

Paris, 4 July 2014

Meeting of the GEECT Executive

Present	Marc Nicolas
	Nik Powell
	Bert Beyens
	Donald Taylor Black
Skype	Pavel Jech
Assisting	Christine Ghazarian

After an informal discussion over coffee on the topics of the agenda, the meeting started at 11 am.

The topics of the agenda were based on the ones discussed with Nik and Pavel in May, while they were both attending the Cannes Film Festival.

I. GEECT Elections

With the nomination of Ben Gibson in Australia, and Jan Schütte in Los Angeles, the conversation naturally continued with the recent changes in the top management of film schools in Europe, i.e. London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, and to the possible candidates for the up-coming elections.

The current situation is as follows: 3 seats are becoming available, one for the position of president position and two for executive members. Nik and Marc have done their 2 terms of 4 years, so they are no longer eligible. Donald, Bert and Pavel are still eligible and can all three put themselves up but Donald has only half a term of 2 years left, whereas Bert and Pavel can still do another 4 year term. Donald believes it is not a good idea to present his candidacy for a 2 year term, so he won't. Bert and Pavel can both apply so they have to confirm if they are interested or not. It would be good that the new President of GEECT is one of the current members of the executive. However a call for candidacies should be launched, and insist that members who apply for the position of the President are aware of the time consuming work it represents, which includes a regular contact with the members and mostly a lot of traveling to yearly GEECT meetings and conferences but also to CILECT ones, twice a year, in different parts of the globe. The formal call will be sent 6 weeks prior to the date of the GEECT General Assembly in LA so candidacies are presented to the members 4 weeks prior to the GA.

II. CILECT Executive Meetings

Within CILECT, in the other regions, elections should take place in Asia, North America and Africa. These changes in the regions, hence in the CILECT executive, might create more dialogue among the members of the board than it is the case today. Here again, in 2016, Maria Dora will finish her second term and a new president should step in. This time it should be a European one, and this is the reason why the new members of the GEECT executive should be carefully chosen because they can then be candidate for the position of CILECT presidency. In the meantime, Marc continues to « shake » the members of the CILECT executive in order to make things happen.

During the last two meetings, the one in Hangzhou in January and the recent one in Tel Aviv in May, there were always the same topics that were discussed:

- on-going debates about the new candidate members,
- a long discussion about the new website, which is actually pretty well done, and one of Stan's major achievements
- a rebirth of the publishing committee, similar to what it used to be, with a lot of pressure from Marc for introducing new names and faces. The idea is to read all the documents before they get published on the website, to establish a quality assessment, to include student material with their experience, their dissertations on a particular exercise, their exchanges with other film schools...

Different entries should be created so that different types of papers are published on the website. If this is well designed and organised, it could actually bring changes within CILECT itself. The choice of the curator is another important issue as he/she will be checking and selecting the documents to be published.

Professionals, teachers, students will be able to find valuable information on the member schools and their pedagogy.

The idea is to launch the new website at the congress in LA, show it on a big screen with some material already up-loaded from different film schools.

As agreed with Pavel, at 2 pm Paris time, a skype connection is made with him to discuss certain matters of the agenda, and in particular the GEECT elections.

Pavel announces that his term as dean of FAMU will end in 2 years, which means that if he applies for the President position, he will be in the same situation as Donald. At this stage, he does not know if he will be able to continue in the school as CILECT contact, which would allow him to put himself forward for a 4-year term.

He agrees with the other members of the board on the suggestions they have in mind and on the importance of a strong GEECT board for a healthy CILECT one.

Now with this new element regarding Pavel's status within his school, the main question is who will be candidate for GEECT presidency from the current members? Bert for 4 years? Pavel for 2 years? Donald not interested. To be continued...

III. Future GEECT conferences

2 proposals are made for 2015.

- 1) As discussed in Berlin 2013, Donald confirms the conference on production design that IADT Dublin will organise in spring 2015 over two days from 11 to 13 March. The content will slightly depend on what is being set up on "Pre-viz" in Los Angeles, since there will be some similarities. The best speaker Donald has in mind is Alex McDowell who has recently been appointed as one of the new chairs of the University of South California. Donald was impressed with his performance some years ago at a conference in Helsinki. If he is not attending LA and is ready to be the key speaker in Dublin, Donald will be more than happy to extend an official invitation.

Production design is not only making sets, it can also cover art direction, set design, visual effects, in some cases costume and make-up design. This can also have an influence on the type of workflow.

2/3 schools should be invited to present the exercises they do within their department.

Marc suggests that Jean-Vincent Puzos, the co-director of the department at La Fémis talks about his own experience from AMOUR in France to HERCULES in America. These presentations would also show the cultural differences related to the schools and the countries they are based in. Visual effects could also be included, either partly or fully as production design. Top people from Paris, London and other places could come and there

will be a lot of discussions on who teaches what and how. It would be interesting to hear the experience of a school who does not teach production design, and how they work without it.

- 2) The second proposal comes from the Sam Spiegel school in Jerusalem who would be interested in hosting a best-kept secret conference later in 2015 on 2 topics that could be related: what do we do with our alumni, and why we make feature length films? Renen's idea was to host this conference for the 25th anniversary of the school in March. Since the spring slot was not available because of the conference in Dublin, 2 other dates were proposed by him in July around the Jerusalem Film Festival and the Jerusalem Film Lab, in-between Dublin in March and Munich in the autumn. Among the 2 dates, the best one would be 7 to 9 July, before the Festival and the Lab.

It is again a very good topic because schools relate very differently with their alumni. Do they gather them into an association? Do they show their films? What kind of events do they organise with a view to create a stepping stone for their career; mentorship events, graduations events, other types of meetings? How do they track their alumni and their work? The making of a feature length film could then be one example of how schools deal with the mentoring of their alumni. In the States, schools donate funding to the schools they have been attending. Again there will be lots of discussions to cover the cultural and sociological aspects of the relations film schools maintain with their alumni.

All the topics being covered, the meeting ended at 4.30 pm