

# Z P R Á V Y

SPOLEČNOSTI PRO VĚDY A UMĚNÍ

CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES, INC.  
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# SVU

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## The State of the Society

Dear SVU members and friends,

Our Society is now in its 55<sup>th</sup> year of existence and continues to fulfill its important mission in the United States, Canada, the Czech and Slovak Republics, and in many other parts of the world. Hundreds and probably thousands of our members and former members are engaged in cultural, scientific and economic collaboration and exchanges with both republics. A great number of members, mostly in local SVU chapters, are working diligently on SVU business, organizing future events, participating in current events, and thinking about the needs and future of SVU.

SVU, which was established during the height of the Cold War, has worked hard and successfully towards preserving the cultural inheritance of our twin nations, assisting its scientists, artists, scholars, and business people to succeed and to achieve their goals. It has also strived to assist the twin republics in accomplishing a peaceful transition to capitalism and reintroducing the strong tradition of democracy.

In the past six years, under the presidency of Karel Raska, Jr., the Society worked hard to continue its vibrant life, preserve most of its activities, and attract younger members into its midst. Six very successful conferences were organized by Dr. Raska with major contributions of other executive board members. Karel Raska and the board also succeeded in preserving warm and beneficial contacts with academic and political dignitaries of both republics. As a step forward, a versatile membership database (called Memberclicks) was selected and used to streamline membership issues, including the collection of dues, organization of congresses and elections to the board. This major effort



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was spearheaded by Vlado Kysucky and finalized by Eugene Martin, who acted as the de-facto business manager for the Society.

Despite all of these accomplishments, our membership dropped profoundly, with only 380 dues paying members in 2012 as compared to 3,800 in 2006, when Mila Rechcigl handed over the presidency! Obviously, this is a very critical issue which we must address first.

How can this precipitous drop in membership be explained? An obvious reason is that the people who helped to establish SVU in the 1960s and were then at the height of their careers are now in their eighties or nineties. Though some of our members are vigorous at this age, others have unfortunately passed away. The membership base is consequently shrinking since this attrition is not accompanied by accrual of new and younger members to the Society.

Another reason for the shrinking membership base might be a feeling among some members that the SVU accomplished its mission at the end of the Cold War, thus no rationale exists for continuing SVU activities. In support of this argument, one has to consider the fact that anybody interested in the Czech or Slovak republics can simply visit these countries and immerse themselves into their rich culture right there or perhaps research their family roots on location (or online) as so many Americans with Czech or Slovak roots did in the past 20 years. Hopefully less important is the possibility that some members became discouraged by organizational difficulties during the transition to the Memberclicks database system, during which some minor mishaps with the delivery of journals and payments occurred. Also, we have sometimes failed to project a friendly, collegial and inclusive atmosphere at SVU board meetings

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and during elections. It is difficult to survey members who decided to leave our Society—or who stopped renewing their membership—so as to better understand their reasons. Thus, we cannot rank these different conditions or reasons by importance. In fact, we might even be missing some very important ones.

On the other hand, it is quite obvious that very few young people are joining our once influential organization. When asked why, they say that they do not see the value of joining: they see neither what the organization could do for them, nor what they could do for SVU. These people feel very little need to be part of SVU in order to succeed. They are convinced that they can “conquer the West” without our help. This attitude is not going to change until more young people join the organization and create their own content, identity and representation on the board.

*Concentrating on accruing such a critical mass of younger members and empowering them is the most important immediate task facing our board.* We want to attract creative young members with talent, people who are going to become the core of the intellectual elites of our worlds. To attract younger people, we have to come up with content that is attractive and meaningful to them. In that vein, the Intellectual Property Conference (see announcement below) is a first step in that direction. We also envision starting to work with children of Czech and Slovak heritage to help to instill in them love for Czech and Slovak art and cultural traditions as well as love for knowledge and science. Guided tours, by architects, historians, geographers, zoologists, botanists, ethnographers and other specialists might be an interesting first step in which a new generation of members is being cultivated from a young age. We have to learn the means of electronic communication used by younger members, including LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and other social media and use it for our purpose

As we concentrate on youth, we also do not want to lose sight of the middle and older generations, since these strata contain members who are contributing generously to the life of SVU, both within chapters and on the national and international levels. For the middle generation, we want to continue to offer the platforms of *Zprávy* (Newsletter), edited by David Chroust; *Kosmas*, edited by Francis Raska; the SVU Website, edited and maintained by Jiri Eichler. We will also continue with Regional conferences and International congresses to allow our members to present their work and to help them to increase their visibility to the wide world by publishing their work and helping them to have a representative presence on the Internet by e.g. posting on the internet video from conferences. Continuation of all other activities mentioned in our mission statement is a given.

For older generations, we envision using the power of our database to assist with building a community of friends, both for socializing and also for mutual

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assistance. The preservation and continuation of the wisdom of this generation will always be a welcome and critical facet of SVU activities.

Obviously, we must remove all barriers to member satisfaction and foster encouragement for joining. Fast and professional services; dealing with orders, dues, misplaced issues, and efficiently handling questions of any kind are a must. Keeping up a positive, collegial atmosphere makes the work for SVU fun, and it will help us grow. Defining our mission better and creating opportunities for a rich cultural life by supporting chapters and groups of members with interesting activities concordant with our mission should be one of our top priorities. We have to be open-minded, welcoming, intellectually honest, encouraging, creative—and fun to be with, too. With optimism, ideas, openness, cooperation and love of the cultural traditions of the Czech and Slovak peoples the future of SVU can and will be bright!

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## INTRODUCING THE SVU EXECUTIVE BOARD:



(Note: the portraits and biographies of most other SVU Executive Board members appeared in the preceding issue of *Zprávy SVU*.)

**Dagmar Hasalová White** is the daughter of Army General Antonín Hasal, who served as military advisor to President Eduard Beneš during and after World War II. She was interned with her mother and brother at Svatobořice by the Nazis in 1942-1945. After the war, she returned to Prague and began her studies at the Prague Conservatory and Charles University. She left Czechoslovakia with

her family in 1948 for the United States, where they settled in Washington, D.C. She holds undergraduate degrees from the University of Kansas and the Juilliard School of Music, a master's degree in music education from Columbia University, and a doctorate from Charles University. She taught at the National Conservatories in Bogota, Colombia; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and Managua, Nicaragua. As a soprano, Dr. White has had an extensive career in opera, concert, radio, and television. She has appeared as a soloist with symphony orchestras.

Dr. White is a dedicated promoter of Czech opera and Czech vocal music in America, for which she was awarded a medal by the Senate of the Czech Republic. She sang the title roles in four American premieres of Czech operas, among them *The Devil and Kate* at the Kennedy Center. As a founder and director of the Vienna Light Opera Company, she has produced and directed

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many light operas and operettas, among them Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. Dagmar served as vice president of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), on its Executive Board for six terms, and continues to chair the organization's annual Christmas Bazaar. She is actively involved with the Czech community in the Washington, DC, area. She organizes the services and conducts the choir of the Czechoslovak Chapel and conducts a series of concerts of Czech opera and vocal music at the Czech Embassy. She is a member of the music faculty of Northern Virginia Community College and also teaches voice in her private studio. As a musicologist, Dr. White has had papers published and actively participates as a lecturer in conferences.

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## **CALL FOR PAPERS!**

**Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences (SVU)  
2013 Regional Conference, August 29-31, 2013  
in Seattle, Washington**

**"Czechs, Slovaks, and North America:  
Destination, Example,  
Opportunity"**



The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) is pleased to announce its 2013 regional conference, to be held in the Pacific Northwest on the campus of the University of Washington in Seattle from August 29 to August 31, 2013 (with optional sightseeing extensions through September 2). The general theme of the conference will be "Czechs, Slovaks and North America: Destination, Example, Opportunity."

Papers and panel proposals are urgently solicited on a wide range of subjects in the arts, humanities, and sciences. Proposals for complete panels are preferred, but individual papers will be reviewed and grouped into panels according to the decision of the conference organizers. General subject groupings may include: Politics, Economics, Business; Religion and Philosophy; Performing Arts; Plastic Arts; Technology and Industry; Medicine and Laboratory Science; Libraries and Librarians; Heritage Organizations; Immigration and Emigration; History; Czech/Slovak and Slavic Studies; Czech/Slovak and Slavic Linguistics; Language Teaching; Literature and Cinema; Sport. With a view to the region where the conference will be held, we encourage any work concerning Czechs and Slovaks in the Pacific Northwest.

Questions about planned submissions or the submissions process should be directed to Hugh Agnew ([agnew@gwu.edu](mailto:agnew@gwu.edu)) or Lida Cope ([copel@ecu.edu](mailto:copel@ecu.edu)).

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Email your completed submission (title and 300 word abstract) to [SVUConference2013@gmail.com](mailto:SVUConference2013@gmail.com) by May 31, 2013.

Full conference details and application forms will be published in the next issues of *Zprávy*, posted on the SVU website, and distributed electronically. Panel and paper proposals may be submitted by anyone, but a lower registration fee will apply to SVU members in good standing. Information on the activities of SVU, as well as membership information and forms, can be found at <http://www.svu2000.org/>.

Questions about planned submissions or the submissions process should be directed to Hugh Agnew ([agnew@gwu.edu](mailto:agnew@gwu.edu)) or Lida Cope ([copel@ecu.edu](mailto:copel@ecu.edu)). Email your completed submission (title and 300 word abstract) to [SVUConference2013@gmail.com](mailto:SVUConference2013@gmail.com) by May 31, 2013.

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This will be SVU's first regional conference in the Pacific Northwest! The University of Washington has a beautiful campus and will offer student dormitory accommodation. You can gaze at the Cascades, the Olympic Mountains and majestic Mount Rainier. Seattle, on Puget Sound, was founded as a logging town: it was easy to roll logs down its steep hills to the harbor for shipping. Seattle has a wonderful waterfront where you can watch boats and feed the seagulls with French fries—but watch your fingers. You can admire the city from a ride on the Great Wheel or from the Space Needle. At Pike's Place Market you can see many kinds of fish and big salmon tossed through the air after purchase to amuse the public. Fabulous restaurants, historic places—all this we want to share with you. You can visit The Rainier National Park and the charming Tillicum Native American Village, on a nearby island. There you can dine on grilled salmon and be entertained by Native American dancers. Seattle is home to Boeing Aircraft, Microsoft, and Weyerhaeuser. We are preparing several interesting excursions during the conference, including a visit to a Boeing plant to watch the construction of airliners.

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## Intellectual Property for Creative Talents

On April 20, 2013, the Czech Embassy in Washington DC hosted an extraordinary conference organized by the SVU with the aim to attract new members to the Society by introducing them to the complex issue of intellectual property.

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Five speakers discussed the principles and utility of intellectual property protection in contemporary society. Speakers included Dr. Peter Ujhazy of the National Cancer Institute, Edward (Jed) Gordon of Boston legal firm Foley & Lardner LLP, George Dolina of Falls Church IP law firm BSKB, scientist Imre Kovetsi, and novelist Geert van der Kolk.

The conference achieved its goal by presenting in an accessible manner the basics and practical aspects of the intellectual property protection. More detailed information including the abstracts and short videos will be available on the SVU Website. The format of this conference proved to be an example for future endeavors in recruitment of new Society's members.

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## **2012 AUDITORS REPORT TO THE SVU GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT**

The main purpose of this Audit is to review the financial management of the Society in order to allow the General Assembly to make an informed comparison of the financial situation with the results of the previous audited period, and to endorse recommendations for actions to be taken by the new Executive Board. The secondary purpose of the auditors' report is to propose either approval or refusal of a discharge to the retiring Executive Board.

### **THE SUBJECT OF THE AUDIT**

It is understandable that misinformed people may confuse the **audit of financial management** with the **audit of books or accounting**. Books and accounts are carried out by a paid professional accountant. Assurance of accounting authenticity (while the statements are nowadays produced by accounting software) is good to hear ... but such a fraction of information cannot provide useful insight for the true purpose of the audit. The principal subject of the necessary audit is the financial management of the Society, as stipulated by the Bylaws.

### **THE SCOPE OF THE AUDIT**

The audited interval of the 2012 Audit is defined by the period between the 2008 General Assembly and the end of June 2012. The analytic scope of the 2012 Audit is reduced to the essential components of the financial management, i.e. management of the assets, budgeting and reporting, management of the revenues, and management of the expenses. The information sought by this Audit is naturally “where we are and where we go” (i.e. the trends) as well as the potential risks of the trajectory, just because that is the first information sought by the stakeholders and by any new management.

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While the particularities of the expenses may represent information worth a deeper internal audit, such review (be it a compliance audit and/or a performance audit) is out of the scope of the current Audit, mainly for time constraints. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to consult its internal auditors **during** the fiscal period in order to receive feedback, timely alerts, and advice.

## **LEGAL BASIS FOR THE AUDIT**

While the authoritative guidance is provided by The International Professional Practices Framework by The Institute of Internal Auditors, New York, the legal basis for the conduct of this Audit is given by the Society's **registered** Bylaws. Observation of the registered Bylaws is essential for retaining the legal (and tax-exempt) status of the Society. The Article 21 of the Bylaws reads as follows:

The auditors of the accounts shall review the financial management of the Society and audit the accounts and financial records of all organs of the Society whenever requested to do so by the Executive Board. On the results of their review the auditors shall submit a written report to the Executive Board. **At the end of each fiscal period they shall make the complete audit of the financial management of the Society to the same extent and submit to the General Assembly a written report regarding the financial management and the accounting vouchers of the Society for the twelve month period to the end of the month preceding the date of the General Assembly meeting by not less than 30 days and a comparison of the results of said period with the results of the corresponding twelve months of the previous fiscal period, **with a proposal to grant or refuse a discharge** to the retiring Executive Board.**

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

### **A. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSETS**

The individual annual balance sheets of the period 2008-2012 show continuous decline, starting with USD 337,839 at the end of 2008, and ending at USD 318,715 as of the end of June 2012, showing a **cumulative drop of USD 19,124** (of which USD 10,215 pertains to one fiscal year of 2011).

This trajectory requires attention.

It is recommended to adopt measures to stop this trend, mainly to review expenses and their long-term justification, and to adopt more active revenue policy. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

It is commendable that the Executive Board tries to exploit conservative investment instruments within regulatory limits in order to preserve value of assets.



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It is recommended that preservation of value is discussed on a regular basis and that results of the respective activities are regularly reviewed. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

## **B. BUDGETING AND REPORTING**

Regular budgeting is the imperative practice required from the Executive Board. Budgeting includes preparation of an annual budget, its regular review, and its continuous assessment. These activities are to be based on regular treasurer's reports. Treasurer's reports were said to be presented to the executive board on a quarterly basis. Unfortunately, the auditors haven't seen any of them, and it is not evident that the Executive Board had been pursuing active budgeting.

The accounting statements produced by the new accounting software seem to provide **improved** comfort for preparation of basic budgetary information.

It is recommended that the regular Treasurer's reports including narrative are **always** made available to the auditors. It is recommended that the treasurer's annual report is imperatively published in the Society's newsletter. It is also recommended that a summarized annual budget is published as well. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

## **C. MANAGEMENT OF THE REVENUES**

### **C1. Collection of Membership Dues**

From the financial documentation it is visible that the Executive Board worked actively on collection of membership dues despite organizational difficulties. The collection of membership dues started at USD 16,555 in 2008, then there was a decline in 2009 down to USD 11,141. In 2010 it raised to USD 16,020, and in 2011 it climbed to 18,740. Collection in the first half of 2012 reached USD 10,708.

The current paid membership count consists of 84 couples (168 members) and 201 single memberships and 13 students. Well, there is still few months to go. In the period 2008-2011 the Society lost a total of 169 members. Demography certainly plays its part here too. Nevertheless, the above figures require utmost attention.

It is recommended that the Executive Board adopts a pro-active approach in membership recruitment. It is also recommended that the Executive Board improves regularity in communication with members in regard to financial situation including collection of membership dues. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

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## **C2. Revenues from Grantsmanship & Donations**

The accounts show rather sporadic yet commendable revenues from government grants in 2010 and 2011 in a total amount of USD 5,907. Donations for the entire audited period reached USD 2,682.

It is recommended that the Executive Board adopts a pro-active approach in search for **partnership opportunities for grant applications**. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

It is also recommended to explore options for **on-line donations**. Successful charitable foundations may provide good example. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

## **C3. Sale of Publications**

The accounts show interesting peaks in sales of publications in the years 2008, and 2009, and 2012, and rather weaker years 2010 and 2011. It is certain that quality publications represent an important source of revenues with a potential of development.

It is recommended that the Executive Board takes a pro-active approach in two lines of action:

- 1) Active programming of the SVU Publications Program.
- 2) Direct on-line sales and enhanced on-line promotion of the SVU publications.  
See RECOMMENDATIONS.

## **D. MANAGEMENT OF THE EXPENSES**

### **D1. World Congresses**

The accounts show that the traditional expenses related to the SVU World Congresses are traditionally covered by collection of registration fees.

### **D2. Kosmas**

The production costs of Kosmas, the prestigious Anglophone academic publication, have risen by 20% in 2010 and by additional 10% again in 2011. The current annual expense is at USD 11,179.

It is recommended that the Executive Board adopts a pro-active approach in increasing a number of KOSMAS subscriptions, particularly by universities and other academic institutions around the world. The action must be targeted and progress measurable. Results of this action must be regularly reviewed. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

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### **D3. Zpravy SVU**

The printing and postage costs of ZPRAVY have been commendably decreased by nearly 50% by the retiring Executive Board. The current annual expense is at USD 5,543. Non-paying members are not receiving ZPRAVY anymore.

It is recommended that the Executive Board explores the option of distributing the SVU Newsletter electronically. It is also recommended that members are allowed to choose themselves whether they prefer an electronic newsletter or a printed one. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

### **D4. Administration**

The accounts show minor expenses for outsourced administrative assistance. It is understood that such a short-term emergency solution won't be continued as it would change the character of the Society's traditional way of management.

The accounts show lately a new operational cost item for administration of a membership database. The annual service cost was at USD 1,800 in the year 2010. In the year 2011, this service consumed USD 2,150. Regardless of the disputable quality of this service, such a mode of operation is not justifiable, certainly not in a long-term.

It is recommended that the Executive Board **seeks a feasible transition** from the mentioned service to one of plentiful quality databases, which are free of charge. Administration of membership data must be managed internally by SVU Officers. See RECOMMENDATIONS.

## **ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

The accounting statements seem to be all-right and they seem to display fairly, in all material respects, the true financial position of the SVU as of June 30, 2012.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

A1. It is recommended to adopt measures to stop the trajectory of decreasing equity, mainly to review expenses and their long-term justification, and to adopt more active revenue policy.

A2. It is recommended that preservation of value is discussed by the Executive Board on a regular basis and that results of the respective activities are regularly reviewed.

B1. It is recommended that the regular Treasurer's reports including narrative are **always** made available to the auditors.

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B2. It is recommended that the treasurer's annual report including narrative is imperatively published in the Society's newsletter.

B3. It is also recommended that a summarized annual budget is published as well.

C1. It is recommended that the Executive Board adopts a pro-active approach in membership recruitment. It is also recommended that the Executive Board improves regularity in communication with members in regard to financial situation including collection of membership dues.

C2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Board adopts a pro-active approach in search for **partnership opportunities for grant applications**.

C2.2 It is also recommended to explore options for **on-line donations**. Successful charitable foundations may provide good example.

C3. It is recommended that the Executive Board takes a pro-active approach in two lines of action: 1) Active programming of the SVU Publications Program.  
2) Enhanced on-line sales of the SVU publications.

D2. It is recommended that the Executive Board adopts a pro-active approach in increasing a number of KOSMAS subscriptions, particularly by universities and other academic institutions around the world. The action must be targeted and progress measurable. Results of this action must be regularly reviewed.

D3. It is recommended that the Executive Board explores the option of distributing the SVU Newsletter electronically. It is also recommended that members are allowed to choose themselves whether they prefer an electronic newsletter or a printed one.

D4. It is recommended that the Executive Board **seeks a feasible transition** from the mentioned membership database service to one of plentiful quality databases, which are free of charge. Administration of membership data must be managed internally by SVU Officers.

Done on August 24, 2012 by the SVU Auditors: Jiří Eichler, Eva Maříková  
Leeds, Blanka Kuděj.

Discharge to the retiring SVU Executive Board proposed by the Auditors was approved by the SVU General Assembly on August 25, 2012.

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## **Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences**

February 2, 2013

The Executive Board (EB) meeting took place on February 2, 2013 at the residence of Eva and Petr Hausner in Potomac, MD.

Present were: Petr Hausner (PH), Hugh Agnew (HA), Zdenek David (ZD), Michael Kukral (MK), Miloslav Rechcigl (MR), Louis Reith (LR), Peter Ujhazy (PU), Dagmar White (DW) and Jan Zika (JZ). Cynthia Klima (CK) participated via Skype. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

ZD and MK took Minutes

### 1. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2012 EB Meeting.

Minutes were approved with amendments. In particular Blanka Kudejova is added as Vice President to EB, and MR as a member to the SVU Publications Committee.

MR reminded the board, that traditionally, rather than publishing Minutes in Zpravy, the SVU president or executive vice-president prepared a brief "Report from the executive board". MR warned that publishing Minutes in full could curtail future frank discussions in the EB. MR also recommended that EB members who do not attend two consecutive board meetings be replaced. Though it is obvious that personal contact is ideal and cannot be easily replaced, PH recommended continuing to experiment with conference calls, SKYPE chats, Google + calls and other ways of real-time electronic communication to accommodate busy and distant EB members. Toward that end, some organizational and technical obstacles have to be overcome before the next EB meeting.

### 2. Membership I

PH discussed the problem of shrinking membership, which is most likely influenced by:

Aging membership; mistaken feeling that the SVU mission had already been accomplished; a slow and painful transition to a web-based membership database, insufficient contact with the chapters; the fact that SVU projected an image which some interpreted as unfriendly. PH showed the membership trends in a graphic form and pointed out that the current trend, if not reversed, would give SVU very little time.

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### 3. Treasurer

Jan Zika announced that he was unable to accept the role of SVU Treasurer and also announced his resignation from that post. He praised the past work of Eugene Martin who de facto acted for years as the business manager of the organization and suggested some form of recognition for his past meritorious service.

He recommended retaining the services of Kristen Martin as a paid bookkeeper in charge of receiving payments and interacting with the Memberclicks database, the QuickBooks accounting software, and the IRS; further he recommended that in addition to the Treasurer and the “bookkeeper,” the position of a Business Manager be created to share in the SVU financial management, direct its daily operations, mass mailings and assist with preparation of conferences and congresses.

PH and PU recommended at least temporary retention of the existing software for processing membership data, assisting in the communication with members and organizing conferences and congresses.

PU also suggested that the chapters be requested to supply data on their membership.

#### **Voted by EB:**

- a. Supplement the function of the SVU Treasurer by a paid assistant; and look for somebody who would be willing to fulfill the role of a Business Manager. PH will ask Kristen Martin, who is familiar with the Memberclicks database and Quickbooks, to assume the role of paid assistant at a \$20/hr rate.**
- b. Create a Committee under MK to seek the appointment of a Treasurer.**

**The motion was passed with a majority of present members**

### 4. Treasurer’s Report

PH announced that a report covering revenue is in the handout which was given to every board member. A report, covering expenses during the period since September 1st, 2012, will be soon issued, since data are needed from Vlado Kysucky, who paid all expenses in the absence of a treasurer. PH, will send out to all EB members within three weeks a summary of revenue, expenses and a preliminary budget estimate.

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## 5. Membership II

PH announced that with the shrinking membership base and consequent negative financial balance, the very existence of SVU is at stake as reflected in the Auditors annual report, which was distributed electronically and is going to be published in an abbreviated form in Zpravy. To increase the membership base, all EB members have to strongly consider novel and meaningful activities which could attract and retain new members.

A Committee to increase membership was created, in which PH and HA would prepare a letter to approach existing Czech and Slovak organizations with information about SVU, at the same time the SVU information brochure is going to be improved to reflect current circumstances. Linda Cope and Jaroslav Sykora will act as coordinators of this activity.

PU commented that Chapters should update their lists of members before sending them to Kristen Martin to enter into the database.

## 6. ZPRAVY SVU

MR: urged the restoration of separate rubrics, such as on the activities and publications by SVU members, and/or by Local Chapters; EB members should supply information Individual board members should take on themselves to provide content for rubrics related to their area of interest and expertise.

MR commented that there were mistakes in the last issue of Zpravy. Louis Reith and Michael Kukral volunteered to proofread Zpravy. Also all officers who were elected for 2012-2014 administrative period should be listed in the next issue. Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation was erroneously omitted from this last issue of the year.

### **HA moved that the EB**

- a Instruct the editor of ZPRAVY to organize information into separate rubrics;**
- b Information for the rubrics should be supplied by EB members;**
- c The editor of ZPRAVY should comply with the requirements of the Post Office and the IRS**

**The motion was passed unanimously.**

PU suggested that SVU members should be encouraged to read ZPRAVY online, so that in the future printing of Zpravy becomes unnecessary. At membership renewal, individual members should be asked whether they want to receive Zpravy by mail, or only electronically. To begin the process, David Chroust should send the final electronic version of Zpravy to Jiri Eichler to put

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on the web page and to Kristen Martin to E-mail Zpravy when each issue becomes available.

## 7. KOSMAS

LR volunteered to assume the position of Kosmas proof reader. He will also try to increase the number of subscribers, in particular institutional subscribers. Eliah Sykora confirmed his interest in the position of circulation editor and could take over from Eugene Martin, who is still listed at the Kosmas circulation editor, the responsibility of collecting money from institutional subscribers, updating the data base and dealing with lacking or missed issues. MK has offered to help with proofing and editing Kosmas as well.

MR found problems with the graphic design of the latest issue of Kosmas and recommended to restore the inclusion of short bios of individual authors.

## 8. Meetings

- a. DW suggested a restoration of the tradition of annual SVU balls in Washington, D.C. to be held at the Czech or Slovak Embassy. Eva Hausner will help with the organization.
- b. Symposium on Intellectual Property Workshop, organized by PU and PH, is planned for Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 at the Czech Embassy, all speakers accepted the date. A poster has to be prepared and send out to young professionals of Czech and Slovak derivation working at the NIH, the World Bank and International Monetary fund.
- c. 2013 SVU Regional Conference

The plan to hold the Conference at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS did not work out for this year. PH reported that Linda Vlasak announced that she would need 14 months to prepare such a conference. The University of Kansas should be considered as a possible location for holding the 2015 Conference.

Instead, DW announced the willingness of Wayne Jehlik to help organize a conference in Seattle. Thus, the EB proposes to hold the next Conference at the University of Washington in Seattle, possibly in August 2013, with a title: "Czechs and Slovaks in North America: Destination, Example, and Opportunity," including a regional section on the "Lure of the Northwest."

DW agreed to be in charge of the logistics for the Conference, and HA to be in charge of the academic program. MK offered to assist HA if needed.

MR stressed the need to determine and announce the date of the Conference as soon as possible (probably to be held between August 25 and September 25,



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2013). He also brought up the desirability of contacting the Slavic and History departments, as well as the Library, at the University of Washington, and possibly also at the University of British Columbia and other regional institutions.

d. SVU World Congress in 2014

EB noted the plan for its location at the University of Pardubice in the Czech Republic with the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Petr Vorel as liaison for local arrangements.

The possibility of holding the following World Congress in 2016 at the University of Zlin with the assistance of Prof. Ivo Bartocek was also mentioned.

9. Chapters and Committees

a. PU announced that he had tried to contact 19 chapters in the USA and elsewhere, and that all US chapters should be asked to send financial statements by March 15.

b. Women's Committee

PH will contact Cecilia Rokusek and PU Susan Halsey to ask each whether she would be interested to chair the committee. Susan Halsey also will be asked for a possible recommendation of a candidate for the position of SVU Treasurer.

c. The EB restated its intention to create a Youth Committee.

10. Meeting was adjourned by 4:30 p.m. The time and place of the next EB meeting will be announced later.

The meeting was followed by a social get-together of local young Czech and Slovak professionals. It was a well-attended and pleasant event.

## OBITUARIES

**Alex (Aleš) Čech (1927-2012)**, an SVU member of long standing, died on October 19, 2012. He was a native of Kolín, Bohemia. In 1946 he began studying medicine at Charles University but was expelled after Communist coup two years later. Police held him in prison for some time. After escaping

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from Czechoslovakia, Čech settled in Venezuela and in 1958 moved to New York. There he bought a company that imported steel into the United States. After the fall of Communism in his homeland, Alex began working for Pfizer as a liaison between the company and private buyers in Czechoslovakia. Alex was an active member of the Czech community in New York and became president of the Association of Free Czechoslovak Sportsmen. He was also instrumental in the revival of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association and served as its president. (Source: Dr. Mila Rechcigl.)

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**Zdenek Slouka (1923-2012)**, a former SVU President, died on December 23, 2012. Slouka clearly made an imprint on SVU, particularly during his tenure as the first Executive Director of the newly established SVU Research Institute. Zdenek was born on August 13, 1923, in Brno where he completed Real Gymnasium in 1943. During the last year of the war he participated in the London-connected resistance underground unit G4 in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands (Českomoravská vysočina). In 1945-1948, he studied sociology at Masaryk University and concurrently served as editor of *Svobodné (Lidové) noviny*. In 1948, after the Communists took over Czechoslovakia, he escaped abroad and eventually emigrated to Australia, where he worked as a librarian in the National Mitchell Library in Sydney. After his return to Europe in 1952, Slouka was engaged as a political analyst, attached to the US Army Information Exchange Control Section in Mannheim and Munich. At the same time, he studied at the University of Maryland Overseas Program in Heidelberg. In 1954, he was transferred as a US Federal employee to Washington, D.C., serving at the Pentagon. The next year he joined the Radio Free Europe in New York as an international commentator. During this period, Slouka also studied political science at New York University (M.A., 1958) and at Columbia University (Ph.D., 1964).

Zdenek started his university teaching career at Adelphi University even before the completion of his doctorate. Upon his graduation, he joined the faculty of Columbia University and served as a co-chairman of its Department of Political Science until 1971, when he returned to Washington, D.C., for one year as a Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

In 1972, while still serving as the Barnette Miller Visiting Professor of Political Science at Wellesley College, Massachusetts, Slouka joined the faculty of Lehigh University at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in the Department of International Relations. He chaired that department for two terms, became the B. & B. Cohen Distinguished Professor of International Law and Relations, and established at Lehigh a new Institute of International Relations, serving as its

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Director. Under the Institute, he opened the public Cohen International Lecture Series and between 1988 and 1991 personally arranged for the participation of distinguished lecturers—Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Security Advisor to President Carter; Robert S. McNamara, US Secretary of Defense and later the President of the World Bank; Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, ex-President of France; Lord Peter Carrington, British Foreign Secretary and Secretary General of NATO; and Václav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia.

Among his publications are the following books: *International Custom and the Continental Shelf: Dynamics of Customary Rules of International Law*; *International Dimensions of American Education*; *World Education in American Schools*; *International Dimensions of Engineering*; *Education and the International Bill of Rights: Lex Incognita*. He also wrote book chapters and articles on the relationship of international politics to science and technology and on the changing academic structure of higher education.

After the Velvet Revolution in Prague, Dr. Slouka resigned all his duties at Lehigh University, except for his professorial chair, in order to devote his energies to the development of the new democratic Czechoslovakia. So as to get closer to the academic world in Czechoslovakia, he accepted a full-year appointment as a Senior Fulbright Professor at Charles University for his final year of teaching before retirement, for which Lehigh University granted him a year-long sabbatical as a farewell gift.

Most of Slouka's work for Czechs and Slovaks throughout the 1990s was done with and through SVU. Mila Rehcigl, another SVU president, came to know Zdenek in the early seventies, when Slouka lived in Washington. Slouka often visited Rehcigl in the State Department building and later Rehcigl's office in Rosslyn, Virginia. It was the beginning of a close and long-lasting friendship. Slouka became active in SVU, starting as the Society's Vice President in 1990. At the same time he became chairman of the Planning and Coordinating Council within the new SVU Commission for Cooperation with Czechoslovakia. After a year, Slouka relinquished his post as Vice President in order to accept appointment as the first Executive Director of the activated SVU Research Institute. In this capacity, he visited Czechoslovakia and its successor states many times in order to expand cooperation between American and Czech and Slovak universities. Slouka organized and obtained financial support from US foundations for a five-year series (1992-1997) of extended workshops (each for a number of weeks) for Czech and Slovak institutions and their professors, to assist them in linking their scholarly and scientific work with their counterparts in the US and other advanced countries, and he himself participated in several.

To do this important work, Slouka developed excellent contacts in Czechoslovakia, practically with all major institutions of higher learning, including the Academies of Science, and close personal relations with their

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leaders. Similarly, he was no stranger to the political corridors. In 1991, he worked with Alexandr Vondra and Michael Žantovský on the preparation of the 1991 visit by President Václav Havel to the United States.

In an effort to promote closer cooperation between SVU and other American organizations with comparable aims, Slouka became a member of the governing boards of Charter 77 in New York and of the American Czech-and-Slovak Education Fund, as well as of the Center for Independent Journalism in Prague, established by a Foundation of The New York Times with which he cooperated. He also worked closely with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) and with the Institute of International Education in New York. In 1992, he was awarded a Silver Medal by Charles University and, in the same year, the Josef Hlávka Medal by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. With such credentials, no wonder that he was easily elected SVU President for the 1992-1994 term. Had it not been for his impaired health after a heart attack and massive heart surgery, Slouka would have been asked to serve for another term.

In recent years, Zdenek Slouka lived with his wife Blanka in Prague, fully immersed in the profession that was his first love—journalism. A member of the Editorial Board of *Literární noviny*, he also worked closely with *Lidové noviny* and with the weekly *Respekt*, writing mostly essays and commentaries. In 2009, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic published his personal memoir *Jdi po skryté stopě: lidské kroky krajinou exilu* (Follow the hidden trail: one man's journey across the landscape of exile). Zdenek Slouka's death is a great loss to SVU and to all of us, who were his close friends. (Source: Dr. Mila Rechcigl.)