

BYLAWS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

1. PURPOSES:

a) The purposes of the Czechoslovak Studies Association (CSA), a non profit, non political organization, are: to express interest in Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and successor states, and all its peoples within and without its historical boundaries; to encourage scholarly study of the history, politics, and culture of these states; to represent this interest in relation to other organizations and institutions; and to collaborate with scholars and institutions having similar aims.

b) To fulfill these purposes, the CSA shall contact students and scholars interested in these fields, support teaching, research, and publication related to them, participate in and organize scholarly sessions and conferences, and publish a newsletter as a medium for sharing information useful to these purposes. It may affiliate itself with other scholarly associations with similar aims.

c) It shall conduct these activities in the spirit of an unqualified commitment to academic freedom and shall not show partiality to any particular political, philosophical, or religious persuasion of its members and other participants in its enterprises. [Articles of Incorporation, section c]

d) The CSA is organized exclusively for educational purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a corresponding section of any future federal tax code. [Articles of Incorporation, section d]

e) No part of the net earnings of the CSA shall enure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to make reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Articles Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the CSA shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the CSA shall not participate in or interfere in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Articles of Incorporation, the CSA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted: (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. [Articles of Incorporation, section e]

2. MEMBERSHIP:

a) Membership in the CSA shall be open to all persons seriously engaged in the study, teaching, research, and publication in the history, politics, and culture of Czechoslovakia and its predecessor and successor states. Applicants shall submit a curriculum vitae addressed to the

Secretary Treasurer of the CSA. Membership shall be established upon approval by the Executive Committee of the CSA and payment of annual dues by the candidate. It must be renewed for every calendar year by notification and payment of annual dues to the Secretary Treasurer. Only persons who had fulfilled these conditions shall be considered members in good standing and shall have the right to vote and hold offices in the CSA and enjoy other privileges of the members.

b) The annual dues shall be fixed by the Executive Committee and approved by a majority of members voting in a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium.

3. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS:

a) An annual business meeting of all members shall be held in conjunction with the annual Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) convention. If the annual CSA meeting will be held at a time or place other than specified in the ASEEES Program, it shall be announced at least four weeks prior to the set date and circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium. Special meetings may be determined by the CSA Executive Committee or by the request of at least one-fourth of all members. Such meetings and their agendas shall be announced at least four weeks prior to the set date and circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium.

b) Presence, in person or proxy, of at least one fourth of the members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. In the event such quorum is not attained at the appointed hour of the meeting, the meeting shall be held five minutes later without regard to the number of members present or represented. The proxy affidavits shall be in writing and shall be filed with the person appointed as recording secretary of the meeting.

c) The meeting shall receive and approve or disapprove reports from members of the Executive Committee on their activities and the state of the CSA and dispose in the same manner of proposals for future activities presented by the Executive Committee or other members. All decisions shall be made by a majority vote of members present and represented.

d) In view of the general experience that only a small minority of members can attend such meetings, no decisions voted at the Members Meeting that would alter these Bylaws, the amount of the membership dues, or composition of the Executive Committee, shall be valid until they are approved by a majority of members voting in a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium. Other decisions of the Members Meeting of a similar importance may be submitted for approval to all members by a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium, if more than one fourth of the members present express a desire for it.

4. OFFICERS:

a) Officers of the CSA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and four Officers At Large. Together they shall constitute the

Executive Committee.

b) They shall be elected for terms of three years, unless otherwise stipulated below, by a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium of all members on the basis of a slate of candidates proposed by a three member Nominating Committee which shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall solicit advice from membership by mail and/or other appropriate medium. Incumbents may become candidates for positions on the Executive Committee for no more than one additional term. Persons appointed to serve the CSA in other committees and positions shall be eligible to election to positions on the Executive Committee but should resign from their appointed positions if their holding would constitute a conflict of interest. Whenever possible, at least two candidates should be nominated for each position on the Executive Committee. Candidates who would receive a majority or plurality of votes shall be considered as elected.

c) The President of the CSA is the principal officer of the CSA. He/she shall represent the CSA in relations with other organizations, coordinate the work of the Executive Committee and generally oversee activities of the CSA.

d) The Vice President shall assist the President in all his/her duties and substitute for him/her when he/she is unable to perform them.

e) The Secretary Treasurer shall be appointed by the President upon a vote of the Executive Committee for such a term as the Committee shall decide, and that such a term may be extended or terminated when the Committee shall determine the need for it. He/she should have the same rights and duties as other members of the Committee, including the right to vote on all issues presented to the Committee. He/she shall maintain contacts among members of the Executive Committee on one side and between the Executive Committee and all members on the other through occasional circulars, collect annual dues, issue membership lists, prepare Members Meetings and annual reports on the state of the CSA, manage balloting procedures, and maintain the CSA archive.

f) The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the President upon a vote of the Executive Committee for such a term as the Committee shall decided, and that such a term may be extended or terminated, when the Committee shall determine the need for it. He/she should have the same rights and duties as other members of the Committee, including the right to vote on all issues presented to the Committee.

g) The Webmaster shall be appointed by the President upon a vote of the Executive Committee for such a term as the Committee shall decide, and that such a term may be extended or terminated, when the Committee shall determine the need for it. The Webmaster should have the same rights and duties as other members of the Committee, including the right to vote on all issues presented to the Committee.

h) The four Officers At Large shall assist other officers in fulfilling their obligations and shall be ready to assume other tasks that may fall to the Executive Committee. They should be able to serve for two terms.

i) The Executive Committee shall work out in greater detail rules directing the work of the officers of the CSA. It shall do the same for the guidance of appointed officers or committees.

j) The Executive Committee shall meet once a year, if possible; otherwise, it shall conduct its business by correspondence. All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be made by a majority of its members voting. They can be challenged by a petition signed at least by one fourth of all members requiring it to be placed before these members in a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium, if the Executive Committee decides to stand by its decision. All decisions and actions of the Executive Committee shall be announced to the members of the CSA in a newsletter or circular.

k) The newly elected officers shall enter upon their functions with the opening session of the first ASEEEES meeting following an election. If any vacancy on the Executive Committee develops, it shall be filled by the Executive Committee upon electing one of two candidates nominated by the President; his/her term shall expire on the day the term of his/her predecessor, but he/she can run for the office in the next election and eventually serve for two terms, if re elected.

l) An officer of the CSA may be removed from his/her position by decision of the Executive Committee, or by a recall petition signed by at least one fourth of the members of the CSA, but this removal must be approved by a majority of members voting in a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium. This ballot shall include a statement by the affected officer, or his/her representative in his/her defense, if he/she wishes to make one. The vacancy thus created shall be filled in the same manner as other vacancies.

5. STANDING COMMITTEES:

a. Stanley Z. Pech Prize Committee. The President of the Czechoslovak Studies Association shall, every two years during or within three months of the annual ASEEEES meeting, appoint a Prize Committee of three members, including one member that he/she shall designate as chairperson, which Committee shall evaluate the submitted essays and transmit their decision to the President for announcement and presentation of the Prize at the next annual meeting of the Czechoslovak Studies Association.

b. Program Committee. The President shall, within three months of the annual ASEEEES meeting, appoint a Program Committee of two members. Members will serve one year terms. Members can be reappointed to consecutive terms. The committee will be responsible for arranging panels for sponsorship by the Association at scholarly meetings.* For that purpose the Program Committee shall solicit suggestions from all members of the Czechoslovak Studies Association.

6. BALLOTS:

In order to substitute for a debate of an issue that might have ensued in a meeting, all ballots circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium shall include a brief explanation of the proposed action comprising the reasons for it as well as objections or alternative proposals that had been, or could be, advanced by its opponents.

7. RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

The CSA shall at two year intervals recognize exemplary achievements of teaching, scholarship and publishing activity in the field of history, politics, and culture of Czechoslovakia and its predecessor and successor states attained by its members. The CSA shall honor the life time achievements attained by its members at the time of their retirement or death. A committee appointed by the Executive Committee shall help it identify such individuals and evaluate their work.

8. DISSOLUTION OF THE CSA:

The CSA shall be dissolved by the action of its members expressed by the majority of all members voting in a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium. The language of this ballot shall include proposals for the disposition of the assets and liabilities of the CSA. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for a specific purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes, or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized and operate exclusively for said purposes [Articles of Incorporation, Section f].

9. AMENDMENTS:

a) The Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by a majority of members voting in a ballot circulated by mail and/or other appropriate medium.

b) The Executive Committee shall appoint a person knowledgeable of parliamentary procedures to serve as the Parliamentarian of the CSA. He/she shall assist the Executive Committee in interpreting the Bylaws and resolving violations of them, or conflicts of jurisdiction among the officers of the CSA as well as complaints of members at large.

*Revised by full membership mail ballot April 1992. Article 5 Sec. b added.