

AEA-Europe General Assembly

Meeting Notes

Friday 15 November 2019
Sana Lisboa Hotel, Lisbon, Portugal
Room: Castelo 1-2

Welcome and Minutes

JE welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments from the GA minutes from last year. No comments.

Council Inaugurations

JE noted that during the year Gill Stewart had to step down as Council member due to a family matter. An election took place and two people, Matthew Glanville and Deborah Chetcuti stood. Deborah was duly elected and she will join from today. Unfortunately she can't be in Lisbon but will become the Chair of the Publications Committee taking over from Gill.

Annual Report

Forthcoming Council vacancies and elections

Next year, Rolf Vegar Olsen will be stepping down from the Council. Therefore, we will be looking for a new Council member who will take responsibility for the Professional Development Committee and also a Vice President/President elect. JE encouraged everyone to think about the roles and to come and discuss with council members if they are interested.

We have had some correspondence with members about undelivered emails and we are concerned that peoples' firewalls are tight. We also are not sure if Corporate Member's contact details are correct. All named contacts are required to forward on any email from AEA-Europe to their colleagues who they think will be interested.

AEA-Europe will take forward how we, with corporate members, can have more than one person identified as a contact person. We will be contacting everyone about that soon.

Secretariat activities

Secretariat to report

Alex Scharaschkin reported that there is a slight increase in membership numbers; 136 in 2019, corporate up from 35 to 38. Many attendees are represented by their corporate membership. Student members have increased this year also.

As JE has already mentioned, we now organize our activities with each council member having a clear lead responsibility, ie, Chair or co-Chair for the main committees.

Publication committee activities

Lesley Wiseman gave everyone an update from the Publications Committee; the committee was very sorry to lose Gill who was a fantastic chair. They are now 4 members; Lesley Wiseman, Mary Richardson, Debbie Chetcuti and Amina Afiff. The PC have continued the streams of work that Gill set up with Amina doing the newsletter which enriches the content of the website, Mary works on social media and Lesley on the SIG's – all going very well.

Scientific Programme Committee activities

Andrej Novik reported that the SPC was co-chaired by Stuart Shaw and himself with the main task to provide a timely programme. They have also received help from Nico Dieteren who has recently joined the SPC. We now have more people and have more power for the next conferences.

Jannette Elwood added that this year submissions had increased which in turn created more work. The SPC were very busy but produced a programme of excellent quality. Stuart Shaw reiterated that we do need more reviewers for future conferences and would welcome as many people as possible to volunteer so we can send out a smaller allocation to each person.

Professional development activities

Rolf Vegar Olsen report that the PDC comprises of Stephanie Berger, Andrew boyle, Bas Hemker, Elena Papanastasiou. They have accredited 1 Associate, 12 Practitioners and 3 Fellows this year, and thanked the applicants for their precise applications. Some progress has been made on developing the Standards, which they hope to have more information on in Dublin. Bas has written a chapter on this and we will link it to the webpage.

The PDC met in Lisbon to discuss how the Association could progress more professional development activities and will take to the council soon.

Rolf thanked Andrew Boyle, now stepping down, for his support over the last 6 years and welcomed Shakeh Manessian who will be taking over Andrew's seat. Also, thank you Stephanie who has worked with the PDC over the last few years. We are now looking for a replacement for Stephanie.

Report on Accounts

Cor Sluijter gave the this presentation to members updating them on the Association's financial affairs.

Cor thanked the Audit Committee, Graham Hudson, Sebastiaan de Klerk and Faziliat Saddiq, and then asked the GA to approve the accounts. Graham Hudson thanked Sebastiaan and Fazilat, and to Cor, for the care and very detailed accounts that he keeps. The Audit Committee have complete confidence in the verifying the accounts.

Accounts – confirmed.

Cor thanked Graham for his 3 year term and for being a great help a big support.
We now need more volunteers – looking for a new committee member. Contact Cor for more info.

Proposals to the GA

Cor Sluijter announced 2 proposals to the GA which was circulate before the conference:

1. New membership structure
2. Conference fee structure

There was some discussion about the new pay structures:

Nico Dieteren asked for clarification regarding the membership and conference fees. The new structure is not helping with the problem that people only join for 1 year to get a reduced rate for the conference? AEA-Europe have increased the gap between member and non-member in conference fees which might help this issue.

Taking advice from audit committee to use indexing, to clarify, that voting on proposal to (i) apply inflationary uplift for next year's fees; and (ii) come back to reconsider annually.

Guri Nortvedt raised the problem of payment: if you pay by bank transfer or credit card there is a fee which is expensive. PayPal might not be an option for everybody. CS will take this as an amendment to the proposal.

Graham Hudson explained that it is a real shame people don't pay their fees. The AEA-Europe conference is value for money, compared to other conferences.

Damian Murchan reported that without a raise in the conference fee AEA-Europe will not be able to host the conference in attractive locations which will not help increase membership and attendance. Also it is a risk as it will become increasingly less attractive to cities/local organisers to want to run the conference. Unless we increase fees we won't attract good cities. Costs seem justified.

Alex summarized the discussion.

ACTION: to effect changes for 2020. To take into account Guri's comments and action them. To consider Tim's suggestion and bring back any revision for next year's GA.

Jannette asked members to vote on the 2 proposals.

Both votes carried forward.

Actions to bring back for the next GA but both votes carried forward.

Future conferences

The 2020 conference will take place in Dublin, Dún Laoghaire, near the sea.

For 2021 we received a very strong application from colleagues in Moscow from a keen and enthusiastic team. Russian colleagues have been key members of the Association from 2012 and they are really excited about bringing the conference to Moscow. It will be an intriguing and interesting city to visit.

We will be putting out requests for 2022 and 2023 so please speak to someone in the council if you are interested.

Jannette Elwood recognised George MacBride and thanked him for all his support, his meticulous eye and attention to detail – he will be missed.

No resolutions received from members.

No AOB.

Jannette Elwood thanked the members for their continued commitment to the association.