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 European and Eurasian regions: Marina Lebedeva, Konstantin Khudoley, Akbota Zholdasbekova

Past presidents of the section: Andrei Korobkov and Reuel Hanks

Terms of office for one of four representatives from North America and all three representatives from the region have expired in March 2016. At POSTCOMM Business meeting on March 18th, 2016 in Atlanta, GA, the decision has been made to have electronic voting for a new ExComm member via ISA-sponsored Internet-based system. There were two candidates for one vacant position:

1) Marija Y. Omelicheva, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Director, Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies. University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

2) Charles E. Ziegler, Professor & Distinguished University Scholar, Political Science; Director, Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. University of Louisville, Louisville, KY

As a result on three-weeks long voting Prof. Marija Omelicheva has been reelected in April 2016 as a ExComm member, representing North America, for two-year term (2016-18).

Stanislav Tkachenko (St.Petersburg State University, Russia) is finishing his second two-year term as the President of the section and will be replaced at the POSTCOMM Business meeting at ISA 2017 Convention in Baltimore, since the POSTCOMM Charter limits possibility to serve as the Section’s by maximum four-years. He will serve as a POSTCOMM Executive Committee member ex officio. Previous section’s President, Dr. Reuel Hanks (Oklahoma State University) stays at the Executive Committee of the POSTCOMM section ex officio as well.
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 February 2017 at ISA Baltimore 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 208. 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 227 participants of the section nowadays (November 2016) 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. At the 2016 Atlanta Convention POSTCOMM Section sponsored record-breaking 21 panels, some of them in cooperation with other sections.

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 31.10.2016, our account balance stood at $8 696.46. Our expenses were $2280.52, 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) donated US $500 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 annual donations of Professor Robert Donaldson ($1000 each year) and current resources of the POSTCOMM Section.
ACTIVITIES
The POSTCOMM Annual General Meeting at the ISA Annual Conference in Atlanta was well attended by the majority of POSTCOMM section members, who have participated in ISA Convention as speakers in panels, promoted by our section (about 120 persons). Issues regarding management of the Section and composition of panels have been discussed, with enthusiastic input from members and intensive debates.

Dr. Valentina Feklyunina, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in Politics, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, Associate Editor, POLITICS (UK Political Studies Association and SAGE), has become the fifth 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 "Strategic Narratives of and for Ukraine ". The award ceremony will take place on February 24, 2017 at the General meeting of the POSTCOMM Section at the ISA convention in Baltimore, MD.

The importance of co-sponsorship of panels at ISA Conventions with other sections and thematic sub-units of ISA has been discussed during 2016 in different formats. The prospects and first results of successful 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. 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), Washington, DC (November 2016), as well as ISA 2017 Baltimore Convention, sponsored by two organizations.