

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Membership Meeting CATR/ACTR

Date: 17 June 2023

Time: 3:30pm – 5:45pm ADT

Location: Dalhousie University & Zoom (online)

Robin Whittaker begins with a welcome a land acknowledgement.

1. Call to Order -- Roll Call Participants

Support Staff (non-member):

DeGrow, David

Kai Pollock, Sterling

CATR Members in Attendance:

Online via Zoom:

Batiot, Maxime (Eng/Fr
Trans)

Blum, Justin

Carter, Jill

Chartonnier, Cassandre

Diokno, Giorelle

Dospinescu, Liviu

Dunn, Katrina

Gupa, Dennis

Nolette, Nicole

Ortuzar, Jimena

Samur, Sebastian

In-person Dalhousie:

Afolabi, Taiwo

Baldwin, Bridget

Barker, Roberta

Bellerose, Christine (cricri)

Boulay, Jenn

Davis-Fisch, Heather

Day, Moira

Fitz-James, Thea

Freeman, Barry

Graham, Taylor

Jacobson, Kelsey

Johnston, Kirsty

Kovacs, Sasha

Kuling, Peter

Levin, Laura

Manderson, Derek

McIntyre, Hope

McLeod, Kim

Mees, Jayna

Reichenbacher, Helmut

Riley, Jessica

Silcox, Neil

Simer, Kimber

Stephenson, Jenn

Schweitzer, Marlis

Sundar Singh, Cyrus

Taucar, Jacqueline

Whittaker, Robin

Wright, Kailin

2. Motion to Approve the 2023 AGM Agenda

Robin asks for someone to move to approve the amended 2023 CATR/ACRT AGM Agenda.

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Sasha Kovacs	Taiwo Afolabi	21 in-person	0	0

		8 online	0	0
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MOTION PASSES

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Robin asks for someone to move to approve the minutes from the 2022 CATR/ACRT AGM.

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Moira Day	Kim McLeod	20 in-person	0	1
		8 online	0	0

MOTION PASSES

4. Report of the President (Please see page 5 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Robin Whittaker welcomes all incoming officers to the CATR board of directors. A sincere thank you goes to all out-going officers for their dedication and service to the association. With profound gratitude, we thank everyone who has worked on the conference, especially our co-chairs Roberta Barker, Kailin Wright, and Heather Davis-Fisch, who have successfully presented a hybrid conference. Over the past year we remember the members we have lost including Heather McCallum. We fondly remember friend, colleague, and board member Dr. Eury Chang (1971-2023). In consultation with his partner, Robert Kardosh, CATR is honoured to announce the establishment of the **Eury Chang Grant for Asian Canadian and Intercultural Drama, Theatre, and Performance Research** in his memory. On behalf of CATR and the board, we thank the incredible service of outgoing Equity Officer, Jill Carter. This year, we are pleased to announce the inaugural recipients of the Distinguished Scholar Associateship, Dr. Alan Filewod, Dr. Glen Nichols, and Dr. Natalie Rewa, and we congratulate them along with our Honorary Associate Dr. Walter Borden.

There are several initiatives undertaken by the Board in 2022-2023:

- Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Ratified Motions
- Establishing the Denis Salter Grants
- Corporate Documents Steward – Marlis Schweitzer
- Review of Data Collection and Info Sharing
- CATR/SQET MOU & TheatreAgora Addendum
- CATR Communications Team
- CATR Scholarly Awards
- A.C.T.S. website
- CATR's 50th anniversary

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

Discussion and Questions:

5. Report of the Treasurer (Please see page 8 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Canadian Association for Theatre Research

Association Canadienne de la Recherche Théâtrale | <http://www.catr-acrt.ca>

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

- Change of CATR's reporting to a Review Engagement
- 2022 Financial Statements
 - Loss of \$2,862 due to lower registration than expected, higher operational expenses, and roll forward of membership expenses
 - Accumulated surplus \$60,513, \$25,000 of which will be put into a Conference Reserve Fund
 - Strong donations
 - Grad Student Travel in 2023 supported 11 students

Discussion and Questions:

- a. **Robin asks for someone to move to approve the CATR/ACRT 2022 year-end financial statements as prepared by Adams & Miles LLP.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Neil Silcox	Cricri bellerose	28 in-person 8 online	0 0	1 0

MOTION PASSES

Key points of the 2023 Budget:

Items of note going forward for the 2023 Budget include the establishment of \$25,000 Conference Reserve Fund, new funds to support the Denis Salter Grants, setting up CATR with QuickBooks – eliminated some unused categories and added some new ones, TheatreAgora's redesign with Koumbit, and recommending raising membership fees for 2024.

Discussion and Questions:

As a percentage of someone's income, Neil points out that the proposed increase has a greater impact on lower income earner members.

The membership increases proposed for 2024 are not covered by the projected 2023 budget here. The rebalance of membership increases will be revisited in the September board meeting.

Thanks to Katrina for all her work in updating the accounting practices.

- b. **Robin asks for someone to move to approve the 2023 CATR/ACRT budget forecast as prepared by Katrina Dunn, Treasurer.**

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Kailin Wright	Sasha Kovacs	28 in-person 8 online	0 0	0 0

MOTION PASSES

Discussion and Questions:

Struck by the conference budget being 90,000 that there were significant increases essentially has doubled the cost of what it was pre-pandemic. 1) What accounts for the significant increase in the conference budget and 2) What are we doing for the sustainability of the conference.

Most of the costs associated with the conference in the past have been buried or subsumed by the institution, Katrina has been working to make explicit these expenses that, in the past have not normally been included in the budget. There is an increased investment in paying a support staff to address the crisis in volunteering and the overwhelming reliance on those who are in precarious positions.

The institutional costs of 2018 were not buried in the budget, there are still concerns here and there and the budget needs to be clearer.

Where some of these costs involving the technical costs associated with developing the website and running the online parts – involved with the hybridity and TheatreAgora.

An invitation to membership to give feedback to the Treasurer about the costs.

Some critical budget points to note include:

- The cost of food is \$45/person and the consideration for our precarious folk. There is a general thanks for considering the needs of precarious scholars and recognizing the need for a reasonable food budget.
- Inflation is also increasing.
- Is there an implicit expectation for future hosts to apply for the SSHRC connection grant and would that be a deterrent. This is a significant time commitment, but at this point this hasn't come up as an issue.

The critical question of how we grow the sources of revenue for the budget and to increase the reserve fund for future sustainability remains.

c. Robin asks for someone to move to appoint Adams & Miles LLP as the Public Accountant for the CATR/ACRT 2023 fiscal year.

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Peter Kulig	Heather Davis-	27 in-person	0	0
	Fisch	8 online	0	0

MOTION PASSES

6. CATR 2022 Conference Report: Performing Shores / The Shores of Performance (Please see page 18 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Roberta Barker outlines the report and celebrates CATR 2023's two main goals:

- A conference that celebrated the talents and work of artists and scholars from the East and West coasts
- Making participation feasible for as many CATR members as possible

How can we continue to support the variety of ways of participating and how can we do that sustainability.

A sincere thanks to the co-hosts of the online stage: Kailin Wright & St. Francis Xavier University and the University of the Fraser Valley, to CATR members, and the Indigenous host community. And there are many individuals and committees who have worked so hard to make this conference happen. Our sincere gratitude

Highlights to note:

- 3 Keynote addresses, 1 in-person Plenary, 1 live in-person performance
- 22 virtual and 27 in-person paper panels, working group sessions, workshops, roundtables, and seminars
- 97 paid, large number of artists did not pay
- 150 in-person and online (estimate at the moment)
- Need to think more about re-balancing online and in-person participation, and it is vitally important that people have the opportunity to participate in the way that they can/are able to

Discussions and Questions:

A sincere thanks to Roberta and everyone who has contributed to the conference and to the participants. Grateful to the prompt to rethink the balance – of in-person and hybridity. There is a certain access that is commendable. The onus of labour to do the hybrid and deal with the tech aspects – what is the experience of the person in the zoom of the hybrid. Should we be doing this and what are the underlying values that places the emphasis on the in-person when we have so many precarious members. The problem of being precarious and presenting to less robust audience – discouraging for a new member. There are solutions to intentionally have tenure track people set up.

Conference revisioning committee needs to be struck to consider sustainable pathways for the future. Critical to this process, we need to consider the question: For whom is the Canadian Association for Theatre Research and how should the Association best serve its members?

a) CATR 2024 Conference Update (Please see page 20 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

- Congress 2024 will be held only in-person at McGill University and Robin is in conversation with Erin Hurley about this participation. We are still looking for a confirmed host institution.

7. Report of the Scholarly Awards Coordinators (Please see page 21 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Jimena/Wes outline the key points of the report:

- Sincere thank you to everyone who served on a committee this year

- Revision of the Ann Saddlemyer Award Terms of Reference
- Review of the Nomination and Award process by the ad hoc committee

8. Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Report (Please see page 22 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Robin outlines some of the initiatives and motions undertaken this year and sincerely thanks previous chair Deneh'cho Thompson, and all who served and continue to serve on the committee throughout this ongoing process. The ad hoc committee is welcoming volunteers.

- Number of motions passed and there are additional motions upcoming this year to consider
- Two ad hoc committees are being formed to address Scholarly Awards and Data/Information Collection

Discussions and Questions:

9. Report of the Task Force on Precarity (Please see page 25 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Neil summarizes the report highlighting the actions of the first six months of the Task Force. A sincere thanks goes to the Denis Salter Grants and Roberta Barker on behalf of Dalhousie Theatre Studies for their sponsorship of our Mental Health workshop and subsidy of the precarious pizza party.

- First four months of our program we served 60 registrants with 3 online initiatives – 2 Open Houses, 1 Alt-Ac Career Pathways Panel
- CATR 2023 Conference, we served 40 registrants with 1 online workshop focusing on Mental Health and Well-being for precarious life, and 2 in-person events: *Community, Mentorship, and Skills for Precarious Folk* and our successful pizza party for precarious scholars
- Upcoming we are seeking to conduct a survey of precarious members, to offer supportive programming, to build tenure-precarious alliances with a hack-a-thon in collaboration with committee on conduct, to establish a fundraising initiative to support our work

Discussion and Questions:

A sincere thanks to the co-organizers – where is the room to have Tenured folk to have a leadership role. Why does the labour of solving the “precarious problem” fall on precarious scholars

10. Report of Membership Coordinator (Please see page 27 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Dennis Gupa summarizes the report and updates the current number of registered members to 192 all together including the lifetime award winners. Need to ask for the write up from Dennis

Discussion and Questions:

A question about the lack of information on the donated members for the past two years. Donated members are provided for those who are artists and not usually members of CATR. Mentorship coordinator. Mentorship initiative also contributes to the donated members number.

11. Report of the Elections Officer (Please see page 29 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Robin Whittaker summarizes the report on behalf of Michelle MacArthur, and thanks the Nomination Committee for their work this year. Key point noted that the Nomination Committee has revised a number of policies and procedures as recommended in the Bakau Report and continues to work on ongoing ARAO measures (see chart on pages 29-30).

12. Report of the Communications Officer (Please see page 32 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Taylor Graham highlights the initiatives undertaken in 2022-23:

- Creation of Communications Committee and distribution of labour
- social media policy
- New Instagram social media channel

A sincere thanks to the committee members who have put in much time and work to communicate to the membership.

Discussion and Questions:

Clarification that CanDrama is for members to communicate with one another, and the board will communicate through the CATR communications email through MailChimp. This removes the communication officer as a mediator for CanDrama. A suggestion was made to the board to hire an administrator to deal with the glut of emails that come through.

There are a few more Facebook groups kicking around that need to be pulled in

The burden of the majority of the work – is undertaken predominantly by precarious persons on the board. The cost of those hours of volunteering is high

13. Report of the Committee on Conduct (Please see page 32 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Signy outlines that the committee has updated the policies and procedures on how the committee is constituted as well as clearly defined the reporting processes for breaches in the Code of Conduct. There were also two “Curating Safer Spaces” long table sessions during the conference that will inform some actions and programs in this coming year.

Discussion and Questions:

Thank you to the committee for the work that they have done

14. Report of the Graduate Students Representatives (Please see page 37 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Taylor Graham sincerely thanks outgoing representative, Sarah Robbins, for her service and a warm welcome to newly-elected Jayna Mees. This year, Taylor and Sarah were involved in communications coordinating and conference programming roles respectively. The representatives have reviewed the recommendations of the Emerging Scholars Task Force and have identified two initiatives to improve online resources and conduct more outreach to graduate students through CATR's communication tools.

15. Report of the Mentorship Program Coordinator (Please see page 39 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Cricri Bellerose outlines that the program has facilitated 6 mentorship pairings at this year's CATR conference. Cricri articulates the need to unsettle the cliques and to generate more connections between members at this conference. This is something that needs to be done in advance. The program is always seeking volunteer mentors and mentees, as well as people interested in helping.

16. TheatreAgora Report (Please see page 40 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Taiwo Afolabi thanks the committee members for their hard work in creating the TheatreAgora Addendum to the CATR/SQET MOU. TheatreAgora was redesigned by Koumbit and completed in time for CATR 2023. There is ongoing work on the membership transfer from each organization to the website and the question of the inclusion of member profiles.

17. SQET Report (Please see page 42 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Cricri Bellerose reports on the ongoing activities of SQET including the 2023 Conference held June 8-10. SQET also provides a robust mentorship program for its members. The MOU has helped to clarify the roles and responsibilities of our future collaborations.

18. TRiC Report (Please see page 44 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Selena Couture introduces the TRiC/RTAC Writing and Mentorship Fellowship program and informs members who have not received their copies of TRiC to notify her. A note to members that February 15th is the deadline for membership renewal to be included on TRiC's subscription without issue delay.

19. Report of the CATR Federation Representative (Please see page 45 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Katrina announces the successful application for the EDID Initiatives Fund for Scholarly Associations for \$2500 to hire WC Consultants to provide ARAO training and education for the Board to happen sometime in July. There is ongoing work with navigating the Federation's Membership Management System portal.

20. Other Business / No Oral Reports AGM

- a) **Lawrence Prize Report** (Please see page 46 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)
- b) **CATR Grants and Scholarships Report** (Please see page 47 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)
- c) **Archival Committee Report** (Please see page 49 of the Annual Reports for the AGM)

Discussion and Questions:

Acknowledge the hard work of Jess Riley on the Lawrence Prize and on the Archival Committee, and to Emily Rollie and the CATR Grants and Scholarships.

To recommend to the board that they consider scheduling future CATR AGMs to a time and place that is most accessible to the most number of members, preferably online.

Moves	Seconds	In Favour	Opposed	Abstain
Peter Kuling	Heather Davis- Fisch	in-person 25 online 6	0 0	0 0

There is general support regarding this idea from the floor. There are concerns that there is something funny that happened as people who would generally attend are not present via Zoom, did the Zoom invitation get sent out to the membership?

21. Motion to Adjourn!

Moves: Jacqueline Taucar

AGM Adjourned at 6:11pm (ADT)