

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LITERARY JOURNALISM STUDIES
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held at IALJS-17 in Gdańsk, Poland on 19 May 2023

President Rob Alexander called the 2023 annual business meeting of the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies to order at 5:04 p.m. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2022 IALJS annual meeting in Santiago, Chile, held in hybrid format, and the motion carried unanimously. He noted that IALJS has gone through a challenging time with the pandemic and come through as a strong organization for it. He thanked conference host Jan Miklas-Frankowski for his success as host of IALJS-17 and Isabel Nery for stepping in as Research Committee Chair, a crucial role in pulling this year's conference together. He said that IALJS has emerged from the pandemic in strong shape, with important progress being made toward becoming a more transparent and democratic organization. For the first time in the history of the organization, a Call for Nominations was made for the officers' slate, with an impressive response: Members stepped forward to fill all the positions.

Treasurer Bill Reynolds' report said that current assets as of 16 May 2023 total \$93,113.45. There is a balance of \$14,725 in the association's PayPal account, and \$78,388.45 in Key Bank Business Reward checking account, of which \$150 is designated for the Student Travel Funding account. The bank balance will also cover pending accounts payable, including \$500 for web administration; \$14,430 for costs related to the printing, distribution, design, and fact-checking of two issues of *Literary Journalism Studies* (Volume 14, No. 2 and Vol. 15, No. 1); and \$775 in conference-related costs. A Bluevine account was opened in February 2022, after

Chase closed IALJS's accounts without explanation in 2021. Because Bluevine was too limited for IALJS's needs, the account was closed in November 2022. The funds were transferred to IALJS's Key Bank account, which was opened in April 2022. Because of the need for continuity and stability in the treasurer and secretary roles, Bill proposed that the terms of the secretary and treasurer be extended to six years.

Corresponding Secretary Lisa Phillips reported she worked with Treasurer Bill Reynolds to get his name on the IALJS Key Bank account, which necessitated his travel to New York state in October 2022. She recommended that, moving forward, IALJS invest in a cloud service, such as Dropbox for Business, to store current organization records, materials, and archives; such a service will make officer transitions, particularly in the secretary's role, easier. IALJS is now using a Google drive folder for these purposes, which is inadequate for our needs and little used. Lisa is also working on confirming with the IRS that IALJS has moved and has federal non-profit status. She continues to work with Charitable Allies, which provides legal services to non-profits, and its affiliates for guidance.

Membership Secretary Mitzi Lewis reported that during the pandemic, membership protocol was adjusted so that members who paid during the conference year or during the previous year retained their membership. This year the protocol is moving out of pandemic mode and returning to our standard mode. As of May 16, IALJS has 105 members from 24 countries.

Program Chair Rob Alexander reported the program committee received 14 proposals from people interested in forming panels for this year's conference. Of these, the committee accepted ten, the same number as we have for every conference since 2019. Research panels dominated the submissions – among the accepted panels, nine are research and one pedagogy. This year a total of 38 panelists are scheduled to take part in the conference, down from the past

few years, but up from 35 in 2018, 22 in 2017, and 29 in 2016. Panels were organized by scholars from eight countries (compared to seven last year, and five and six for the two preceding years) and included panelists from a total of 11 countries (compared to thirteen last year). U.S. and Australian members were our most active panel organizers and panel participation was dominated by the U.S. and Poland (tied for first) with South Africa coming in a close second.

Research Chair Isabel Nery reported IALJS-17 received 3 research paper submissions and 38 work-in-progress submissions. Of the three research paper submissions, one was rejected and the other two (accepted) had a mean score of 2.7. Out of the 38 WIPs received, 29 were accepted, with scores ranging from 3.0 to 5.0. Overall, the acceptance rate for RPs and WIPs combined was 77.5%. Considering panelists and moderators (not presenting), an initial count of conference attendees comes to approximately 70 people. Researchers' submissions came mostly from Europe (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, UK, Sweden, and Spain), the U.S., and Canada, but also from Australia, Mexico, Japan, and China. This year there was a small number of WIP submissions from graduate students and no RP. Overall, the number of research papers submitted was very small, while panel submission seems to be increasingly attractive, which should be something to consider in future conferences.

Tobias Eberwein gave the Nominating Committee report. After criticism of the nomination process of IALJS officers and chairs arose at previous conferences of the association, the Nominating Committee intended to revise this process in adherence with the current IALJS Constitution and Bylaws. After consultation with IALJS President Rob Alexander, the Committee decided to make the nomination process as open and transparent as possible. To this end, a Call for Nominations was developed and sent out to all current members of the association, inviting nominations (including self-nominations) for all key positions, including the

First and Second Vice Presidents, for the 2023-25 term. Nominations were welcome until 14 May 2023, although the call also highlighted that fact that, in accordance with Article 3 (Section 2) of the IALJS Bylaws, nominations from the floor of the upcoming Business Meeting on 19 May 2023, would also be possible. The call also explained, by reference to Article 3 (Section 5) of the IALJS Bylaws, that the one position currently not open for nominations is President: “Upon successful completion of an elected term of office as First Vice President, the holder of that office shall automatically succeed to, and possess all the rights and responsibilities of the office of President.” As the number of nominations did not match the number of necessary candidates, President Rob Alexander and First Vice President Tobias Eberwein invited the participation of additional candidates, guided by principles of equal representation. They also invited candidates for a new Governance Review Committee, which is expected to further revise the internal governance processes of the IALJS, including nominations and elections, in the upcoming 2023-25 term. The final slate of IALJS officers was presented at the Business Meeting on 19 May 2023.

Awards Committee Chair Willa McDonald said the Susan Greenberg Prize for Best Research Paper for IALJS-17 submissions went to Magdalena Horodecka of University of Gdańsk, Poland. The John C. Hartsock Prize for best research paper in *Literary Journalism Studies* was given to Pasquale Macaluso of University of Cape Town, South Africa. The David Abrahamson Prize for best article in the *Literary Journalism* newsletter went to Ömer Özer of Anadolu University in Turkey. No award was given this year for the Norman Sims Prize for Best Student Research Paper because of the lack of entries. Student Travel Fund awards were given to three graduate students: Rachel DeGasperis of Toronto Metropolitan University; Lesley

Mofokeng, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; and Clara Champagne, Université de Montréal.

Conference host Jan Miklas-Frankowski gave the annual conference report.

The Institute of Media, Journalism and Social Communication at the University of Gdańsk is hosting this year's IALJS-17, which provided funds in the amount of 10,000 PLN, which were used for financing a conference reception, start packs, posters, and badges. Several Institute-based student media groups are reporting on conference proceedings: MORS radio, Neptun television, CDN newspaper, and student photographers. The keynote speech, "Let the Facts Dance: Polish Literary Reportage," was delivered by one of Europe's most renowned and widely translated journalists, Mariusz Szczygieł. The text of his speech was translated by Antonia Loyd-Jones, the most renowned English translator of Polish literary journalism and sent to conference participants.

Finance Committee Chair Alice Trindade reported that the finance committee could not meet due to unanticipated delays in getting IALJS financial records. The committee will submit a report at a later date.

Publicity Chair Jeff Neely said publicity work has primarily consisted of maintaining the IALJS Big List and sending out various email announcements related to conference submissions, newsletter publication, and CFPs for various publications and venues. There have been 12 emails distributed in the past year with 887 email addresses on the IALJS Big List, which Jeff continues to maintain and update. He will attend the AEJMC conference in August, where IALJS regularly hosts a panel, and will work to publicize IALJS. The editors of the *Literary Journalism* newsletter now send updates regarding the newsletter directly to recipients instead of through the publicity chair.

Kate McQueen gave the website report. She said the website is healthy with ongoing updates. Web administrator Nicholas Jackson will remain in his role as the person who oversees the site

LJS Editor Bill Reynolds reported that the big news for *LJS* was finding a new printer: Maracle Inc., located in Oshawa, Ontario (60 kilometers east of Toronto), secured after communication and quality control problems with the previous printer, Quartet Digital, based in Chicago. Two issues of *LJS* were published in 2022. Vol. 13, Nos. 1 & 2, was dated December 2021 but published in February 2022 because of production delays. The issue led with the multi-authored *crónica roja* essay spearheaded by John Bak. Vol. 14, No. 1 (June 2022) was a Danish Literary Journalism special issue. Vol. 14, No. 2, an issue dedicated to German literary journalism and guest edited by Tobias Eberwein and Hendrik Michael, was scheduled to be published in December 2022, has experienced numerous production delays. Special issues dedicated to the literary journalism of non-English-speaking countries take more time and care to produce. Another double issue, Vol. 14, No. 2 & Vol. 15, No. 1 (December 2022 / June 2023), is planned to stay on track. The next issue after that, Vol. 15, No. 2 (December 2023), may be another special issue, this time dedicated to Australian literary journalism. One of the issue's guest editors, Willa McDonald, tells me that good progress is being made with all the essays. Vol. 16, No. 1 (June 2024) will be a regular issue. On the horizon is a special issue dedicated to South African literary journalism.

Nancy Roberts, who has retired from SUNY Albany, resigned as Book Review Editor. Kate McQueen is the new Book Review Editor. Marcia Prior-Miller, Roberta Maguire and William Dow continue as Associate Editors. Kate is soliciting suggestions for books to review and for reviewers, with the goal of publishing a minimum of ten reviews in each issue of *LJS*. She hopes

for full global coverage, with more reviews of books written in languages other than English and a lengthier book review essay to run in every issue.

Literary Journalism, the newsletter of IALJS, continues its new life as an online publication at IALJS.org. In February, Kate McQueen, who oversaw the transition from its PDF-based format to the current online version, handed over the editorial reins to Jonathan Fitzgerald (Fitz). In the past year, *Literary Journalism* published over a dozen new, original pieces, as well as several “re-prints” in which stories that were published in PDF format were re-presented on the web. The original stories from the past year include conference reports, research articles, updates on the 2023 conference, and an “In Memoriam” piece paying tribute to Norman Sims and featuring reflections and remembrances from over 20 IALJS members. Fitz created an emailed newsletter feature that automatically sends the three latest publications in *Literary Journalism* to members and subscribers who use the new “subscribe” feature on IALJS.org. Nine emails have been sent out since June 2022 to an average of 880 subscribers, with an “open” rate of between 18-20%. Fitz is actively soliciting new pieces for the newsletter by asking conference presenters to submit a version of their talk for publication. Increasing the number of stories published to a consistent 2 per month is the goal for the upcoming year. Fitz also reported on the IALJS website. He noted the excellent work done by web administrator Nicholas Jackson and hopes IALJS members and others will visit the site more regularly for updates and information.

Sac-Nicté Guevara Calderón gave the Graduate Student Committee report. Her fellow committee members have stepped down, as they have finished their studies. She would like to continue to create a space for graduate students at IALJS and plans to assess what organization

members want by sending out a survey. She is also interested in a mentor who can be a contact point for guidance and continuity for the committee.

Pablo Calvi reported that the Governance Review Committee met twice since IALJS 2022 Santiago and continues its review of IALJS governance practices. The committee will complete a list of recommendations to be circulated to association members in the coming months. Members will vote on the terms of the final document at the Business Meeting of the 2024 Sydney conference with the goal of implementing recommended changes for the 2025 Nomination and Election cycle.

Host Committee Chair Willa McDonald said plans are underway for IALJS-18 in Sydney, Australia. IALJS-19 will be at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, U.S.A., with Kevin Lerner as the conference host.

John Bak said this year there was no report on the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE). Due to the pandemic, IALJS did not submit a panel two years ago.

Isabelle Meuret and Rob Alexander launched a call entitled “Literary Journalism Informing Comparative Literature” for the ACLA conference held in Chicago, March 16-19, 2023. The idea of this seminar was to discuss the many potentialities of literary journalism in a global context. Five submissions were received, and all were approved. IALJS is usually expected to produce a slate of 10 to 15 submissions and organize two to three sessions during the conference. As expected, ACLA turned down the seminar. Participation in the ACLA, is important for outreach and recruitment. Another proposal will be submitted to ACLA 2024, which will be held in Montréal.

David Dowling, chair of the AEJMC Organizing Committee, reported that IALJS hosted two full in-person research panels on the theme of narrative journalism across media at AEJMC

in Detroit in August 2022. Attendance was solid at both sessions, which both sparked lively Q&A following the presentations. Many of the presentations focused on innovations in narrative journalism in the podcast medium. Nine presenters are set for the 2023 AEJMC conference in Washington, DC. The theme is “The Art of Fact in Science and Nature Writing.” Moving forward, Melissa Nurczynski will head the AEJMC organizing committee.

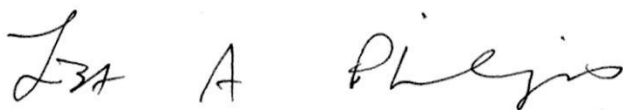
Roberto Herrscher, chair of the Latin American Organizing Committee, said that the committee has been in discussions about new ways of defining the committee’s work, as scholarly communities are formed more around language than geography. They are exploring pairing Spanish-speaking Latin America with Spain and Brazil with Portugal.

Under new business, Lisa Phillips noted that with only \$150 in the Student Travel Fund, IALJS should consider setting aside additional monies for the Fund. A motion was made and seconded to put \$3000 in the Student Travel Fund. It was unanimously approved.

A vote was held on the new slate of IALJS Officers and Chairs for 2023-25. The slate was unanimously approved. IALJS’s new President, Tobias Eberwein, took the gavel and thanked Rob Alexander for his service as outgoing President.

A motion to adjourn was called at approximately 6:11 p.m., which was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa A. Phillips". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Lisa Phillips, Secretary

International Association for Literary Journalism Studies