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 three of four representatives from North America and all three representatives from the region have expired in February 2017. At POSTCOMM Business meeting on February 24th, 2017 in Baltimore, at which time an election for a new committee were held four of six members of the Executive Committee have been reelected: Andrei Tsygankov (MTSU), Houman Sadri (UCF), Marina Lebedeva (MGIMO-U), Konstantin Khudoley (SPSU), Mikhail Molchanov and Akbota Zholdasbekova (ENU).

Stanislav Tkachenko (St.Petersburg State University) was reelected as the chairman of the section at the same General Meeting of all members of the POSTCOMM Section, active immediately. The duration of his 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 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 was 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 2017) 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 2017 Atlanta Convention POSTCOMM Section sponsored record-breaking 22 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 31.10.2017, our account balance stood at $10 034.46. Our expenses were $2345.52, paid towards our reception at ISA Baltimore Convention. A successful attempt has been made to find sponsors for POSTCOMM Reception at the Baltimore 2017 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 2017-2018 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 Baltimore was well attended by majority of POSTCOMM section members, who have participated in ISA Convention as speakers in panels, promoted by our section (about 130 persons). Issues regarding management of the Section and composition of panels have been discussed, with enthusiastic input from members and intensive debates.

Dr. Alexander Sergunin, Ph.D., Professor at the School of International Relations, Saint-Petersburg State University has become the sixth 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 “Paradiplomacy: an instrument of separatism or foreign policy's democratization? The case of Russia's northwestern regions”.

The award ceremony will take place on April 6th, 2018 at the General meeting of the POSTCOMM Section at the ISA convention in San Francisco, CA.

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), Chicago, (November 2017), as well as ISA 2017 Baltimore Convention, sponsored by two organizations.