



Central Eurasian Studies Society

CESS 2020 Business Meeting Summary – October 14, 2020, CESS Online Week

CESS holds a business meeting every year at the Annual Conference to which all members and delegates are invited. At the meeting, the incoming CESS President gives a summary of the Society's activities and responds to questions and comments from members.

Financial Update

- Owing to the cancellation of this year's annual conference—and a related reduction in membership dues— income in 2020, estimated at about \$26,000, would be only about 38 percent of the last three-year average of \$69,000. As of September 30, paid individual membership totaled 237, less than half the 2016-19 average of about 520.
- With expenditures projected at about \$39,000, mainly on management and administration, the end-2020 outcome is expected to be a deficit of about \$13,000.
Given CESS's satisfactory financial condition—comprising about \$146,000 on deposit at TD Bank and PayPal— this deficit, caused entirely by circumstances beyond the society's control, *i.e.* the global pandemic, is obviously manageable.

2021-2022 Conferences

- Depending on the global impact of COVID 19 in 2021, CESS and ESCAS (European Society for Central Asia Studies) tentatively plan to co-host a Regional Conference at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan June 24-27.
- CESS also tentatively plans to host an Annual Conference at The Ohio State University, Oct. 14-17, 2021.
- The annual conference in 2022 will be held at Indiana University – Bloomington

Calls for Member Participation

- Call for CESS members interested in:
 - serving on any of the Society's committees, as [The CESS blog's](#) new editor, or his/her institution as conference host for 2023, as well as sharing information about endowment donors, please [email CESS](#).
 - CESS also invites applications for those interested in serving as Treasurer. An application form together with an outline of the terms of reference will soon be available on the CESS website.

Committee Reports

- The Academic Freedom, Advocacy, and Scholars at Risk Committee summarized another active year. Of note are AFASAR's success in forging a CESS partnership with *The Institute of International Education – Scholar Rescue Fund* as well as its activities that aided CESS in becoming a signatory to several advocacy documents on behalf of citizens of Central Eurasia.
- Both the Awards Committee and the Board discussed an individual's concern regarding the lack of Central Asian authors' representation in the Annual CESS Book Awards. During the Business Meeting, CESS members suggested different approaches to navigating this issue. The Board welcomes suggestions and participation in this ongoing discussion. Please [email CESS](#) to share your ideas or offer your time/energy to participate in this discussion and future actions.
- The Regional Outreach Committee (ROC), which encourages collaboration, professional development, and networking among early-career scholars in Central Eurasia, has enlisted 8 early-career regional scholars to participate on the Committee. The ROC completed the translation of CESS's mission and information about the ROC into five languages, (Russian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek, and Tajik) that will soon be available on the CESS website. Moving forward, the ROC plans to continue efforts to build a regional scholars' network and incorporate the voices of regional members into the organization to better address their needs and concerns.