

AEA-Europe General Assembly

Meeting Notes

Friday 6 November 2020

Welcome and Minutes

JE welcome everyone to the GA 2020.

Minutes of the General Assembly, 2019

No comments – taken as a correct version

Council Inaugurations

New President – JE's honour and pleased to inaugurate Christina Wikstrom as the new President of AEA-Europe, the new Vice President and Therese Hopfenbeck and new Council member - Elena Papanastasiou who takes over Chair of the Professional Development Committee

JE thanked Rolf immensely for all his work as he steps down. AEA-Europe will miss you and your knowledge of where the good beer places are! Thanks for all your help, support and all your hard work.

JE thanked Stuart Shaw for his help with the SPC.

JE handed over to CW to chair the rest of the meeting.

CW said it has been a pleasure shadowing Jannette for the last two years. She has done such important work for the Association, especially preparing for this Festival. CW looks forward to working with Therese as the new VP.

Annual Report

President's Report

JE reported that it has been a strange year, never would we have envisaged a global pandemic in 2020. While we were optimisticly working with our Dublin colleagues, we hoped the conference would go ahead but by April/May it became obvious it wasn't going to happen and therefore we had to make the decision, with regards to duty of care and responsibility of the council, to cancel the conference in Dublin.

We had a year of elections and people joining the council, helping us grow, with representatives from Malta, Cyprus, UK, Sweden, Czech Republic – a good spread of colleagues from across Europe.

Lastly Jannette wished Christina all the very best for the next two years.

Christina noted that at Lisbon last year, we made a comfortable and healthy profit. We wanted to do something online, and give something back to the Members, so we used the money to set up the Festival for free. Our sponsors also helped with the finances to set up the online festival so want to thank them very much also.

The website was another investment as we felt the old one wasn't working effectively and we wanted to be more online and part of our communication strategy. This will help increase our members – new types of membership strategy.

Going forward, starting to work with EasyConferences, who will support us with our membership and finance system.

Having the festival open to Members has really helped increase our members. This helps the Association grow and support other work and keep the membership involved.

We've had some great webinars through the SIG. First time in 21 years we haven't been together but everyone has taken to the festival fantastically and was a positive thing for us to do.

It has been a turbulent year but JE handing over the Association in fantastic shape.

Secretariat activities

Alex stated that it is a short report for an unusual year. All support has been going on as usual, eg, elections, improving our systems, membership database work and general support of the committees.

Alex thanked Linda Wye who has been doing a lot of important work over this period of time during the pandemic.

Membership numbers can be found in the annual report. There was a slight increase overall. Good news in line with the strategic objectives – a good result given this year's issues.

No governance changes – new people taking roles but organization of the Association in terms of committees remains over the last year.

Publication Committee activities

Debbie Chetcuit thanked JE for supporting the PC in this new venture, especially of the website. Council members are eager to support the venture. Also, a big thank you to the members of the PC for working so hard to get the website and SIG events running.

The new website is now up and running, there have been some hitches, but the main idea for the website is that it is a tool for communication for the members of the Association.

We would like to hear your feedback on the website with a view to it becoming more user friendly. We will continue to update and improve the website – work in progress.

DC thanked Dave Shipston from Big Pg for the design and development and finding solutions to the hitches we came across.

We have improved social media comms through Twitter and Facebook. Suggested we try LinkedIn – so will explore this option.

Association blog – another tool for communication.

We now to keep it alive and updated with members ideas etc.

Regarding SIGs, DC thanked Lesley Wiseman who helped organized the very successful events at the online festival, which is an important part of the Association. E-Assessment SIG has continued to grow and the Cultures SIG had a successful launch at the online conference.

Christina thanked Debbie for her hard work.

Scientific Programme Committee activities

Stuart Shaw reported the SPC activities on behalf of Andrej Novik. He thanked JE for her support for the SPC and explaining that one of the SPC co-chairs links with the Council and the other co-chair links with the COC – important.

The primary responsibility is to ensure the production for a quality programme for the conference. Organisation was started very early this year to construct a balanced and innovative programme for Dublin.

Due to the pandemic and the face to face conference being cancelled it fell to the SPC to construct a programme for an online event. We wanted to capture something of the essence of an actual conference so came up with a Festival, which has been largely successful, thanks to all of the members of the Association.

Work begins in earnest next year looking at considerations for the programme in Jan/Feb 2021. None of last years submissions have been reviewed so we start from the beginning with those.

It's important that we get more reviewers for next year. We had a small group of reviewers who worked hard on proposals. We would like to ask more people to volunteer to review so if you know anyone who would like to review, we would be grateful.

Stuart said goodbye to JE and look forward to working with CW.

Christina remarked on the massive amount of work for SS and reviewers, carrying a large load of work for preparing for the festival, thank you.

Professional Development Committee activities

Rolf Vegar Olsen reported that this is his last duty in the Council. It hasn't been a normal year and activity has been minimal. We have processed 2 accreditations – 1 x Associate and 1 x Practitioner, and there is 1 more to be processed which is in progress.

We have found a worthy winner of the KTNRA for 2020.

Regarding Framework for Standards, it is an ambition to have a revision of this but so far no real progress – this needs a new look at what we would like to achieve.

Rolf thanked everyone who he has been involved with and especially JE's kind support over the last 4 years. He was grateful to Elena Papanastasiou stepping into the role and is very confident she will take the committee further. Thanks to Linda who supports the committee.

CW thanked Rolf, who will be missed. Nice to have new members but sad when people are leaving.

Report on Accounts

(Add Cor's presentation)

Cor reported that 2019, from a financial point of view, was a good year.

We have the unresolved problem with uncollectable debtors and have increased the number of approaches to ask them to pay their membership fees. This problem was higher in 2019 compared to 2018. Congratulations to IAVE in Lisbon as this conference had the highest number of attendees ever – 343! Which, also led to the highest surplus ever. IAVE, as an organization, couldn't ask for an organization fee so this increased the conference profits substantially.

The 2020 budget, with the Covid-19 issues, we had to change the prognosis as there would be no Conference revenue. However, expenditure was much less than in a normal year. The Council only met once in London face to face will lead to a higher deficit once online festival costs are included.

There were much higher costs for the website than normal due to the necessary refurbishment. Dave Shipston from Big Pig has done a marvelous job with the website and the PC.

Cor thanked the Audit Committee: Graham Hudson, Faziliat and Sebastiaan de Klerk.

The General Assembly to approve the accounts: Graham Hudson thanked Cor for the extremely detailed and careful way he looks after the accounts. He covered some of the points Cor has raised and the Council will take these up for future policy. All finances were examined in detail, current years performance and looking ahead. We were satisfied and everything is in order.

Accounts approved.

CS thanked the committee members. Members happy to stay on the committee but after 3 terms we are looking at new members.

CS also thanked JE for all her wonderful work, and Rolf, great to have you on the Council for 4 years. Welcome to the new members/family so to speak.

Dublin 2021

The Dublin conference will take place in the first week in November. Lot of preparation has already been done and the theme will be the same, however we may broaden it to include change and challenge related to Covid-19.

There will be consideration as part of the planning and will be prudent to think ahead of how we can proceed with the conference if we are in the same position next year, as we are this year, with a hybrid blended option in our thinking.

Moscow 2022

We are in contact with colleagues in Mosco and will continue to plan with 2022 but be financially cautious.

Resolutions from Members

To consider any other resolutions received from members – NONE RECEIVED

Any Other Business

It was raised that we would like PhD students to be more active in the Association. If anyone has any suggestions, let us know throughout the year, encourage members to be active, via the Secretariat.