December 6, 2020


As chair of the committee, I spent most of this year recruiting colleagues to serve and figuring out what the committee’s function is. The by-laws left by our last committee chair, Anders Pettersson, were very helpful. (My thanks especially to Sandy Bermann, our indomitable president for her explanations and counsel!) Given that the committee deals with overall structures of committees and the organization as a whole, I thought it best to emulate earlier committees in making sure that the committee members represented a broad sweep of geographical areas. In addition to myself (U.S.), the members currently include Hans-Joachim Backe (Denmark) and Sung-won Cho (Korea). Many of you may remember Hans-Joachim, who served as treasurer for Europe and Africa, and Sung-won, who organized the highly successful and memorable ICLA meeting in South Korea. A third colleague has had to reconsider serving given demands during COVID-19 at her own university. I am currently recruiting a replacement committee member.

The committee did not take up any formal business this year given the many disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee chair will be consulting with the ICLA president in the coming months to determine if there is business we should take up or structures that we could review with an eye to more efficiency, fairness, and diversity.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Professor of Comparative Literature, UCLA