

AGA MINUTES 2004

1. Welcome

The President welcomed representatives from the national associations and institutes and individual delegates to the AGA.

2. President's Report

Since ECER 2003, Council has welcomed the following new members: Edwin Keiner who is the Network Convenor representative, Denis Bates from the Educational Studies Association of Ireland and Donald Christie from the Scottish Educational Research Association. Wim Jochems has replaced Jules Pieters as EERA Treasurer. The President thanked Wim for his work in finalising the budget for ECER 2004.

The President and President Elect recently met the EARLI President, Prof. Filip Dochy, for the first time and Prof. Dochy was invited to participate at the EERJ Roundtable during ECER 2004

The President was pleased to report that in recent years EERA has become stronger and is increasingly recognised by the EU. The AGA has also evolved and is now a forum for informing delegates of EERA's activities.

3. Secretary General's Report

The Secretary General reported that ECER 2004 was a well-attended and successful conference. She thanked the President for his early negotiations with the University of Crete as well as the Network Convenors, Postgraduate Convenor and mentors, EERA Office, local organising committee, Crete hotel association, sponsors and student helpers for their hard work. ECER 2005 will be hosted by University College Dublin. ECER 2006 will be held at the University of Geneva.

The re-building of the EERA Office since ECER 2001 was reported. The office is now stable with high quality teamwork, a new conference database, new bank accounts and a new website. The networks function well and there is increased dialogue between Council and Network Convenors. There is also high quality reviewing and reporting on conference sessions.

4. Treasurer's Report

Inadequate financial management in the past has resulted in EERA's current weak financial position. Most of EERA's income depends on the number of delegates attending ECER. The problem is that the number of delegates can vary each year, for example, from 750 in 2003 to 1100 in 2004. Costs have also increased by 20% in the last two years. Council must therefore introduce the following measures: analysing and reducing costs by 20%, developing a new financial model to offset the uncertainty of the final number of delegates, increasing income. At the end of 2004 there will be a small positive result of €50,000, which is not enough to finance the first half of 2005.

5. EERJ Report

The EERJ has established itself as a solid journal with high quality papers. Closer links have also been forged between the journal, ECER and the Networks. Subscription is free and there are currently over 800 subscribers in 74 countries. The majority of subscribers are in UK, USA, Germany, Spain and France. It is hoped that over the next few years an integrated database can be developed with the national associations.

6. Network Convenors' Report

Edwin Keiner thanked the Convenors who guarantee the success of ECER. The list of Convenor responsibilities has been updated and the networks have been asked to make their descriptors more precise. It is pleasing that the Postgraduate network, which is EERA's future, continues to grow each year. For ECER 2005 the Open Network will be re-introduced for individual papers, which do not meet the existing network themes.

7. Discussion of Reports

Thanks were offered to the Secretary General, EERA Office and Kyriaki Doumas.

8. Handing over Presidency to Ingrid Gogolin

Sincere thanks were offered to Michel Caillot for his term as President. EERA is delighted that Ingrid Gogolin has agreed to take over from him. Ingrid thanked Michel for a successful period of Presidency that has seen both ECER and EERA grow.

9. EERA Middle-Term Programme

The new President's middle-term objectives are to promote quality educational research, to make EERA more visible in Europe and to continue the smooth co-operation and partnership between the Convenors and Council.

Martin Lawn spoke on the European Research Infrastructure project to develop integrated communication software for European researchers. Ingrid reported on the lecture given by Alexander Botte on the initiative to create a European Social Science Citation Index.

Delegates were invited to think about the possible creation of a new network on the central field of didactics. If there is sufficient interest, Council will support the development of such a network.

10. Future ECERs

On behalf of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland, Denis Bates invited delegates to ECER 2005 at University College Dublin on 7-10 September.

ECER 2006 will be hosted by the University of Geneva at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences from 13-16 September. The local organising committee will begin planning in October 2004 and will propose a theme for the conference.