This report was prepared by Stanislav Tkachenko, POSTCOMM Section Chair

FULL REPORT

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM CHAIR

Post-Communist Systems in International Relations Section (POSTCOMM) Executive Committee consists of nine members:

North American representatives: Mikhail Molchanov, Maria Omelicheva, Andrei Tsygankov, Houman Sadri
Representatives from the region: Marina Lebedeva, Konstantin Khudoley, Akbota Zholdasbekova
Past presidents of section: Andrei Korobkov and Reuel Hanks

Terms of office for three of four representatives from North America and all three representatives from the region have expired in February 2015. At POSTCOMM Business meeting on February 20th, 2015 in New Orleans, at which time an election for a new committee will be held four of six members of the Executive Committee have been reelected (Andrei Tsygankov, Houman Sadri, Marina Lebedeva, Konstantin Khudoley) while two new members of the ExComm have been elected: Mikhail Molchanov (St. Thomas University) and Akbota Zholdasbekova (Eurasian National University).

Stanislav Tkachenko (St.Petersburg State University) was reelected as a president of the section at the same General Meeting of all members of the POSTCOMM Section, active immediately. The duration of his second term as POSTCOMM President will be 2 years. Previous section president, Dr. Reuel Hanks (Oklahoma State University) stays at the Executive Committee of the POSTCOMM section ex officio.

Mikhail A. Molchanov (Saint-Thomas University, Canada) was reelected to perform the duties of POSTCOMM Section’s program chair for next two years. A decision has been proposed that the program chair in consultation with the president will appoint a program committee to assist him with the panel’s formation. The issue should be discussed and voted in March 2016 at ISA Atlanta Convention.

SECTION MEMBERSHIP

Membership in POSTCOMM has continued its upward trajectory. Membership (which varies month-on-month as members’ memberships expire and they renew or not) as of January 2013 was at 2008. Following an impressive jump from 87 in 2007 to 142 in 2009, each subsequent year numbers have increased gradually. In 2013 membership of the POSTCOMM section has surpassed for the first time in many years the level of 200 members. There are 215 participants of the section nowadays (November 2015) representing both North and Latin America, Eurasia and Pacific Rim countries. At the Executive
Committee of the Section there are representatives of four countries (USA, Canada, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation).

**Programme**

For both the 2013 and 2014 ISA Annual Conferences, our 12 allocated slots have been turned into 14 panels and roundtables thanks to the skill of previous Presidents of the section Andrei Korobkov and Reuel Hanks as well as ExCom in negotiating joint sponsorship of panels and roundtables with other sections as well as with the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Again through the impeccable efforts of the POSTCOMM Program Chair Mikhail Molchanov, we have been able to accommodate most of the panel proposals that named POSTCOMM as their first choice, and a relatively large number of the papers as well. We keep tradition of organizing panels with participants from Newly Independent States from South Caucasus and Central Asia’s regions. Another new area of our activities: Innovative Panels at ISA Convention where we apply simulation game’s model for discussing new approaches for research in the most disputed issues of interstate relations and domestic policy’ dynamics in countries of the region.

**Finances**

The finances of POSTCOMM continue to be growing rather slowly if count them on year-to-year base, given that membership continues to increase, and in recent times our only significant expense has been for hosting our annual reception. At the beginning of 2013 our account balance stood at $1846.00. As of 31.10.2015, our account balance stood at $5 768.46. Our expenses were $2035.62, paid towards our reception at ISA New Orleans Convention. A successful attempt has been made to find sponsors for POSTCOMM Reception at the Atlanta 2016 ISA Convention: L.N.Gumilyov Eurasian National University (Astana, Kazakhstan), Moscow State Institute of International Affairs (MGIMO-University), Eurasia-Volga region research and information Centre, and the Eurasian Ideas Foundation donated US $1500 to the budget of our section. Significant funds have been reserved for our section’s highest awards for research papers (Robert H. Donaldson Award) in 2016-2017 and further on due to several donations of Professor Robert Donaldson and current resources of the POSTCOMM Section.

**Activities**

The POSTCOMM Annual General Meeting at the ISA Annual Conference in New Orleans was well attended by majority of POSTCOMM section members, who have participated in ISA Convention as speakers in panels, promoted by our section (about 90 persons). Issues regarding management of the Section and composition of panels have been discussed, with enthusiastic input from members and intensive debates.

Lada V. Kochtcheeva, PhD, Associate Professor of Political Science, School of Public and International Affairs, North Carolina State University has become the fourth winner of the Robert H. Donaldson Award, which has been created by POSTCOMM Section in 2012 to emphasize tremendous role of Professor Donaldson in establishment agenda and routes for development of studies of Post-Communist systems in International Relations. The title of the winning paper is "Russia’s Place and Role in the Globalizing World: The Political Process". The award ceremony will take place on March 18th, 2016 at the General meeting of the POSTCOMM Section at the ISA convention in Atlanta, GA.
The importance of co-sponsorship of panels at ISA Conventions with other sections and thematic sub-units of ISA has been discussed during 2015 in different formats. The prospects and first results successful of co-sponsorship with other sections, which has demonstrated their interests towards area studies and comparative analysis of transition from state planned economy and authoritarian political system, has been discussed. Following this suggestion, a panel on Assessing EU’s Soft Power Capabilities at 2016 ISA Convention in Atlanta has been co-sponsored by POSTCOMM and Foreign Policy Analysis Section. The Panel “Russian Defense Policy and Developments in the Aftermath of Crimea: Outlook and Implications for the West” has been cosponsored by the International Security Studies Section; the panel “Peace or Conflict in Eurasia: The Emergence of a New Security Environment in Eurasia” has been cosponsored by the Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies Section of ISA. There are possibilities for co-sponsorship with Diplomatic Studies Section, IPE and some others.

POSTCOMM section is continuing its cooperation with Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. It includes joint panels at ASEEES Convention (Boston in November 2013, San Antonio (November 2014), Philadelphia (November 2015) as well as ISA March 2016 Atlanta Convention, sponsored by two organizations.