

Minutes of the General Assembly

held Wednesday, 16 June 2010
14th International Dostoevsky Symposium
Napoli

Deborah Martinsen, IDS President, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the General Assembly meeting of the 14th International Dostoevsky Symposium. Stefano Aloe, IDS Secretary, made several announcements regarding the excursion to Capri. Deborah Martinsen then asked for a volunteer to collect photos of the Symposium for 1) the Russkij Mir Foundation, and 2) the archive that will be created for the IDS website. Igor' Volgin volunteered.

1) Thanks: for their contributions to the Symposium the President thanked:

- Rettorato dell'Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"; Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia dell'Università, Dipartimento di Studi dell'Europa orientale; Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici di Napoli; AIS – Associazione Italiana degli Slavisti, Associazione cultural "Berjzka-Betulla" di Verona, and the Russkij Mir Foundation
- Selection Committee members: Stefano Aloe, Michaela Böhmig, Marco Caratozzolo, Rosanna Casari, Nel Grillaert, Katalin Kroo, Tetsuo Mochizuki, Ulrich Schmid, Karen Stepanyan, William Mills Todd III, and Sarah Young
- Program Committee members: Stefano Aloe (Chair), Nikol Sekulich, Karen Stepanyan
- Advisory Council members for wise counsel: Robert Belknap, Malcolm Jones, Robin Feuer Miller, Rudolf Neuhauser, Richard Peace, Ulrich Schmid, Vladimir Zakharov
- Constitution Committee members: Malcolm Jones (Chair), Gary Rosenshield, and Ulrich Schmid, with special thanks to Ulrich, who made it possible for the IDS to become a legal, non-profit organization based in Switzerland

- National Representatives Committee members: Nel Grillaert (Chair), Tetsuo Mochizuki, Seamus O'Driscoll, Boris Tikhomirov, William Mills Todd III, Sarah Young
- Igor' Volgin, without whose help IDS would not have received funding from the Russky Mir Foundation
- Orgkomitet members: Walter Kaltenbacher, L. Tonini, Michella Venditti
- And, above all, to Michaela Böhmig & Stefano Aloe, Chairs of the orgkomitet and geroi obshchestvennogo truda

2) The Constitution: The President turned the floor over to Ulrich Schmid, who had prepared a handout in English (the original language of the Constitution) and Russian, which showed side-by-side the proposed changes. Ulrich explained that the changes to the Constitution were made for two basic reasons: 1) to meet the requirements of the Swiss government, and 2) to make the Constitution reflect current IDS practices. The original Constitution was written and approved in 1971 and amended only once in 1977.

Since the amended Constitution had not been circulated in advance of the Symposium, the President proposed that if there were objections to adopting the amended Constitution, the General Assembly would adopt it provisionally and amend it at the next Symposium. The President then asked whether there were any objections to the changes. There were none. The President then called for a vote. The General Assembly unanimously voted to adopt the amended Constitution.

3) *Dostoevsky Studies*: The President asked Horst-Jürgen Gerigk, Editor of *Dostoevsky Studies*, to discuss the journal. Horst-Jürgen explained that in the past we have had a subsidy for the journal but that the subsidy has now run out. While Stefano Aloe and Ulrich Schmid said that their Universities may be able to help with small subsidies to help publish the journal for the next two years, Horst-Jürgen asked members to help the journal find a sponsor. If anyone has any suggestions, they should send them to the President.

4) Treasurer's Report: Nel Grillaert reported that the IDS accounts are currently in balance but that they will only remain in balance if we can find some subsidy for *Dostoevsky Studies* as we go forward. She announced that dues will remain the same until the next Symposium.

5) National Representatives and Dues Committee Report: Nel Grillaert reported on the decisions made by the e-committee, which had discussed the problems of dues collection. The Committee determined that the IDS should create a new website based on the design of the new North American Dostoevsky Society website, which contains a Pay/Pal option. Once the new site is created (it should take about a year), IDS members will be informed about the new procedures. The President called for a vote to approve the creation of a new site. The site was unanimously approved.

[July 2011 update: the North American Dostoevsky Society agreed to pay for the creation of the new IDS site, which will use the same payment function as the NADS site. Special thanks to Seamus O'Driscoll, the NADS Treasurer and Webmaster for overseeing the site construction.]

The President presented Fatima Bianchi, the new National Representative from Brazil and President of the Brazilian Dostoevsky Society. Her appointment was unanimously approved.

6) The President reported that the Executive Committee had chosen Moscow as the site of the 15th International Dostoevsky Symposium. She reported that the initial proposal for a Symposium in Russia had been made at the 13th International Dostoevsky Symposium in Budapest by Nina Kaucisvili, an early IDS member and organizer of the IDS Symposium in Bergamo. The President had then consulted with Boris Tikhomirov, President of the Russian Dostoevsky Society, Vladimir Zakharov, Vice-President of the IDS and ZamDirector of the Rossiiskii Gumanitarnyi Nauchny Fond, and Igor' Volgin, President of the Fond Dostoevskogo in Moscow, all of whom had approved the proposal. The President presented this suggestion to the Executive Committee, who debated and approved the proposal. The Executive Committee also approved the following orgkomitet: Boris Tikhomirov, Karen Stepanyan, Igor' Volgin, and Vladimir Zakharov. The President called for a vote to approve the orgkomitet. The orgkomitet was unanimously approved.

The President gave special thanks to Vsevolod Bagno and Pushkinskii Dom for the offer of Symposium space in Petersburg, if the orgkomitet were able to hold the symposium in both Moscow and Petersburg. The Executive Committee reviewed his proposal and decided that based on

past experience, it would be better to hold the symposium in Moscow and to consider a symposium in St. Petersburg for the future.

The President gave the floor to Vladimir Zakharov, who announced that members of the orgkomitet had decided to ask her to chair the orgkomitet for the 15th International Dostoevsky Symposium. The President agreed and said that she would do her best.

7) The President announced elections. In both old and new Constitutions, the President, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer may serve for a term of three or six years. The President announced that both Stefano Aloe (Executive Secretary) and Nel Grillaert (Treasurer), despite the hard work of the past three years, had agreed to remain in office for another three years. The General Assembly unanimously approved their decision. The President thanked them and said she looked forward another term of collaboration.

The President announced that she too had decided to remain in office for another three years. The General Assembly unanimously voiced their approval.

The President nominated two new Vice-Presidents: Katalin Kroó, organizer of the 13th International Dostoevsky Symposium in Budapest, and Igor' Volgin, without whose help the IDS would not have received a substantial grant from the Russky Mir Foundation for the Symposium in Napoli. The General Assembly unanimously voted to elect both new Vice-Presidents. The President expressed her gratitude for their labors in recent years.

Finally, the President observed that under the terms of the new Constitution, the Society must have two auditors or *revizory*. She nominated Ulrich Schmid and his colleague Ilya Karenovich, both of whom had worked on obtaining legal status for the IDS. The General Assembly unanimously voted to elect both. The President thanked both Ulrich and Ilya for past and future services.

8) Announcement about the VKontakt website. The President presented Natalia Tarasova to announce the creation in 2008 of a social network devoted to Dostoevsky research and the Internet. For more information see the site at <http://vkontakte.ru>. If you have any problems accessing the

site, please contact either N.N. Podosokorskii (n.podosokorskiy@mail.ru) or N.A. Tarasova (natsova@mail.ru)

9) The President asked the assembled to remember the IDS members we have lost in the past three years: Boris Christa, Nina Kaucisvili, Geir Kjetsaa, and Rita Kleiman. Richard Peace spoke in memory of Boris Christa; Rosanna, Casari spoke in memory of Nina Kaucisvili, Robert L. Jackson spoke in memory of Geir Kjetsaa, and Natalia Ashimbaeva spoke in memory, of Rita Kleiman.

The President asked the assembled to observe a minute of silence as we remembered our deceased colleagues and thanked them in our hearts for all their contributions to our *obshchee delo*.

Finally, the President thanked everyone present for taking time to prepare papers and to participate in a wonderful symposium. She gave final thanks to Fedor Mikhailovich for bringing us all together every three years. After hearing an objection from the floor about the selection process, she called the meeting to a close.

Deborah Martinsen
President

Columbia University, New York