



Central Eurasian Studies Society

CESS 2019 Business Meeting – October 12, 2019, George Washington University, Washington D.C., USA

CESS holds a business meeting every year at its Annual Conference to which all members are invited. The incoming CESS President summarizes the Society's activities and responds to questions and comments from members. Beginning in 2019, CESS published a summary of the meeting on its website.

Finances

- Registration for this year's conference was the highest yet for an Annual Conference.
- Membership dues and Annual Conference registration fees are the two main sources of income for CESS and may vary significantly from year to year. This allows CESS to remain independent in its activities.
- CESS has secured a three-year grant from the Open Society Foundation to fund 27 travel grants a year for its 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual Conferences as well as pre-conference workshops. CESS itself funds a further 6 travel grants per year for its Annual Conference.
- In 2019 to date, CESS' paid up membership totals around 450, higher than in 2018.
- In 2019, income is expected to total about \$70,000, expenditure about \$50,000, resulting in an estimate surplus of about \$20,000 – thanks mainly to the ability of this year's Annual Conference host institution, George Washington University, to cover the conference's overhead costs.
- CESS' accumulated savings currently totals about \$100,000, which, if maintained, could become the basis for a possible future endowment fund.
- Commencing 2020, CESS' financial condition, proposed budget, and 501(c)(3) (i.e. tax exempt) status will be published on the website.

Conferences

- In 2020, CESS will hold a Regional Conference at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in June (dates TBC) and the Annual Conference at the Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, from October 15-18.
- In 2021, the Annual Conference will be at Indiana University, Bloomington. Dates TBC.
- Attention was drawn to the recently implemented [Conference Code of Conduct](#).
- Members were invited to [email CESS](#) with any specific suggestions for improving the existing [guidelines for Chairs, Discussants and Presenters](#) as well as any feedback on the conference.

Policies

- As of 2020, CESS will implement a 'No Show, No Tell' policy for accepted presenters who do not attend the CESS conference and do not inform CESS of their absence. Such presenters will become ineligible to present at CESS conferences and to apply for travel grants in the following year.
- The Board may consider the use of video technology; the current policy is that this is not supported.
- The Board will also discuss academic safety at conferences: how to support scholars at risk, whether to introduce a policy regarding the use of recording devices.

Awards and Committees

- The ongoing substantial work of the Society's [Academic Freedom, Advocacy, and Scholars at Risk \(AFASAR\) Committee](#) was recognized.
- CESS members interested in serving on any of the [Society's committees](#) can [email CESS](#) to be put in contact with the relevant Committee Chair.
- Members are encouraged to nominate distinguished individual scholars for the [Edward Allworth Lifetime Service to the Profession Award](#).
- The *Pittsburgh Papers on Central Eurasian Studies* is a new peer-reviewed publication funded by CESS. It will print 2-3 monographs per year. The first editor will be Luca Anceschi. Individuals from all disciplines are encouraged to send submissions; all languages will be considered. If interested, please contact one of the organizers, CESS Board Member [Jeanne Féaux de la Croix](#).