the distribution of its last issue for which he was responsible, the one for 2011. In this regard he asked for reimbursement of certain supplemental expenses that he had incurred. This request was granted by the Council. His report was unanimously approved.

Marc Maufort, the European secretary, delivered his annual report. In September 2011 he devoted himself to preparing the official French minutes of the Council's meeting at the University of London. He continued to strengthen the ties with the regional Associations and helped distribute information about the Paris congress. In addition, he gave Dorothy Figueira valuable assistance with the translation into French of correspondence involving *Recherche littéraire / Literary*

Research. He also collaborated with Steven Sondrup in organizing the Council meeting in Chicago. His report was unanimously approved.

The reports of the three treasurers were then presented. Steven Sondrup and Gerald Gillespie reminded the Council that the Association had been incorporated under the provisions of the French law of 1901. That law envisioned that the principal treasurer would be the European one, with the Asian and American treasurers serving as adjuncts. On this basis one would have to conclude that the bank accounts of the AILC/ICLA formed just one single entity. There was no legal obligation to open different bank accounts in different currencies. Micéala Symington, the European treasurer, then reported a balance of 63,313.88 euros, to which one should add the amount of the Balakian Fund (14,253.30 euros). She felt it would be desirable for the three treasurers to meet before the General Assembly was held. In this regard, John Foster mentioned the usefulness of combining the three treasurers' reports into a single document. It was then proposed that the interest generated by the Balakian Fund be added to the principal of that Fund. This motion was unanimously accepted. Miceala Symington's report was unanimously approved as well. In the absence of Kathleen Komar, the American treasurer, her report was read by Steven Sondrup. The balance for the American bank account is 37,397.91 dollars. The report was approved unanimously. KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi, the Asian treasurer, then gave his report. The balance for the two bank accounts for which he was responsible amounted respectively to 34,840 US dollars and to 1,709,988 yen. His report was unanimously approved.

Dorothy Figueira presented her report for Recherche littéraire / Literary Research, for which she is the editor in chief. She reminded the Council of the journal's essential role in promoting the Association's image. Dorothy Figueira obtains financial support from her institution, the University of Georgia, on an annual basis that must be renewed. She made it clear that in the future, therefore, it would be desirable to seek a publisher interested in producing the journal on behalf of the Association. At this stage in her editorship, the format and the cover of the journal have been redesigned. She asked the Council members to contribute to the journal by writing a review of a book or of a conference. John Foster pointed out that he had been contacted by the Routledge publishing firm, which wished to get permission to announce new books in comparative literature on the Association's web site or in its journal. He proposed that Dorothy Figueira could contact Routledge on this subject. On the financial level, Dorothy Figueira asked the AILC/ICLA for a subsidy of \$5,000 so that she could be relieved of responsibility for one of her courses. This would allow her to devote herself more exclusively to her editorial duties. Steven Sondrup proposed, therefore, that a total budget of \$21,000 be devoted to Recherche littéraire / Literary Research, given the costs of production and distribution. In response to a question from Hans Bertens, Steven Sondrup specified that the journal's press run would amount to 4,000 copies. It will be possible to order back copies of the journal and to subscribe to it using the Association's web site. Lucia Boldrini suggested that the President write to the authorities at the University of Georgia to thank them for their financial support and to emphasize that the Association offers significant financial support to the journal. That letter could encourage the University to continue its financial aid. It was decided to grant the journal a budget of 21,000 US dollars. Dorothy Figueira's report was unanimously approved.

Steven Sondrup then drew attention to the question of the Association's Bulletin, which can be accessed electronically at the Association's web site, in French and in English. The members are informed by RSS feed of the bulletin's appearance. The president felt that it would be desirable to allow Routledge to advertise its publications on the website or in the Association's Bulletin. Hans-Joachim Backe wondered what form the insertion of advertising on our website might take. An ad hoc committee charged with examining this question was then formed. It was made up of John

Foster, Hans-Joachim Backe, and Steven Sondrup. Anders Petterssen emphasized the need to adopt a policy within a very short period of time.

Second Session, 5 September 2012, 1:40 pm.

In the absence of Anne Tomiche, chair of the organizing committee for the Paris congress, her report was read by Marc Maufort. Anne Tomiche first made a point of thanking Manfred Schmeling, Dorothy Figueira, Jean Bessière, and Steven Sondrup, who had assisted her in preparing for the congress as well as in distributing the call for papers. A circular giving the most recent information was distributed at the session. The meeting of the AILC/ICLA Executive Council will take place at the Maison de la Recherche at Paris Sorbonne on the 16th and 17th of July 2013. The congress itself will be held at the Centre Malesherbes, where the necessary infrastructure is available. The plenary sessions on the 20th of July are planned for the prestigious setting of the Grand Amphitheater of the Sorbonne. The invited speakers will consist of Giorgio Agamben, Gayatri Spivak, Florence Delay, Jean-Paul Costa, and Jean-Pierre Changeux. The scientific committee has accepted sixty-three workshops. Since proposals can be submitted outside of these workshops, the total number of submissions that have been received adds up more or less to 1,500. All the regions of the world are well represented among these proposals. Selection of the submissions will be completed in October 2012. It will be possible to register and to reserve hotels or excursions using the congress website beginning in October. The opening reception is planned for the Grand Salon of the Hotel de Ville of Paris. Thanks to the support of the French Association of Comparative Literature, of thirty-three partner universities in France, of Paris Sorbonne, and of various ministries, it has been possible to obtain funding commitments for 154,500 euros. After the report had been read, certain colleagues expressed worries about the infrastructure: could the Centre Malesherbes accommodate all the sessions that were anticipated? Other colleagues reported communication difficulties with the company that is organizing the congress on behalf of the Sorbonne. It was agreed that Marc Maufort would share these observations with Anne Tomiche as soon as possible. The President congratulated Anne Tomiche for her excellent work, and the report was approved unanimously.

Manfred Schmeling gave the report of the Evaluation Committee, for which he was the Chair. He mentioned having chosen ten eminent colleagues, according to criteria that emphasized national and geographical variety, to assist him in this task. The evaluation of the submissions, amounting to somewhat less than 600 in number, is presently under way and will be completed by October. Colleagues who were members of the Evaluation Committee, among them John Foster and CHO Sung-won, pointed out certain technical problems in transmitting the documents. The report was unanimously approved.

Hans Bertens then referred to the activities of the Committee for the 2016 Congress, management of which had been entrusted to him, together with the Association's other Vice Presidents. The Association has wanted to organize the conference in North America. However, given the current economic situation, Hans Bertens has been unable to find any applicant. The colleagues from Québec who had submitted a proposal for the 2010 congress could not be contacted. Hans Bertens suggested, on the model of the American Comparative Literature Association, that the AILC/ICLA issue a call for applications. It was agreed that the President would continue to make contact with different colleagues. The report was unanimously approved.

The President, Steven Sondrup, then mentioned the need to decide what sum of money would be allocated to the Balakian Prize. In view of the available reserves, it was agreed to maintain the amount of the prize at 2,000 US dollars.

Discussion then began concerning the possibility of creating a Prize in memory of Douwe Fokkema, a former President of the Association. After a fruitful debate, the following motion was

submitted to the approval of the Executive Council: it is proposed that a grant be created to honor Douwe Fokkema's intellectual commitment to the AILC/ICLA. This grant will be awarded to the student who has been chosen to carry out tasks vital to the Association's effective functioning. This motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting then transacted business with only the Officers and members of the Executive Council in attendance, given the nature of the subjects being treated. Manfred Engel, chair of the Nominations Committee, explained his committee's proposals for nominating members of the Executive Council for the period 2013–2016. First he reminded the meeting of the committee's composition: Manfred Engel (Chair), Jonathan Hart, Maria-Alzira Seixo, Steven Sondrup, and YUE Daiyun. The selection criteria were based essentially on the excellence of the candidates from the viewpoint of comparative literature as a discipline, on their commitment to the Association, and on their geographical distribution. The first part of the report dealt with colleagues proposed as officers:

President: Hans Bertens. Manfred Engel emphasized that Hans Bertens was a professor of exceptional merit at the University of Utrecht. He has taught as a visiting professor at Tamkang University (Taiwan) as well as at the University of Alberta. Among his most noteworthy publications one must mention the book titled *International Postmodernism: Theory and Literary Practice* (in collaboration with Douwe Fokkema), published with Benjamins, a volume in the series *Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages*, co-ordinated by the AILC/ICLA. In addition, works like *The Idea of the Postmodern: A History* as well as *Literary Theory: The Basics* have made their mark in the evolution of comparative research.

Vice-Presidents: Monica Spiridon (Romania), ZHOU Xiaoyi (China), Marc Maufort (Belgium), and Anders Pettersson (Sweden).

Secretaries: John Burt Foster (USA) and Micéala Symington (France/Ireland).

Treasurers: KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi (Japan), Hans-Joachim Backe (Germany), and Kathleen Komar (USA).

These proposals for officers of the Association were approved unanimously.

A second part involved the twelve members of the Executive Committee who had already served one three-year term. The Committee proposed a renewal of their candidacies: Lucia Boldrini (Great Britain), CHO Sung-Won (Korea), Francis Claudon (France), Isabel Capeloa Gil (Portugal), Maria Grishakova (Estonia), Peter Hajdu (Hungary), Ute Heidmann (Switzerland), Pirjo Lyytiäinen (Finland), Haun Saussy (USA), Anne Tomiche (France), Hein Viljoen (South Africa), ZHANG Longxi (Hong Kong).

These proposals were approved unanimously.

A third part comprised the nominations for new members of the Executive Committee. The following colleagues were proposed: Christine Baron (France), Lisa Block de Behar (Uruguay), Wiebke Denecke (USA), Massimo Fusillo (Italy), HASHIMOTO Yorimitsu (Japan), Achim Hölter (Austria), Victor Ivanovici (Greece), OSHIMA Hitoshi (Japan), E.V. Ramakrishnan (India), Marcio Seligmann-Silva (Brazil), Irene Sywenky (Canada), and YANG Huilin (China). In the debate Council members regretted the absence of colleagues from Africa and Australia. Manfred Engel specified that supplementary proposals could be submitted to him up to the end of September. The Nominations Committee would make a decision about these nominations in the briefest period of time. Dorothy Figueira asked for a clarification of the committee's policy on unsolicited nominations for the council that came directly from national or regional comparative literature associations. Such a procedure seemed to be contrary to the nomination committee's prerogatives, conferred exclusively upon it by the statutes of the AILC/ICLA. This could create precedents that

would infringe on this committee's independence, meaningful role, and credibility. Manfred Engel responded to this point as follows: if it was clear that the unsolicited nominee could count on seven letters of support, as specified by the statutes, and that his or her record of research in the discipline met the level of excellence established by the committee, the chair of the committee could accept this nomination after consulting with the other members of the committee.

The proposals of the Nominations Committee were accepted unanimously by the Executive Council. The curriculum vitae for the candidates for all the positions will be made available on the Association's website well before the elections, which will take place in Paris. This information can also be obtained by contacting the General Secretary, Marc Maufort, at mmaufort@ulb.ac.be.

In the absence of Jean-Marc Moura, chair of the Structures Committee, Steven Sondrup presented the progress made in this committee's work. At the London meeting of the Council in 2011, the members had decided in favor of putting into effect an electronic system of voting. That required a modification in the Association's statutes, which would have to be voted on at the Paris congress, with notice given to the Prefecture of Paris. Section IV of the statutes could be modified as follows: "The Executive Council of the Association is elected by the members of the Association in attendance in General Assembly, by those absent members who have sent signed proxies to representatives of their choice, and by those absent members who vote by electronic means according to procedures defined by the Council." This report was approved. Steven Sondrup then gave a report on his inquiry into the technical possibilities for putting such a procedure for voting in place.

He insisted on the need for knowing the electronic addresses of all the members. He inquired of KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi regarding the possibility of receiving the Japanese members' electronic addresses. The latter indicated that such a demand would be honored. Steven Sondrup and his assistant Jacob Lee then demonstrated the system of electronic voting offered by the company Simply Voting, whose method was the most economical one on the market. It is imperative that the electronic vote take place during the period of the congress. A personal password will be distributed to the members. Reference was made to the question of the proxies, but it seemed that this point would need some more detailed study. The following motion was formulated: "It is proposed that Steven Sondrup be authorized to submit to the approval of the Council a test version of electronic voting before the Paris Congress is held, in a manner that will permit putting into effect the adjustments required by the Association's statutes. A preliminary test of the electronic vote program will be carried out by email among the Council members." This motion was approved, with 11 "yes" votes and 3 abstentions.

The session was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Third Session, 6 September 2012, 9:00 am.

At the beginning of the session Steven Sondrup welcomed a Japanese colleague, OSHIMA Hitoshi, who was present as an observer at the meeting. The President then proceeded to a detailed demonstration of the functioning of the electronic voting system that was being considered.

In the absence of Chandra Mohan, Dorothy Figueira read the activities report of the Research Committee on Literary and Cultural Relations between India, Its Neighboring Countries, and the World. The report mentioned that five prestigious research centers or departments of comparative literature in India supported the Committee's research project. During the academic year 2011–2012, the Center for Comparative Literature at the University of Jadavpur was granted resources for teaching Nepalese language and literature. The international conference organized by the Comparative Literature Association of India in February 2012 at the Central University of Rajasthan had an important number of presentations on its program relating to the Research Committee's theme. They will probably be published by the conference organizers. During the academic year 2012–2013, the Central University of Kerala will organize an international seminar on the theme of "Traditions of Disagreement in the Cultures and Literatures of the Subcontinent" (October 2012). The presentations given at this seminar will be published. Some workshops relating to themes of the Research Committee will also be organized on the occasion of the Comparative Literature Association of India's annual meeting and at the 2013 AILC/ICLA congress in Paris. Dorothy Figueira concluded her reading of the report by emphasizing Chandra Mohan's involvement in the development of comparative literature in India at the institutional level. The report was unanimously approved.

Alfons Knauth gave a report on the activities of the Research Committee on Multilingualism in World Literature. The Committee's activities during the past year consisted in publication of the work *Translation and Multilingual Literature*, edited by Alfons Knauth. Another volume, titled *Imaginaire et idéologie du plurilinguisme littéraire*, containing the papers given at the Macerata conference in December 2011, will appear in 2013. In addition, a symposium has been organized at the University of California at San Diego for the beginning of September 2012 on the theme of *Migrancy and Multilingualism*. The proceedings of this symposium will be published. In October 2012 Alfons Knauth will give a lecture on the theme of the establishment of a European "interlect" on the occasion of the third triennial congress of l'Observatoire Européen du Plurilinguisme. A workshop titled "Figures of Transcontinental Multilingualism" will be organized as part of the annual conference of the Comparative Literature Association of India at Calcutta in January 2013. Finally, a workshop on the theme of literary plurilingualism will be organized as part of the the AILC/ICLA congress at Paris in July 2013. The report was unanimously approved.

Margaret Higonnet presented the report on the year's activities of the Coordinating Committee on the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages. The leadership of the Coordinating Committee met in Salzburg in May 2012. In 2011–2012 no expenses were incurred. As a result the Committee does not request any financial support from the AILC/ICLA for this year. However, it can be anticipated that commitments will need to be made to some important expenditures in the years to come. No new publications have appeared in the past period. Nonetheless, the first volume of the project on Nordic literatures and the second volume on the literature of the Iberian Peninsula will probably be ready for winter 2012–2013. The projects dealing with medieval comparatism, with migrant literatures, and with realism are advancing satisfactorily. Margaret Higonnet also indicated that the Committee's web site had been reconfigured in a way to give greater visibility to its activities. The report included the Committee's financial statement, which showed a balance of 22,036.65 euros. The report was unanimously approved.

In the absence of César Domínguez, the report of the Committee on Research and Projects was read by Marc Maufort. Over the past year the Committee approved the establishment of three new Research Committees. The Committee on Research and Projects put together a set of instructions for the use of colleagues who wish to submit a project for approval. César Domínguez noted that the activity reports of the three new committees had not been sent to him, as stipulated in the instructions. These reports could not therefore be evaluated. César Domínguez requested the Executive Council's advice on what course to follow. There began a long debate on this point. Gerald Gillespie and Manfred Engel were of the opinion that the traditional procedures ought to be maintained, in order to prevent any useless duplication of work. In the past it was customary for the Research Committee to examine the viability of new research projects and for the AILC/ICLA Executive Council to take charge of overseeing the work of already established Committees. The Research Committee's role with current projects was limited to pointing out potential problems. The following motion was therefore formulated: "the Council asks César Domínguez to revise the Committee's instructions in such a way that the clause concerning the submission of an annual report is eliminated (clause mentioned in the report of the Research Committee as follows: "These guidelines state that an annual report on the status of the project (1,000 words), including any information regarding activities undertaken, publications, and information on dissemination, should be submitted to the Research Committee.") In addition, it was agreed that the Secretary would transmit the Activity Reports of the Research Committees to César Domínguez before sending them to the Council members as a group, in such a way that the Committee on Research and Projects could point out any possible problem. Assuming that these adjustments would be made, the report was approved with one abstention.

After a brief reminder of the difficulties that the Translation Committee had encountered in previous years, Steven Sondrup turned the discussion over to the new Chair of the Committee, Sandra Bermann. She explained the manner in which she envisioned the Committee's renewal, to which she wished to give a truly international character. Wishing to appoint a dozen members, she asked for the Council's advice on colleagues who might be contacted. The names of our colleagues Chandra Mohan and Alfons Knauth were suggested. Possible collaborations with the Research Committee on Comparative Literature in the Digital Age and with the Research Committee on Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Studies were mentioned. Sandra Bermann indicated that she hoped to organize a meeting of the new committee either at the annual congress of the American Comparative Literature Association in April 2013 or at the triennial congress of the AILC/ICLA in July 2013, in order to settle the committee's main lines of research. This intervention concluded the morning session.

Fourth Session, 6 September 2012, 2:00 pm.

YANG Huilin opened the session by giving the report of the Research Committee on Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Studies. The Committee has published three special numbers of the *Journal for the Study of Christian Culture* which were relevant to the research objectives of the Committee. Two summer seminars have been organized under the auspices of Renmin University in Beijing, China, and of the Council for Higher-Level Christian Education in Asia. A joint lecture by Professor YANG Huilin and Peter Ochs of the University of Virginia had resulted in two articles in the *Journal of Remnin University of China*. A research project on the exegesis of the English translations and commentaries of the Chinese classics had received important financial support from the Chinese National Fund for the Social Sciences. In August 2012 Renmin University organized a joint seminar with the University of Glasgow on scriptural reasoning. A round-table will be organized by the Committee on the occasion of the AILC/ICLA congress at Paris. The report was unanimously approved.

In the absence of Suzanne Nalbantian, OSHIMA Hitoshi made several comments on the activities of the Research Committee on Comparative Literature and Neuroscience, of which he is a member. The report submitted by Suzanne Nalbantian mentioned the following activities: the Committee met for the first time on the occasion of an interdisciplinary conference at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in April 2012. The participants shed light on the benefits that a real knowledge of the neurosciences could bring to literary criticism. The next meeting of the Committee will take place as part of the triennial congress of the AILC/ICLA, during which four sessions on Consciousness and the Brain will be organized. The report was unanimously approved.

William Spurlin then gave his report on the activities of the Research Committee on Gender Studies, which he chairs. The committee met on the occasion of the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, held at Brown University in Providence in April 2012. Two seminars were organized, one on gender and sexual health, the other on constructions of sexuality at the dawn of the modern epoch. The committee will organize a workshop on the theme of Comparing Queerly/Queering Comparison: Transformative Approaches to Comparative Studies on the occasion of the Paris congress in July 2013. In the area of publications, a special number of *Comparative Literature Studies*, edited by William Spurlin, will consist of papers presented at the 2011 conference of the American Comparative Literature Association in Vancouver. The special number, which will appear in 2014, will be titled "The Gender and Sexual Politics of Translation: Literary, Historical, and Cultural Approaches." In addition, a special number of the *Journal of Medical Humanities* is envisioned on the theme of gender and sexual health. The committee intends to organize a conference outside the United States in 2014. From this perspective, a subvention will be requested from the AILC/ICLA at the Council's meeting in Paris. The report was unanimously approved.

The Council then turned to the report on the activities of the Research Committee on Literary Theory, chaired by John Zilcosky. In May 2012 the Committee met at the University of Richmond in Virginia. A seminar had been organized there on the theme of Animals and Literary Theory. It dealt with how the animal, in the largest sense, could affect cultural production. The committee will organize a workshop on the theme of the Art of Not-Thinking, on the occasion of the AILC/ICLA congress in 2013. In 2014 the Committee will meet at the University of Osaka. In addition, the papers given at the seminars of 2008, 2009, and 2011 are in the course of publication. At the end of the Richmond meeting, the Committee elected a new secretary, Walid Hamarneh from the United States. The Council gave this report its unanimous approval.

Hans-Joachim Backe gave the report on the activities of the Research Committee on Comparative Literature in the Digital Age, which he chairs. Lacking financial means, the Committee was unable to organize the hoped-for meetings during the past year. Hans-Joachim Backe mentioned the publication of a special number of *Literary and Linguistic Computing: The Journal of Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* with the title “Digital Literature—Aesthetics, Didactics, Technology.” He also announced the imminent publication of an issue of the journal *Poetics Today*, in which the papers presented as part of the workshop organized by the Committee in Tel Aviv in 2010 would figure. The Committee will organize a significant number of sessions at the congress in Paris. Hans-Joachim Backe requested that the Committee’s mandate be extended for a new term of three years. This request was granted, and the report met with unanimous approval.

CHO Sung-Won then reported on progress in publishing the proceedings of the Seoul congress. Two volumes, comprising ninety articles, will be published by Chung-Ang University Press and will be available by the time the Paris congress begins in 2013. A third volume, devoted to Korean literature, will be translated into English and published in 2014. Steven Sondrup insisted on the need to give better publicity to the proceedings of AILC/ICLA congresses. References for these volumes should be furnished to the bibliography of the Modern Language Association as well as to WorldCat. Steven Sondrup explained that the Association’s web site would be equipped with a link making it possible to order the proceedings of the congress at Rio de Janeiro. The report of CHO Sung-won was unanimously approved.

The meeting ended with a discussion that followed up on the reflections about the Association’s future that were begun at the London meeting in 2011. An ad hoc committee had then been formed to study the possibilities for making our Association more attractive to our younger colleagues as well as ways to improve its visibility. It was composed of Hans-Joachim Backe, William Spurlin, and Kathleen Komar. Hans-Joachim Backe read the report of this committee’s activities. Its first decision had been to develop a page for the Association on Facebook, which is now in operation. Kathleen Komar suggested the possibility of placing a list of the members’ specialities online, which could be helpful to our young colleagues’ research. For his part, Hans-Joachim Backe interviewed students in his department to determine their expectations. It emerged from these conversations that the Association’s web site does not respond clearly enough to the wishes of these young colleagues. The structure and mission of the AILC/ICLA do not become immediately clear when the site is consulted. Faced with this state of affairs, Hans-Joachim Backe proposed that this discussion be continued within a larger committee, which would be comprised of members from different generations. This committee could then give a more fully developed report at the Council meeting in 2013. Steven Sondrup then demonstrated how the Association’s page on Facebook functioned. Council members observed that more intellectual content would be desirable; a certain number of visitors to the page consulted it only once. Lucia Boldrini mentioned the mission statement of the European Network for Comparative Literature that appeared on the website of that network. It could serve as an inspiration for the AILC/ICLA. William Spurlin insisted on the need to organize a reception for our young colleagues at our congresses and to encourage communication between different generations of comparatists. Steven Sondrup accordingly proposed the formation of a new ad hoc committee with a one-year term to study in depth the electronic visibility of the AILC/ICLA and its impact on young colleagues. It will be made up of the following members: Hans-Joachim Backe, Kathleen Komar, William Spurlin, Lucia Boldrini, and Jacob Lee. It was proposed that a budget of 4,000 US dollars be granted to maintain the Association’s web site as well as for the expenses incurred by the committee’s work. These proposals were unanimously approved.

As a miscellaneous piece of information, KAMIGAITO Ken'ichi mentioned his administrative post with the Department of International Relations at his university. He would be delighted to receive suggestions from Council members concerning what international contacts to encourage.

President Steven Sondrup brought the meeting of the AILC/ICLA Council to an end at 3:50 pm after having thanked his colleagues for their contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Maufort
General Secretary

Translated into English by John Foster,
American Secretary