

**Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Membership Meeting CATR/ACTR**

Date: 14 June 2022

Time: 10:15 am – 12:30pm MDT

Location: University of Lethbridge & Zoom (online)

Yana Meerzon begins with a welcome a land acknowledgement.

**1. Call to Order -- Roll Call Participants**

**Federation Representatives (10:15am to 12:44 pm):**

Gabriel Miller (President & CEO), Andrea Davis (Convenor Congress 2023), Vanessa Foran (Member Relations Officer), Dhanela Sivaparan (EDID Advisor)

**Support Staff:**

Roberts, Kelly

Bhoyroo, Haneesha (trans)

Pryor, Cole (Zoom Room Assistant)

**CATR Members in Attendance:**

**Online via Zoom:**

Bellerose, Christine (cricri)

Hurley, Erin

Renyk, Grahame

Bennett, Naomi

McLeod, Kim

Skelling Desmeules,

Bil, Laura/Lo

Meerzon, Yana

Marie-Eve

Carter, Jill

Nolette, Nicole

Taucar, Jacqueline

Cox, Jordana

Owen, David

Thompson, Deneh'Cho

Diokno, Giorelle

Publius, Xavia

Griffin, Mike

Richmond, Kelly

**In-person Lethbridge:**

Afolabi, Taiwo

Freeman, Barry

MacArthur, Michelle

Blum, Justin

Gupa, Dennis

Mayo, Keira

Boulay, Jenn

Henderson, Julia

McIntyre, Hope

Davis-Fisch, Heather

Houston, Andy

Mealey, Scott

Day, Moira

Howarth, Caroline

Pearce, Wes

Daya, Malika

Johnson, Stephen

Richards, Kim

Dunn, Katrina

Knowles, Ric

Scott, Shelley

Couture, Selena

Kovacs, Sasha

Stephenson, Jenn

Fasunhan, Ibukan

Li, Zhuohao

Whittaker, Robin

**2. Motion to Approve the Changes to the 2022 CATR/ACRT AGM Agenda**

- Inclusion of Item 5 -- the Representative from the Federation
- Inclusion of Item 8.d – Special Resolution
- Moving the Ad Hoc Committee on CATR Awards to Item 11
- Moving CATR’s Representative to the Federation Report to Item 16.c

**Yana asks for someone to move to amend the 2022 CATR/ACRT AGM Agenda.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Lo/Laura Bil	Christine	23 in-person	0	0
	Bellerose	11 online	0	0

**3. Approval of the amended 2022 AGM Agenda**

**Yana asks for someone to move to approve the amended 2022 CATR/ACRT AGM Agenda.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Giorelle Diokno	Grahame Renyk	22 in-person	0	0
		17 online	0	0

**MOTION PASSES**

**4. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 AGM**

**Yana asks for someone to move to approve the minutes from the 2021 CATR/ACRT AGM.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Christine Bellerose	Lo/Laura Bil	18 in-person	0	1
		10 online		1

**MOTION PASSES**

**5. Federation Representative Report (Please see Appendix)**

Representatives from the Federation, discuss the EDID Action Plan and the new Member Forum. We welcome Gabriel Miller (President & CEO), Andrea Davis (Convenor Congress 2023), Vanessa Foran (Member Relations Officer), Dhanela Sivaparan (EDID Advisor)

- Congress 2023: “Reckonings and Re-imaginings” at York University, Toronto
- Changes to policy, advocacy and programs to better align with SSHRC Insight, incorporate Open Access, and integrating EDID principles
- Number of EDID initiatives undertaken for the organization, Congress 2022 & 2023, and Federation members
- Any questions for Federation Representatives email [membership@federationhss.ca](mailto:membership@federationhss.ca)

The representatives from the Federation have also provided further information about:

- Role of Humanities and the Social Sciences Report: <https://www.federationhss.ca/en/programs-policy/advocacy/RoleofHSS>
- French translation: <https://www.federationhss.ca/fr/programmes-politiques/plaidoyer/RoleofHSS>
- EDID Progress Update: <https://www.federationhss.ca/sites/default/files/2022-04/Federation-EDID-Progress-Update-EN.pdf>

**6. Report of the President** (Please see page 5 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Yana Meerzon welcomes all incoming officers to the CATR board of directors. A sincere thank you goes to all out-going officers and to the Scholarly Awards Coordinators for their dedication and service to the association. We are happy to announce that CATR 2023 will be held in person at Dalhousie University, Halifax, with Roberta Barker as the Conference Chair.

As part of the current President's mandate (which was built upon the work that Past President, Erin Hurley, did to facilitate collaboration between CATR and SQET in 2020) during the difficult time of the pandemic, the TheatreAgora website was an initiative that brought SQET and CATR into partnership, provided an opportunity to facilitate year-long supportive activities for our members (many of whom experience precarity), and offered us all a point of connection to continue academic knowledge creation and dissemination in a time of isolation. We (a number of current and past board members) are proud of this accomplishment and what we have been able to do for our membership through the TheatreAgora site in creating e-initiatives and engagements throughout the year to sustain support for our members.

As an Association we fondly remember Denis Salter (1949-2022) as a pillar of Canadian theatre scholarship and long-time member of CATR.

There are several initiatives undertaken by the Board to respond to ongoing challenges of 2021-2022:

- Report of the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee
- Ad Hoc Committee on CATR Awards
- TheatreAgora.ca
- Seeking Federation support for our EDID

If you are looking to get involved in serving the association, we are looking for volunteers.

**Discussion and Questions**

Katrina Dunn steps in to acknowledge Yana's incredible contribution as the association's president over the course of the past two years.

Text provided by Katrina.

Yana, thank-you for your last report as President. On behalf of the membership, I have the honour of recognizing your extraordinary contribution to the Canadian Association for Theatre Research. I think it is fair to say that no CATR President has been handed a more difficult term. A global pandemic coloured every aspect of your two years of work. A convoy of truckers occupied your city, paralyzing your home and university life. A terrible war pressed on all of our hearts with its senseless tragedy. And a shocking storm brought havoc to Ottawa's already beleaguered citizenry. And through all that you persisted, attending daily to CATR, patiently working on problem after problem, laying lines of communication, and tackling seemingly impossible situations head on with practicality and what looked to be an endless store of energy. When we had no one to produce the 2021 conference, you rallied a group of the Board and we got it done anyway, with you leading us to a spread of truly inspired online programming. In the face of so much that was unknown and unknowable, you crafted new and creative solutions that buoyed this Association through unprecedented times. You are a picture of resilience and resourcefulness, and an inspiration to all of us who might be looking to cross difficult terrain. We know how much you long to get back to your research work, and while we will miss your leadership at CATR, we look forward to re-encountering you as your scholarly self and to all the wonderful research work that we know is yet to come from you. Personally, I will miss getting 20 emails a day from you. That is actually not true, I won't miss it, but I have learned a great deal working under your wing. I hope that all of the membership can see and feel how stabilizing and positive your leadership has been. I believe we will continue to reap the rewards of your work for years to come. From all of us, please accept this heartfelt round of applause.

**7. Report of the Vice President** (Please see page 9 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Andy Houston discusses aspects of the TheatreAgora.ca platform and his role as the committee chair.

Key highlights:

- \$100,000 Canada Council Digital Greenhouse grant to re-design and develop the site
- Welcome Dr. Jordana Cox as the website curator
- Investigating pathways of TheatreAgora's future sustainability

**8. Report of the Treasurer** (Please see page 12 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Katrina Dunn describes the information on the financial statements and provides an interpretive structure. Katrina highlights some key points regarding:

- Change of CATR's Public Accountant to Adams & Miles LLP
- 2021 Financial Statements
  - Surplus of \$8,332
  - Member donations \$5,491

**a. Yana asks for someone to move to approve the CATR/ACRT 2021 year-end financial statements as prepared by Adams & Miles LLP.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Katrina Dunn	Lo/Laura Bil	24 in-person 12 online	0 0	0 0

**MOTION PASSES**

Key points of the 2022 Budget:

Items of note going forward for the 2022 Budget include the strategies for the Canada Council digital Generator Grant, the transfer of investments for the McCallum Scholarship and the Lawrence Prize that came to term this year to CATR’s CIBC account, and an adjustment to accounting fees that reflects the change of level of assurance to a Review Engagement required. Going forward, we will be looking at setting up accounting software for the Treasurer, tailored to the growing needs of CATR. Katrina also is the Chair of the Fundraising and Financial Management Committee’s work raising funds outside of participating university structures for the conference to create a more sustainable fiscal situation. In addition, CATR is finding ways to support our precarious members

Questions:

How stable are the grants, which make up a significant part of CATR’s conference budget?

- SSHRC Connections grant is annual (applied for by the conference chair) we are concerned over it every year, but there is a thought about building up a surplus so that we can build for years of, the Canada Council grants are stable for two years, and the Canadian Heritage is a precarious \$5K, and we are unsure of it every year. As a result, the Fundraising and Financial Management Committee and the Treasurer are always working on finding ways to ensure greater fiscal sustainability through planning.

How are the grants impacting the reporting for the Association?

- Because of the sizeable government grants flowing through the Association for the Conference, the Public Accountant has advised that CATR must undergo a Review Engagement rather than a Compilation engagement, which will result in an increase in the accounting fee. In addition, to alleviate the labour of the Treasurer, the accountant has also suggested that the association invest in accounting software, which will be a one-time expense.

**b. Yana asks for someone to move to approve the 2022 CATR/ACRT budget forecasts as prepared by Katrina Dunn, Treasurer.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Katrina Dunn	Grahame Renyk	24 in-person 13 online	0 0	0 0

**MOTION PASSES**

**c. Yana asks for someone to move to appoint Adams & Miles LLP as the Public Accountant for the CATR/ACRT 2022 fiscal year.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Katrina Dunn	Deneh’Cho Thompson	24 in-person 11 online	0 0	1 0

**MOTION PASSES**

- d. Yana asks for someone to move to approve the Special Resolution to opt out of the default audit requirement for soliciting organizations, and instead undertake a Review Engagement as advised by Adams & Milles LLP.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Katrina Dunn	Christine	24 in-person	0	0
	Bellerose	10 online	0	1

**MOTION PASSES**

**Discussion and Questions:**

- 9. CATR 2022 Conference Report: Performing Emergence: RePlay, ReCollect, ReExist –**  
 (Please see page 16 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Robin Whittaker outlines the report and identifies several firsts:

- Hybrid Conference online (TheatreAgora, Zoom, Kumospace) at St. Thomas University and University of Toronto Scarborough Campus with the third Act in-person and online at the University of Lethbridge
- Grant funding allowed us to hire precariously and unemployed scholars to work in producing the conference. However, we need to think about sustainability, because the funding each year is not guaranteed.
- Sincere thank you to University of Lethbridge hosts and team who made the in-person and online aspects of CATR 2022 work!
- Thanks to all the Committee Chairs and their teams for making this conference a success

Some key issues going forward to consider:

- TheatreAgora’s governance
- Archiving
- Schedule issues to begin early organizing and designing for upcoming conference
- Finances

Looking forward to seeing how TheatreAgora can adapt and develop with the new grant.

**Discussions and Questions:**

Andy wants to address some of the language in the Conference Report regarding TheatreAgora and there are objections to how TheatreAgora has been characterized, which has had a considerable impact on past and present board members who have worked very hard on this initiative. To respond, Robin identifies a number of issues in working with TheatreAgora and speaks to the ways in which the Digital Dramaturgy team was able to accomplish with the platform for CATR 2022, and speaks hopefully about the potential for redesign and redevelopment that the Canada Council Digital Greenhouse grant to address these issues.

Yana reminds all of us that our conferences and association relies on unstable funding – and we need to be cognizant that some issues are not the result of the platform, but rather were contingent on

funding that was not already secured. This organization relies on collegiality and mutual support, which made possible the conferences that occurred in 2020 and 2021 with SQET.

As a former president, Erin Hurley wishes to clarify the context in which the TheatreAgora developed and the conditions to which it responded, specifically to the needs expressed by our membership. First there is expressed concern and surprise with the tone and content of the report because of its pointed nature, which overlooks and minimizes the context and work of this endeavour. Erin empathizes and congratulates Robin and the Conference Organizing team on the responsibility of successfully delivering a hybrid conference and navigating complex conditions with unknown and precarious resources (as funding was always in process and not possible to secure early). The TheatreAgora and the Fundraising Committees were initiatives that came through the moment at the end of Erin's presidency, which were consolidated around member and board expressed values and desire to maintain connections and a response to ongoing call for year-round activities that support our members. Another initiative, the separation of the Conference Organizing Committee and the Fundraising Committee, has alleviated so much labour and burnout from the organizing committee. TheatreAgora manifested not as a pet project of a single person or a small group, but as a realization of the members' desire to meet more frequently throughout the year, and to support members (especially those experiencing precarity or barriers and those beginning/sustaining their careers) with a number of activities. These initiatives came from our board in response to the expressed desire of our membership.

**10. Anti-Oppression and Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Committee Report** (Please see page 26 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Deneh'Cho Thompson summarizes the report and the points of action going forward:

- Committee conducted research on our organization and obtained a report from Bakau Consulting, identifying 25 recommendations
- 6 February 2022 an Ad Hoc Implementation working Group was struck to make recommendations on the most urgent items
- 6 June the committee and working group held an engagement session with membership during the conference
  - i. Key take-aways – continuation of the long table practice to offer more membership engagement on the process
  - ii. Amalgamating feedback from the session – and will be providing further feedback to the board for initiatives
- We welcome all volunteers for these initiatives to become involved
- Thank you to the committee, especially Signy Lynch for her work on this portfolio

**11. Ad-Hoc Committee on CATR Awards Report (15 mins) – Motions for new associateships** (Please see page 36 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Yana outlines the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee and discusses the rationale for creating the two new associateships, which will replace the existing Lifetime Achievement Award Associateship and the Honorary Associateship in 2023. In 2022 the committee will

continue to work on the questions raised by the Ann Saddlemeyer Award team and will discuss and revise (if necessary) the current CATR mandate from 2003. Ongoing work of this committee will engage with the recommendation from the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Ad Hoc Committee regarding the awarding structures.

**a. MOTION 1: Distinguished Scholar Associateship**

**Yana asks for someone to move to ratify the establishment of the Distinguished Scholar Associateship to be given each year to a scholar whose body of work has made a significant contribution to the study of drama, theatre, and performance, broadly understood, of what is now known as Canada.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Giorelle Diokno	Grahame Renyk	24 in-person 9 online	0 0	0 1

**b. MOTION 2: Honorary Associateship**

**Yana asks for someone to move to ratify the establishment of the Honorary Associateship to be given to “any individual who has made a significant and sustained contribution to Canadian theatre” practice (Article 5.2, CATR By-Laws; p. 11).**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Erin Hurley	Giorelle Diokno	23 in-person 10 online	0 0	0 2

**12. Report of the Committee on Conduct** (Please see page 40 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Selena Couture outlines some of the initiatives and reviews undertaken by the Committee on Conduct this year.

- Curating Safer Spaces Long Table (Fall 2021)
- Seeking a third member of the committee and seeking feedback whether committee members should be appointed or elected, which will be resolved by the board this year
- Vision-planning document was submitted to the CATR Board – time will be taken to consider the mandate in light of AR/AO report and ongoing needs of the membership
- Need to make updates to the website detailing the committee members, contact email, scope and protocols
- Email address: [conductcatr2022@gmail.com](mailto:conductcatr2022@gmail.com)

**13. Report of Membership Coordinator** (Please see page 12 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Dennis Gupa summarizes the report. Warm welcome to Dennis to this role and a sincere thanks to Selena for her years of service and help transitioning the role.

Key highlights:



- 164 members who have paid their dues (there are 270 registered members of the conference, and we need to coordinate with conference organizers to consolidate donated membership and any who have not yet paid their dues)
- Indigenous Host Community Initiative: \$1,726 to Opokaa'sin Early Intervention Society
- \$1,723 raised for the Graduate Travel Subsidy/CATR Grants

**14. Report of the Elections Officer** (Please see page 42 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Michelle MacArthur summarizes the report and thanks the Nomination Committee for their work this year. Key point noted that there were a number of By-elections for Board Replacements this year and critical challenges remain in filling senior positions, ensuring continuity and fostering diversity. The Nomination Committee will be reviewing the recommendations in the Bakau Report and from the ad hoc Working Group on Implementation.

**15. Report of the Graduate Students Representatives** (Please see page 47 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Jacqueline Taucar outlines the key points of the report on behalf of Sarah and Taylor:

- Sincere thanks to Hannah Rackow for her service and a warm welcome to newly-elected Taylor Graham
- Graduate Student Representatives 2021-22 Call for Input
- Involvement with Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee
- Organized Academic Jobs Workshop session with Dr. Laura Levin and Dr. Signy Lynch

**16. Other Business**

**a) Scholarly Awards Report** (Please see page 49 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Kimberly Richards summarizes the report. We sincerely thank Keren and Kim for their work as they conclude their term as co-coordinators for the CATR Scholarly Awards portfolio. Currently, the board is now undertaking a search to fill the role.

- The current coordinators will update the overview of job duties and responsibilities for the Coordinator, Chair, and committee members, considering items from the Bakau Consulting Report
- The new coordinator(s) will work closely with the board to address items from the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Report in particular with regards to "committee recruitment"
- We sincerely thank the Chairs and Committee Members of Jean-Cleo Godin, Ann Saddlemyer, Richard Plant, and Patrick O'Neill Awards for their hard work this year in reviewing the many publications and selecting our award winners and honourable mentions
- Congratulations to our esteemed award winners

**b) Mentorship Coordinator Report** (Please see page 53 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Christine (cricri) Bellerose outlines the report and gives details on how the mentorship program has worked this year and what is upcoming. Key programs include:

- Year-round one-on-one mentoring
- Story-sharing circles
- Group mentorship initiatives

Currently, the mentorship committee is seeking volunteers to foster and support a mutual aid culture within the association. Please contact cricri at [catr.mentorship@gmail.com](mailto:catr.mentorship@gmail.com)

**c) CATR Representative to the Federation Report** (Please see page 59 in the Reports for 2022 AGM document)

Katrina Dunn summarizes the report and highlights key issues around:

- Membership fees
- Virtual Congress in 2022
- Federation programs to support Anti-Racism and EDID training for member organizations
- Federation's *The Charter on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization in the Social Sciences and Humanities*

**d) Any Other Business**

**17. Motion to Adjourn!**

**Moves:** Giorelle Diokno

**Seconds:** Jacqueline Taucar

**AGM Adjourned at 12:17 pm (MDT)**