

# Minutes of the EERA Annual General Assembly

University College Dublin  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2005

## 1. Welcome

The President welcomed those present to the AGA in which the aim is to report on the year's activities as well as present news of future developments.

## 2. Further items for the agenda

No further items.

## 3. President's Report

The President reported that the Post-graduate Pre-Conference had proved very successful and received 120 attendees. The participation of so many young researchers was a very positive signal for EERA's development. Warm thanks were offered to Kyriaki Doumas for her years of commitment and energy to the Post-graduate Network. Following ECER 2005, the role of Post-graduate Network Convenor passes to Elena Zezlina-Phillips, who will be assisted by Daniela Angela Mangione. A presentation was made to Kyriaki.

The Main Conference had also been a great success, with around 1100 delegates and a large number of presentations. Ingrid thanked the two Keynote speakers who had both attracted a large audience. Sincere thanks were conveyed to Prof. Sheelagh Drudy, Chair of the local organising committee, Ailish Doyle, the conference administrator and staff of University College Dublin Education Department, including Marie Clarke, Dymphna Devine, Conor Galvin, Judith Harford and William Kinsella. The cooperation of Denis Bates and his colleagues at the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) was also appreciated. The EERA office staff and Network Convenors were also thanked for their hard work and contribution to the conference organisation.

The President was pleased to report that the past year has seen a consolidation of EERA's financial situation and a greater visibility of EERA and ECER. This year has also seen the first award for the best Pre-Conference paper and the winning paper will be published in the EERJ. Applicants for this year's best Pre-Conference paper award were encouraged to submit their full papers to the EERA office until the end October.

Another development has been the first Summer School, organised by EERA and the German Association of Educational Research (DGfE), which will be held in the last week of September. Shortly after the Summer School announcement, more than 140 applications were received for only 90 places. The President reported that the Nordic association has already expressed an interest in collaborating with EERA for a similar activity. It is hoped that this can become a regular event which EERA can provide for young researchers.

## 4. Secretary General's Report

The out-going Secretary General reiterated the President's appreciation of the work of the local organising committee. She also thanked those she had worked with during her term of office - the office staff, Sarah Brown, Terri Freeman, Nan Lawless and Lesley Morrison, current and past Presidents, Ingrid Gogolin and Michel Caillot, current and past Treasurers, Wim Jochems and Jules Pieters, Council members and Network Convenors and Kyriaki Doumas for her enthusiasm in establishing the Post-graduate Network and for building a team who will be able to preserve her work.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that progress has been made with the budget over the last year. There was a positive result at the end of the year 2004 due to the large number of delegates who attended Crete and the introduction of the "Glasgow-model" which defines the amount of money available for ECER based on the final number of paying delegates. The balance at the end of 2004 was €92,300 (audited figure) and the estimated balance at the end of 2005 will be about €122,000. The aim is to have a targeted balance of €150,000 (a 50% reserve-to-annual expenses ratio).

In the proposal for ECER fees 2006, the Early-Bird reduction will continue to encourage early registrations which are useful for predicting the overall number of delegates. A sum of €15 will be built into the conference fee to provide registered delegates with free access to the EERJ for one year. The archives will remain free of charge. People who do not attend the conference can still gain access to the current year of the journal by paying a similar small fee direct to the publisher. There will be a considerable difference between member and non-member fees in order to promote participation in national associations.

Membership fees for 2006 will not be increased. As EERA is an association of associations, only association memberships will be permitted from 2006 onwards. Individual and Institutional membership will cease. In countries where there is no national association, assistance will be provided in the form of accession membership. There will also be the option of becoming an annual sponsor of EERA. Sponsors would be identified on the website but would not be entitled to a reduced conference fee. Spain, Portugal and New Zealand will be upgraded to high GDP status. The only countries entitled to the low GDP reduction are those in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. This is also the case for ECER fees.

There were no questions on the proposals for conference and membership fees and both proposals were approved.

## 6. EERJ Report

Martin Lawn reported that there has been a considerable increase in the number of downloads from the journal, from 6000 in 2003, to 30,000 in 2004 and the number should be between 70,000 and 80,000 in 2005. It was pleasing to note that an online journal was acting as a major European educational resource. The number of unsolicited papers is rising, as is the number of papers dealing with core issues of the journal.

## 7. Network Convenors' Report

On behalf of the Convenors, Edwin Keiner thanked Margaret Kirkwood and Kyriaki Doulas for their commitment and contribution to EERA during their terms of office. Ian Grosvenor will assume the role of Convenor representative in Geneva.

In the last year the networks have worked to smooth procedures. The Open Network has been re-established to house topics not covered by any existing networks, such as classroom research and statistics. As the Open Network has worked well this year, it will operate for ECER 2006. Convenors hope the new website will provide them with an additional communication platform.

## 8. Discussion of Reports

Thanks were offered to Margaret Kirkwood, Kyriaki Doulas and the office staff.

A general point was raised that there was a more marked lack of people of colour at ECER this year.

## **9. Handing over the office of Secretary General**

Sincere thanks were offered to Margaret Kirkwood for her successful term as Secretary General which has seen both EERA and ECER grow. Lisbeth Lundahl from Umeå University was welcomed as the new Secretary General.

## **10. EERA Middle-Term Programme**

With the backing of the President and Council, a working group chaired by Brian Hudson has been formed to look at the possibility of creating a new network on Didactics. The group will prepare a symposium for ECER 2006 on the development of the network and discussions will begin in Geneva. Ingrid invited anyone interested in the development to contact her.

During ECER, two meetings with publishers took place to discuss the possibility of developing a European educational research database. Although it would start in English, it is hoped it would eventually develop to include non-English texts. It is hoped that a proposal can be submitted to the EU for funding for the development of the database, together with a tool for quality verification which reflects the specificity of European research and publications.

## **11. ECER 2006 Geneva and Future ECERs**

Ingrid de Saint-Georges and Bernard Schneuwly from the Geneva organising committee reported that preparations are already underway for next year's conference. ECER 2006 will be jointly organised by the Swiss Society for Research in Education and the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at the University of Geneva. The Post-graduate Pre-Conference will be held on 11-12 September and the Main Conference will be on 13-16 September.

The theme for the Keynotes and invited symposia will be "Transforming Knowledge" and the networks were asked to integrate this theme as well as their network themes into the sessions. The deadline for submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006.

Two offers have been received to host ECER 2007. A final decision has not yet been made. It has been agreed that ECER 2008 will be held in Gothenburg.