

Minutes of FILLM Committee Meeting

18 July 2021, convened by Microsoft Teams videoconference

Prepared by Tom Clark, Secretary General

Voting members present: Adams Bodomo (Chair), Adam Borch, E.K. Tan, Haun Saussy, Margaret Higonnet, Eun-Sook Chabal, Edda Weigand, Ieva Steponaviciute-Aleksieju, Liliana Sikorska, Lei Zhao, Anna Guttman, Constantine Yuka, Liliane Louvel, Petra Broomans, Gerardon Ramirwez Vidal, Nana Aba Appiah Amfo.

Member Associations represented directly or by proxy at the Committee meeting:

- ACLA – American Comparative Literature Association
- ACLALS – Association for Commonwealth Language and Literature Studies
- AILC – International Comparative Literature Association
- ARCSA – Association for Rhetoric and Communication in Southern Africa
- AULLA – Australasian Universities Languages and Literature Association
- ChLA – Children’s Literature Association
- ESSE – European Society for the Study of English
- GRS – Global Rhetoric Society
- IADA – International Association for Dialogue Analysis
- IASS – International Association for Scandinavian Studies
- IAUPE – International Association of University Professors of English
- ICLA – International Comparative Literature Association
- KTS – Finnish Literary Research Society
- MLA – Modern Language Association

1. Opening of meeting.

At 12.00 pm GMT. President of FILLM Adams Bodomo assumed the chair and declared the meeting open. He welcomed all present.

2. Proxies and Apologies.

The meeting noted the apologies from members and the proxies assigned:

- Apologies were received from Jason Finch (ALUS).
- Adam Borch was holding the proxy for ALUS.
- Tom Clark was holding the proxy for AULLA.
- Lei Zhao was holding the proxy for Chen Rudong (Assistant Secretary-General) and for GRS.

3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held by videoconference on 28 November 2020 (enclosed with meeting papers and agenda).

Anna Guttman MOVED Margaret Higonnet SECONDED *to adopt the Minutes as a true and accurate record.* AGREED without dissent.

4. President's Report (enclosed with meeting papers and agenda).

Adams Bodomo introduced his report. Committee members thanked the President especially for successful efforts to lead FILLM at the same time as organising the rescheduled Vienna Congress. This was a huge effort on both fronts, greatly complicated by the challenges of pandemic.

Adams Bodomo asked whether the Committee was happy to receive the Report. AGREED without dissent.

5. Treasurer's Report (enclosed with meeting papers and agenda).

Margaret Higonnet and Petra Broomans had jointly submitted a FILLM financial report, to reflect the change of the Treasurership that had taken place, whereby Petra Broomans succeeded from Margaret Higonnet. Margaret Higonnet spoke for the financial reporting until end 2020, while Petra Brooman spoke for the financial reporting for the first 6 months of 2021.

The Committee noted that Credit Mutuel has made access to FILLM's bank accounts very difficult for the new Treasurer, by requiring that she appear in person at a bank branch in France (when pandemic conditions make this impossible). Petra Broomans expressed thanks to Margaret Higonnet for forwarding account statements to her during this period, thus enabling her to keep up-to-date with FILLM's finances.

Adam Borch asked whether these difficulties accessing the bank accounts would be long-running. Margaret Higonnet advised that bank staff have made errors in constraining access unnecessarily, extending beyond their regulatory requirements and beyond bank policy. She also noted that FILLM is registered within the French system as an *international association*, which carries tax-free status.

The Committee noted that FILLM's account balance is in a gradually improving position, which gives us confidence about the Federation's underlying health. Adams Bodomo thanked the two Treasurers.

Adams Bodomo asked whether the Committee was happy to receive the Report. AGREED without dissent.

6. Secretary-General's Report (enclosed with meeting papers and agenda).

Tom Clark introduced his report, which the Committee discussed. Adams Bodomo asked whether the Committee was happy to receive the Report. AGREED without dissent.

7. 2021 Congress Update

Adams updated the Committee on the organisation of this year's FILLM Congress at the University of Vienna, which was delayed from 2020 and made into an all-online event due to pandemic. Only 40 of the approved presenters had finally registered, for example. Most

funding pledges had been withdrawn since the Congress committed to an all-online event. The Congress seemed likely to be in shortfall of more than 13,000 euros.

Liliane Louvel asked about how to access the Congress program. Adams advised it was available on the Congress website.

Nana Amfo asked how the change to an all-online event had caused such a material falling away of registration numbers, and whether this had affected the duration of the Congress.

The Committee thanked Anissa Strommer for her contributions to the 2021 Congress over the last two years.

8. 2023 Accra Congress

Nana Amfo reported on preparations for the 2023 FILLM Congress in Accra. There is a Local Organising Committee in place, whose members will start planning in earnest once it is clear whether a face-to-face event is likely or not.

Adam Borch offered that FILLM's website can be used to support the 2023 Congress's publicity efforts. Anna Guttman likewise offered to consult about strategies for a hybrid conference event. Tom Clark asked that the Accra LOC declare its dates for the Congress, so that Adams Bodomo and others could publicise them during the Vienna Congress. (In reply, Nana Amfo specified it will be the last complete week of October 2023.) Further, Tom Clark asked that the FILLM website invite bids for the 2026 Congress, noting that the Committee has already received an expression of interest from Poznan, Poland. The location of the 2026 Congress is due to be determined at the Committee meeting that precedes FILLM's 2023 Congress.

9. FILLM Studies Book Series

Adams Bodomo, Haun Saussy, and Tom Clark reported on developments with this book series since the 28 November 2020 meeting of this Committee. As requested by the Committee, the Executive Working Group had negotiated a new contract for the FILLM Studies book series (which was enclosed with the papers for this meeting).

Haun Saussy advised the Committee on the number of publications per year (1, plus more if subventions are forthcoming) and invited members to put themselves forward for involvement in the Editorial Board.

Adams Bodomo asked the Committee to focus on three questions:

1. Do we want the Series Editor to participate regularly in meetings of the Executive Working Group?
2. Do we want the Nominations Subcommittee to take responsibility for nominating the Series Editor every three years? (That would clearly align with the contract terms just negotiated, but it is not absolutely necessary.)

3. Do we want to give this arrangement a Constitutional protection, or would we prefer to keep it somewhat flexible—at least for the time being.

It was AGREED without dissent that the Series Editor should be reappointable, and should participate regularly in the FILLM Executive. Adam Borch also thought the Editor should be a member of the Committee, in light of the importance of regular reporting about the series to the Committee. Tom Clark also pointed to the heightened role of the FILLM Committee in the governance of the Series.

Nana Amfo MOVED Margaret Higonnet SECONDED *that we endorse the contract.* AGREED without dissent.

Margaret Higonnet MOVED Constantine Yuka SECONDED *that the Series Editor become an ex officio voting member of the Executive Working Group.* AGREED without dissent.

Margaret Higonnet MOVED Constantine Yuka SECONDED *that the Series Editor become an ex officio voting member of the Committee.* AGREED without dissent.

Tom Clark clarified that these motions just passed should not be understood to create extra voting rights where the Series Editor is already a member of those bodies.

Anna Guttman MOVED Nana Amfo SECONDED *that the Nominations Subcommittee take responsibility for nominating (or renominating) the Series Editor every three years, in alignment with the regular triennial elections for Committee officers.* AGREED without dissent.

10. ‘Lisbon Declaration on Humanities, Open Research and Innovation’ (enclosed with meeting papers and agenda).

Adams Bodomo reported that FILLM was involved in framing this declaration, and that the Executive Working Group has recommended FILLM formally endorse it. After brief discussion, Margaret Higonnet MOVED Liliana Sikorska SECONDED *that FILLM endorse the ‘Lisbon Declaration on Humanities, Open Research and Innovation’.* The President requested a recorded vote on this matter: it was AGREED unanimously.

11. Any Other Business

Adams Bodomo proposed the Committee meet again no later than July 2022.

When the meeting commenced, Adam Borch foreshadowed raising two further matters:

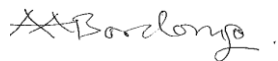
1. What progress has been made on developing a mechanism for filling casual vacancies on the Committee. It was AGREED without dissent *that Adams Bodomo, Adam Borch, and Tom Clark will bring a fully formed draft mechanism back to the mid-2022 Committee meeting for a resolution.*
2. Whether it is legitimate to post the draft minutes on FILLM’s website, once the President and Secretary-General have signed them. Tom Clark agreed this is good

practice, and advised that FILLM already uses those signed minutes as evidence for banking and legal/regulatory purposes.

12. Meeting close

Adams Bodomo declared the meeting closed at GMT 13.30.

13. Signatures

Handwritten signature of Adams Bodomo in blue ink.

Professor Adams Bodomo, FILLM President

Handwritten signature of Tom Clark in blue ink.

Associate Professor Tom Clark, FILLM Secretary-General