
AEA-Europe General Assembly

Friday 4th November 2016

St Raphael Resort, Limassol, Cyprus

NOTE OF MEETING [DRAFT: UNCONFIRMED]

1. Welcome and minutes

Guri Nortvedt (GN) opened the meeting and welcomed members to it. No resolutions or issues had been raised by members in advance of the meeting. The minutes of the 2015 General Assembly in Glasgow were approved with no changes.

2. Inauguration of new President, Vice President and Council Member.

Thierry Rocher (TR) was welcomed to the President role and will share responsibilities with Guri for remainder of conference. Jannette Elwood (JE) was welcomed to the Vice President role and Rolf Vegar Olsen (RVO) was welcomed to the Council Member role.

3. Annual Report 2016

a. Forthcoming Council vacancies and elections – TR noted that there would be no elections until 2018 when the Council will require a new Vice President.

b. Membership

Alex Scharaschkin (AS) reported that AEA-Europe currently has 200 members, made up of 151 Individual, 41 Corporate and 8 Student, reflecting the aim to widen the membership to incorporate other European countries.

c. Committee work

Guri explained that Antonella Poce and Stuart Shaw finished their terms this year and thanked them for their work. RVO will now become Chair of the Professional Development Committee. Thanks were extended to Bas Hemker who stepped in and helped with the PDC during the summer. There is now a vacancy on the PDC and a call

for this will be made after the conference. [*Post-meeting note*: the position has now been filled by Ruth Johnson and Elena Papanastasiou]

GN informed the GA that there were a number of accreditations this year and noted that a mistake had been made regarding an accreditation on the Annual Report 2016 but this is now updated with the new version posted on the website.

The PhD student event at the Limassol conference was a success and GN thanked Stephanie Berger for her help in organizing this.

The GA were informed that the format of poster session had been updated for this year's conference.

Gill Stewart (GS) updated the GA on the Publications Committee activities. The committee is now at full strength and have been reviewing the role of the committee with a view to enhancing the social media strategy, with Daniel Xerri, revamping the website in conjunction with AQA and improving the newsletter with a new Editor, Amina Afif. SIGs are also being developed and the PC are hoping to receive suggestions on topics.

d. The Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award

Sebastian de Klerk was recognized as the winner of this year's Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award. Nominations for the 2017 New Researcher Award will be invited in the New Year.

e. Accounts

Cor Sluijter (CS) presented the [attached slides] to the GA including a report on 2015 financial matters and a Business Plan for 2016-2018. The Audit Committee met on 3rd November 2016. Christina Wilkstrom (CW) and George McBride (MMB) attended. CW reported that the Committee was happy that the accounts gave a true and fair view. Proposals were discussed for investments and budget for 2017-18 with no objections. Some minor suggestions were made to improve the presentation for accruing conference income, etc, in the accounts. For example, present the conference expenditure as net figure to see the reasons for any surplus/deficit. Overall it was agreed that AEA-Europe is in a stable situation and that there is enough reserve for the next 1½ years.

It was noted that JE cannot continue her role on the Audit Committee due to her new role as VP on the Council. CS invited volunteers to work on Audit Committee and Graham Hudson agreed to fill the vacancy.

It was resolved that there would be no changes in fees.

Members agreed and accepted the business plan.

4. Website

AS informed the GA that there has been ongoing discussions regarding rebuilding the website due the need for better functionality for members and the Secretariat. After some discussion it was resolved that AEA-Europe will need to redevelop the website as soon as possible. Members agreed that the Council should make provision for up to €15k for this work (but hoped that it might be done for c. €10k).

5. Student memberships

It was agreed that students will be required to renew their memberships annually otherwise they will lapse.

6. Constitution

CS briefed the GA that the legally registered version of the Association's constitution is the Dutch version, created when the Association was founded in the Netherlands. Since then some changes have been made to the English version. These need to be reflected in the official Dutch version. Resolved: that changes to the Constitution are ratified in the Dutch version.

7. Future conferences

There was a discussion regarding creating a mobile 'App' for next year's conference in Prague and it was agreed that if we can do this without financial consequence (by not printing the big programme book) then this would be welcome. Some issues were noted; firewall issues for devices from work; and it would be helpful if the small programme book could remain (though perhaps in a less glossy format). Very few of the large books were

actually taken this year – we will evaluate after conference. Resolved – to investigate and produce an app if neutral in budgetary terms.

The structure of the conference was discussed and the Council will survey members about different options and get feedback in other ways.

Call for future conferences – some informal meetings took place during the Cyprus conference. Post conference a formal email with more details will be circulated to members.

8. Standards framework

Many questions were raised regarding the Standards Framework, eg, is it used widely? What would the costs be of revising it? What is the value of it? How easy is it to use? Should it be compared to other 'standards'? It was felt important to have a Standards Framework but it was suggested that a small study should take place to answer some of these questions and a decision whether to revise it or not will be made at the next GA. Paul Newton volunteered to chair the study on the current use of the standards framework.

Resolved: to investigate current use of standards framework, and what would be the value and cost of revising.

9. Resolutions from members

The meeting closed with a special thank you from members to Guri Norvedt, for all her hard work and support for the Association over many years, most latterly in the role of President.

10. AOB

There was no other business.