

Minute of the EERA Annual General Assembly

University of Geneva
Thursday 14th September 2006

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 EERA developments.

2. Further items for the agenda

No further items.

3. President's short report

ECER 2006 was a successful conference with 100 proposals and 185 delegates at the Pre-Conference and 1058 proposals and almost 1300 delegates from 45 countries at the Main Conference.

The winner of the Pre-Conference Best Paper award is Anja Jakobi, University of Bielefeld with a paper entitled "The Knowledge Society and Global Dynamics in Education Politics".

In 2006, the EERA Council welcomed the following members: David Bridges (BERA), Paul Conway (ESAI), Inaki Dendaluze (AIDIPE), Ian Grosvenor (Convenor representative), and Michael Uljens (FERA).

The President was pleased to report that EERA is developing new partnerships with the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE), the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and hopes for future cooperation with Japan and China.

4. Secretary General's short report

The Secretary General reported that there has been an ongoing discussion in Council about the future development of EERA. Until now, EERA's main activity has been ECER. Over the next 3-5 years, EERA would like to do more in between ECERs, such as develop a Summer School for doctoral students on a regular basis and support any additional network activities. It is also hoped that EERA can influence the arena of research funding and publication. Another aim is to develop technologically, by sourcing new conference software to handle the review process and to develop a more user-friendly website.

5. Treasurer's short report

At the end of 2005 there was a positive result of €150,926. This is the consequence of the large number of delegates in Dublin and the financial model which relates the money made available for ECER to the number of paying delegates. The estimated balance at the end of 2006 is €170,926. There will therefore be no increase in either membership or ECER fees for 2007. Banking costs will be reduced by the introduction of online payment procedures.

6. EERJ Report

Martin Lawn reported that the journal has grown alongside ECER. The increase in the number of downloads from the journal continues, from 5800 in 2003, to 35,000 in 2005. The number of subscribers has also increased from 443 in 2003 to 3500 by mid-2005. There is a need to revise essay reviews to pull good research books into the journal from different

European traditions. As relations between the journal and some of the networks are weak, there will be an effort to try and develop in this area. A double issue on democracy and globalisation is planned and the New Year edition will feature the roundtable from Geneva and the best post-graduate paper.

7. Network Convenors' Report

The outgoing Convenor representative, Edwin Keiner, was thanked for his excellent work and success in establishing this role. The main task of the Convenor representative is to communicate with the networks and Council and to manage the Open network which deals with papers at the fringe.

Ian Grosvenor was welcomed as the new Convenor representative. Ian hopes to build on Edwin's excellent work in the following areas:

- Regularise Convenors' meetings and ensure transparency by issuing agendas and posting minutes on the website
- Increase the level of communication between Convenors between ECERs
- Develop a Convenors' discussion space to share issues between ECERs
- Increase use of the website to externally publicise network activities
- Monitor how many conference papers are published

8. Discussion of Reports

Thanks were offered to those who reported. No matters arising from the reports.

9. EERA Office

The President thanked the EERA office staff, Diane Coyle, Nan Lawless and Lesley Morrison for their contribution to the organisation of ECER. Diane was welcomed as the new staff member.

10. Amendments to EERA Constitution

To comply with new Scottish charity law, EERA is in the process of preparing a new Constitution which will be presented at the AGA in Ghent.

11. EERA Middle-Term Programme

11.1 New Networks

A small working group was established at ECER 2005 in Dublin to explore the possibility of having a symposium on the theme of didactics/teaching and learning at ECER 2006. There was strong support and more than 30 papers were submitted, which resulted in several interesting sessions in Geneva. A new network on this theme will therefore be established for ECER 2007. Delegates were invited to attend a meeting on Friday 15th September at 16:45 where the official network name would be decided.

Network 18 "Comparative Education" was formally closed down at ECER 2006. The network received few proposals and audiences at ECERs were low. There does not seem to be much need for this network given that several other networks already cover comparative work.

A network Convenor highlighted that the creation of new networks detracts from existing ones and that some networks have to accept lower quality proposals to continue to operate. The need for more coherence and less overlap between networks was agreed. The outgoing Convenor representative explained that mapping of the networks is a work in progress and that networks are encouraged to sub-divide rather than create new strands.

11.2 *Project Proposal “EEQI – European Education(al Research) Quality Index”*

The President reported about her activity and the successful meeting of the prospective EEQI-Consortium during the ECER. It is hoped that a proposal can be submitted to the EC 7th Framework programme by a consortium of EERA, European universities, computer centres, publishers and other stakeholders. The initiative aims to build a repository for European educational research documents, including an intelligent tool for bibliometrical procedures, quality measurement and the development of a multi-lingual thesaurus in conventional printed documents as well as open access papers.

11.3 *Summer School for new researchers*

The President reported, that the second Summer School for new researchers has been organised by her in cooperation with the German Association (DGfE). The focus was again on qualitative and quantitative methodology in educational research. The Summer School enables new researchers to learn from senior researchers about methodology and designing research projects. EERA would like to continue the organisation of Summer Schools, also with new partners. There is a possibility that the Swiss association (SSRE) could organise the 2008 Summer School. The President invited other national associations to volunteer to host the 2007 event.

12. Future ECERs

12.1 *ECER 2007 in Ghent*

ECER 2007 will be held at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Ghent, Belgium. The Post-graduate and New Researchers' Pre-conference will be held on 17th-18th September and the Main Conference will take place on 19th-21st September. Professor Martin Valcke will Chair the local organising committee. Facilities at the university are excellent and colleagues are experienced at conference organisation.

12.2 *ECER 2008 in Gothenburg*

ECER 2008 will be held at the Department of Education at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The Post-graduate and New Researchers' Pre-conference will be held on 8th-9th September and the Main Conference will take place on 10th-12th September.

12.3 *ECERs 2009 ff*

The venues for ECERs from 2009 onwards have not yet been decided. The President invited offers; EERA would be especially delighted to receive an offer from a university in a Southern or Eastern European city.

13. ECER logo

The President presented the new ECER logo which will be used for future conference publicity.