

## **AGA MINUTES 1999**

### **Minutes from the Fifth Annual General Assembly of the European Educational Research Association**

#### **24TH SEPTEMBER 1999**

The fifth Annual General Assembly of the European Educational Research Association was held at the Centre for Continuing Education, Fellmanni Congress Centre, on 24th September 1999 at 13.30. Approximately 50 people were present.

#### **Minutes**

Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Assembly held at the University of Ljubljana on 19th September 1998 were available and these were agreed as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

#### **Report from the President and the Secretary General**

The secretary General gave a report of activities over the previous year. Work had been done on two fronts:

##### *a) Internal organisation:*

#### **Website**

Much work was done to improve the EERA website, in particular links with European Educational Research Associations sites.

Various documents went on the website clarifying the following:

- EERA Policy on Refereeing
- ECER Presentation Policy
- Cross-Network Symposia at ECER2000
- ECER2000 Programme Committee
- Network Organisation

It is expected that these papers will be translated by members of the Executive Committee and published on the EERA website at a later date. The papers will be developed and improved when necessary.

#### **EERA General Regulations**

The General Regulations of EERA have to be revised and they will be presented at the next Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh at ECER2000.

#### **Organisation of ECER**

Various points of concern were raised by Network Convenors. It was noted that the underlying problems had arisen only during this last year and were related to problems in the office and the tight finance within ECER. Communications with Convenors will be improved.

Efforts will also be made to communicate with past ECER participants on a regular basis.

*b) External organisation*

There are plans to improve communications with local organising committees and work out a general agreement between local organising committees and EERA.

EERA also wishes to develop relationships with governmental and non governmental bodies. In particular, an attempt was made to enter into the Fifth Frame work bid. This was unsuccessful.

A meeting was arranged by Vetnet with a Senior Official at UNESCO in Paris was more successful. It is hoped that the President and the Secretary General will be invited at a meeting in Paris for further talks.

To enable all members of the National Associations to read the EER, it has been agreed that the journal will be published on the website to facilitate access.

**Report from the Treasurer**

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the 12 months to December 1998 and these were accepted. It was noted that there was a drop in income and a deficit of £3,200 for 1998. The treasurer explained that the main source of income is the Annual Conference and that the number of participants had declined: between 500 and 600 for 1998 and 1999 when 700 are needed to break even.

Michel Caillot raised two points about the financial statement:

- a. he thought that expenditures were too high, in particular website expenditures
- b. that the amount of reserve was excessive and that EERA should either decrease membership fees or offer more to members.

The Treasurer pointed out that if members knew of cheaper alternatives she would welcome alternative proposals in writing.

The Treasurer also mentioned that professional advice had been taken concerning the level of reserves necessary for EERA to be a creditworthy organisation under Scots law, and that the sum of £45,000 had been recommended to ensure the continuity of EERA in the event of less successful conferences.

Martin Lawn also mentioned that this amount will be used to hire rooms for ECER2000 and that there is in fact very little money available.

Martin Mulder suggested that small budgets could also be allocated to networks once a surplus had been established.

All these suggestions will be considered during the coming year.

**Report on Membership**

It was noted that membership was as follows:

- 147 individual members against 154 last year
- 12 Associations (no change since last year)
- 26 Institutes against 33 last year.

Questions were raised about the status of individual members who, according to the present Constitution of EERA, do not have a vote and whose views are therefore not represented. These members do not have any feedback either on the various developments of EERA.

It was agreed that ways should be found to involve all individual members, it was suggested that the minutes of the AGA should be published on the website.

### **Report on the Programme of ECER99**

The ECER99 Profile of participants by country was tabled by Julia Davidson. A general discussion followed about representation. It was noticed that Finland had the highest number of participants with 145, the UK (England, Scotland and Wales) came in second place with 111 participants. It is hoped that Scotland will also provide a high number of participants in 2000.

The small attendance from Southern Europe was noticed and commented upon. Efforts should be made to help poorer associations (Italy) to participate in EERA.

### **Report from the EER editor**

Martin Mulder made the following points:

The European Education Researcher is undergoing a process of transformation:

- The Editorial Board is very active
- A new Assistant Editor was nominated
- There are one or two vacancies as book editors. Rae Stark is standing down from this role.
- More links have been created with networks and better communications are being developed.  
A new link will be created with member associations, one person per association should be nominated to correspond with the editor of EER.
- Policy papers are being produced (aims, guidelines, etc.)
- Plans for future direction include a stronger European focus but language may be an issue.

### **Future direction of EERA - open discussion**

The following points were discussed:

- ECER2000 in Edinburgh
- Southern Europe
- The issue of individual membership
- Relation with EARLI and other associations such as the new European Association for Educational Assessment.

### **ECER2000**

Brian Morris gave a short report on the organisation of ECER2000:

This event will be a joint EERA/SERA venture. 800 to 1,000 participants are expected. A working group is already in place, this group will be extended. There will be an emphasis on European educational issues with a space available for Scottish views. The accommodation (for the conference and residential) had been secured, early booking is advised. Sponsorships will be sought for various events. An outline of the programme is available.

Social spaces will be incorporated within the programme at Edinburgh. International organisations in Edinburgh (consulates and various international cultural bodies) will be contacted with a view to maximising international attendance and to help with social events.

### **SOUTHERN EUROPE AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS**

It was noted that many new research associations are being created in Europe and questions were raised about the usefulness of such diversity.

The president remarked that the mission of EERA is pro-active and that relationships with other associations (e.g. Comparative Educational Society) are to be encouraged.

Attempts have already been made to try to organise a joint conference with EARLI. Two options were mentioned:

- since EARLI only takes place every two years, conferences could be jointly organised with EERA.
- or EERA could have their conference every two years alternating with EARLI.

As far as Southern Europe is concerned, it was thought that the poor attendance may have to do with language policy rather than finance. This was an urgent issue for the Council.

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

It was reminded that EERA is primarily an Association of Associations which gives rise to many problems:

- Members of national associations do not always know that they are also members of EERA.
- Since individual members do not have a vote at the Annual General Assembly they are not informed enough nor are they involved in the developments taking place within the organisation of EERA.

It was decided that ways would have to be found to involve individual members to participate more actively.

### **ORGANISATION OF ECER**

Daniel Kallos made three suggestions:

- EERA should allow symposium to take place in languages other than English
- The Executive Committee should invite member associations to a meeting on the occasion of the conference.
- There should be more discussions to encourage co-operation with others.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chris Day would welcome a written report about the work of the members of EERA Executive Committee. This report could be published on the website.

### **EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS FOR 2000/2003**

Professor Arturo de la Orden (Sociedad Espanola de Pedagogia) was renominated

Prof. Dr J M Pieters was nominated by the Dutch Educational Association

Dr Marjan Setinc was nominated by the Pedagoski Institute in Ljubjana, Slovenia

Prof. Stephen Stoer was nominated by the Faculdade de Psicologia e d Ciencias da Educacao, Portugal.

A nomination is expected from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft in October to replace D Lenzen.

The Assoc. de la Economía de la Educación are still to nominate a person.

The meeting closed at 15.00 p.m.