

Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting

The Danish University of Education, Copenhagen 10th & 11th June 2006

Present:

Ingrid Gogolin, President
Wim Jochems, Treasurer
Lisbeth Lundahl, Secretary General

Denis Bates, Iñaki Dendaluze, Bénédicte Gendron, Ian Grosvenor, Edwin Keiner,
Martin Lawn, Lejf Moos, Lesley Morrison, Fran Payne, Bernard Schneuwly,
Elena Zezlina-Phillips.

1 Apologies for absence and welcome to new members

Apologies were noted from Michael Uljens (FERA) and Stefan Wolter (SSRE).

Ian Grosvenor was welcomed as Convenor representative Elect and Iñaki Dendaluze was welcomed as the new AIDIPE representative, replacing Tomas Escudero.

2 Confirmation of Minutes of 14th and 15th January 2006 Council Meeting

Correction: page 1, item 3, first bullet point "...German PhD students will now be considered as "exceptional" DGfE members".

The minutes were approved.

3 Matters arising from Minutes of 14th and 15th January 2006 Council Meeting

No matters arising.

4 ECER 2006 Geneva

4.i Local Committee Report

Bernard Schneuwly reported that the four Keynotes have been confirmed. Engeström and Boshuizen will be in parallel on Wednesday, with Kress and Perregaux on Friday. The address by Perregaux will be in French with a simultaneous translation. Ingrid Gogolin will chair the session by Kress and Wim Jochems will chair the session by Boshuizen. The local organising committee are requested to nominate chairpersons for the two Keynotes they have invited.

The EERJ Roundtable and Invited Panel on Didactics and Teaching and Learning will be in parallel on Thursday. The Opening Ceremony is scheduled for 30 minutes and will feature short welcome addresses from the EERA President, the Rector of the University of Geneva, the Dean of the Faculty and Bernard Schneuwly as Chair of the local organising committee.

Posters will be displayed in a central place in the main hallway. The Wednesday Welcome Reception and Thursday social event will be held in either the central hall or outside, weather permitting. Two cafeterias will be open and there are many nearby restaurants. 56 members of an international volunteer association will assist throughout the event.

Local sponsorship has been provided by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences and the Swiss Academy of Social and Human Sciences.

It was agreed that there should be a minimal spend on the conference bags and they are likely to be transparent folders, to save on printing costs.

Delegates will be reminded in an information email before the conference to have OHPs and handouts in English to allow the audience to follow their presentation. Denis Bates will send Bernard and the EERA office details of the “green card” procedure initiated in Dublin, to allow delegates to signal to the session Chair if they are having difficulty in following a presenter.

A contribution from the Australian association, AARE, has already been confirmed and will take place in parallel to Session 4 (Wednesday, 17:15-18:45). EARLI have been offered the same time slot and their participation has still to be confirmed. Chairs for these sessions will be decided at the first Council meeting at ECER (Tuesday, 17:00-19:00).

The contract between EERA and the local organising committee is based on 1000 paying delegates, with €80 per person added for every additional delegate thereafter. The Treasurer requested a final financial overview from the local committee before 15th October.

Council thanked the local committee for their work and preparations for ECER.

4.ii Pre-Conference

Elena Zezlina-Phillips apologised for a recent breakdown in communications between the Post-graduate network and the local organising committee. Due to the resignation of the network’s co-convenor, Daniela Angela Mangione, it was agreed that new convenors must be found as the network is rapidly growing. An Italian student, Cecilia Costa, has accepted a request to become a new convenor and it is hoped that a German student, Monika Kaminska, who offered to assist, will also formally accept.

Elena will send new information on the Post-graduate network to Lisbeth for inclusion on the website. The Pre-Conference programme will also be sent to the office and local committee as soon as possible.

There has been a good submission rate for the network this year. A total of 117 proposals were submitted and only two were rejected. The reviewers requested improvements to a quarter of the proposals. There have been 4 cancellations, leaving 111 proposals scheduled for presentation. There are 101 papers, 7 posters, 1 workshop, 1 roundtable and 1 symposium, which is more varied than usual. The Post-graduate mentors will give feedback to presenters. Offers from Council to chair Pre-conference sessions were warmly welcomed.

Based on the reviewers' comments, twenty-eight proposals have been identified for consideration for the "excellency bonus". Elena will send details of these proposals to Stefan Wolter, Ingrid and Edwin for review. The eventual winner will be awarded after the conference.

The EERA award for the best Pre-Conference paper from 2005 will be given at the Geneva Opening Ceremony. Elena will consult with the reviewer, Paul Standish, and confirm details of the winning paper and author for the EERA Office.

4.iii EERJ Roundtable

The EERJ Roundtable will be entitled "Knowledge and Policy: Research – Information – Intervention". There will be contributions from Lyn Yates, University of Melbourne, Jenny Ozga, University of Edinburgh and Gita Steiner-Khamsi, Columbia University. Ingrid and Edwin will moderate the session. It will result in a longer paper for the journal. The final paper should be submitted by December in order to be included in the January edition.

5 Communications

5.i ECER 2007 and 2008

Following a meeting between the President and Treasurer and University of Ghent organisers, the dates of ECER 2007 have been confirmed as Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th September (Pre-Conference) and Wednesday 19th – Friday 21st (Main Conference). The dates cannot be changed due to the availability of rooms.

Council must decide on the 2007 conference theme before ECER 2006 takes place so that it can be announced in Geneva. It was agreed that the Keynotes and invited roundtables should deal with the theme but that the networks should be allowed to decide whether or not to engage in the theme. There must be a common theme which will be of interest to all countries. As the theme of education between diversity and standardisation was already discussed as an alternative for Geneva, the following suggestions were considered as a theme for Ghent:

1. Governing the Quality of Education Research.
Diversity. Standardisation. Funding.
2. Contested Qualities of Educational Research.
Creativity. Audit. Assessment.

The second option was preferred as it suggests a debate and that people will have different opinions. "Contested Qualities of Educational Research" was approved as the theme for ECER 2007 Ghent. Wim will propose the theme to the Ghent organisers for approval.

The Ghent Keynotes should be equally gendered. There will be an EERJ roundtable and an invited symposium, related to the theme, organised by the local committee. EARLI and AARE should also be invited to contribute to a session.

Ingrid and Lisbeth met the Gothenburg organisers in March. The Faculty of Education is relocating to the city centre so the ECER 2008 venue will be new and functional. Two Gothenburg colleagues will join a Council meeting in Geneva. The same financial model will be used i.e. budget based on 1000 delegates with €80 added per additional delegate.

5.ii *Future ECER venues*

Although a recent offer to host a future ECER has been received by Glasgow City Council, it was agreed that ECER 2009 should be held in the South or the East in order to recruit new members in these areas. The following criteria for considering offers to host ECER will be adopted: spread over Europe, support from the national association and support from a university rather than a commercial conference venue. Although the Network 7 Convenor, Francesca Gobbo, had proposed Turin as a future venue, it was felt that this might not be possible as there is no Italian association to support it. However, it was noted that EERA might not attract an Italian association if it does not bring ECER to the area.

5.iii *Summer School 2006*

The 2006 Summer School will be held near Berlin from 4th – 8th September. Stephen Baron, whose contribution to the 2005 event was well received, will participate this year. The second lecturer invited by EERA is Dr. Hans van der Meij from University of Twente, The Netherlands.

Ingrid reported that the German association (DGfE) pays for 90% of the event but that it cannot continue to fund it every year. Unfortunately, the Marie Curie programme only provides funding for a series of events. Ingrid is trying to negotiate with the German Research Fund. It is hoped that other national associations will contribute. It was agreed that Ingrid should invite the Presidents of national associations to attend a workshop during ECER 2006 to pursue this issue. The meeting will be scheduled for Saturday 16th at 09:30.

As a previous request from Ingrid saw no response from the national associations, it was noted that some countries already have their own established summer programmes and may therefore not be interested in any additional events.

5.iv *AERA and EARLI cooperation*

The importance of EERA collaboration with AERA and EARLI was agreed. EARLI have been invited to have a slot at ECER Geneva and the AERA President, Eva Baker, seems keen to develop international collaboration. Although the possibility of EERA participation at the AERA conference was supported, the difficulty is selecting someone to represent EERA and deciding how to fund their attendance. A university will not fund someone if they are representing EERA instead of their university. At the Tuesday Convenors' meeting in Geneva, Edwin and Ian will ask Convenors to suggest a good presenter to represent EERA at AERA and EARLI conferences.

5.v *Workshop on European research database*

A workshop on the project proposal for a European research database will be held on 3rd July 2006. Roger Osborn-King, Ton Mooij and Dianne Rusch-Feja will be among the attendees.

5.vi *ECER logo*

Ingrid asked the website designer to design a selection of logos for ECER. Each year a different conference poster is produced using graphics from the host venue so there is nothing to easily identify it as ECER. A logo was chosen by Council and should be used on all future ECER publicity.

6 Constitution matters

Due to recent changes in Scottish charity law, EERA has had to register with the Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR). Fran Payne has consulted a solicitor to ensure that EERA meets the criteria for being a charity under the new laws. The new charity test will not start until April 2007 and it may be some time before EERA is investigated.

There are certain areas where EERA does not operate according to its constitution e.g. it no longer accepts individual or institutional memberships. It was agreed that the constitution must be amended to reflect how EERA currently operates.

Martin explained that the original Constitution was written to comply with Scottish charity law but that as it was not workable, "General Regulations of EERA" were drafted as a simpler expression of the Constitution rules. It was agreed that Fran should ask the solicitor if the General Regulations can be incorporated into the existing Constitution by September. If there is not sufficient time to do this, then the

following minor changes to the existing Constitution will be brought to the AGA for approval in Geneva:

- Section IV “The Members of the Association”
 - Item 1: delete c) educational research institutions and d) individuals interested in educational research.
- Section V “Structure and functioning of the Association”
 - Item 3: delete “three votes” and amend to “one vote”
 - Item 3: amend “The quorum for any meeting will consist of at least 20% of the voting members”
 - Item 9: delete “No co-opted member shall serve for more than one year”

If these minor changes are approved at the AGA, the next step is to rewrite the constitution by merging the General Regulations with the existing document. For the long-term, Ingrid will explore whether EERA could obtain European legal status.

A letter should be sent to the member associations asking them to identify who will represent the association at the AGA, plus a list of substitutes. If the associations do not reply, then they do not get a vote at the AGA. The association representatives will have the right to vote and should be given a voting card at the AGA.

Council thanked Fran for her work on the Constitution.

7 EERA Office

7.i Office report

A total of 1115 proposals were submitted for Geneva (983 papers, 55 posters, 37 symposia, 21 roundtables and 19 workshops). There were 76 rejections and 17 cancellations, leaving 1022 proposals scheduled for presentation. It was noted with pleasure that this has been another successful year.

The total number of corresponding authors is 1966. As of 8th June, 765 people had registered. The final registration deadline is 30th June. Reminders will be sent to all non-registered delegates asking them to confirm participation in order to have a clearer idea on the final numbers for catering, printing etc.

7.ii Conference software

In the discussion about new conference software, it was noted that some EERA colleagues have used the “Oxford abstracts” software which BERA uses for their conference and it appears to be suitable for EERA’s requirements. Edwin stressed that new software should allow Convenors to access, review and record review results by themselves, with the office only monitoring these procedures. Ingrid asked Edwin to

look at the “Oxford abstracts” website (<http://www.oxfordabstracts.com>) from a Convenor’s viewpoint and send her any comments or questions which she will include in an email to the BERA President to formally note EERA’s interest in their software. This could be followed up by a visit to see the software in use.

7.iii *Call for tender*

The President received two responses from the recent Call for tender for the running of the EERA office. The DGfE, offered to host the office at the Free University of Berlin. SERA did not formally bid to manage the office under the terms requested, i.e. to direct the work of the office, but Fran Payne presented a case for maintaining the current office at the University of Strathclyde. Fran urged Council to make a decision quickly, given that the current contract with Strathclyde expires in December and that staff wish to know if their contract will be renewed in order to plan ahead.

It was noted that the location of the office is not simply a financial decision. Moving the office somewhere new would result in a loss of experience of existing staff and any changeover may have negative effects on continuity.

Ingrid wants someone from a national association to be located near the office to act as a link between the office and Council.

Wim, Lisbeth, Fran and Ian will visit the office at Strathclyde on 7th August and then go to Berlin on 21st August to consider both options. They will report to the Council at the September meeting, when a final decision will be made.

Ingrid stressed the importance of EERA being more than just ECER and felt that new software would free time to allow the office to do other things, such as organise the Summer School.

8 EERJ Report

Item to be discussed at the September meeting.

9 Treasurer’s report

The Treasurer reported that the 2005 audit is almost complete. There has been a positive result due to the high number of paying delegates at ECER 2005. EERA is therefore on target to meet the desired €150, 000 balance. Council agreed that EERA’s financial situation has radically improved in recent years and is now very stable. Council thanked Wim for his efforts.

In preparation for a new conference payment facility, the Treasurer has agreed online payment contracts with Visa, Amex, MasterCard and Diners card. The new payment facility must be properly tested to ensure it works appropriately before ECER 2007.

10 Website

The EERA website is now administered at the University of Umea. The Secretary General receives new material for the site via the office. Peter Vicenik from the Department of Interactive Media and Learning acts as webmaster. The current site is impractical because minor changes have to be updated on more than one page. Lisbeth will ask Peter to investigate how much it would cost for amendments to the site in order to facilitate website maintenance. The contract is still running with *Educationline* for hosting the searchable online conference programme. Old data is archived on the EERA site and previous conference abstracts and papers can be found on the *Educationline* site.

11 Association membership – renewal and new members

The Portuguese association (SPCE) have indicated that they are unable to pay the 2006 subscription to EERA. If their association does not pay its member fee, the Treasurer proposed that any SPCE members coming to Geneva should not be allowed to register at the reduced EERA-member fee. This was agreed, otherwise there is no incentive for national associations to pay their membership fee.

Except for the Estonian, Lithuanian and two Spanish associations (AIDIPE and SEP), all other associations have already paid their 2006 subscription.

It was noted with disappointment that there has been no success in securing new members. Although there have been initial enquiries from colleagues in Russia, Yugoslavia and Romania, there is no further response from them following contact from Denis Bates. As the initial responses come from individuals, the problem appears to be that they have to seek approval to join EERA from their institution or council, who are either slow to respond or not interested.

The need to try and secure new Eastern member associations was agreed. The office will send Ingrid details of all Italian and Polish delegates registered for Geneva. Ingrid will invite them to meet with Council members during the social event on Thursday (19:00-20:00) to discuss the possibility of establishing a national association in their country.

The protocol for enquiries from potential new members is that all initial enquiries go to the office, who reply to thank the applicant for their interest and confirm which Council member will follow up on their request. General information such as whether the applicant is an individual or represents an institution or association and their contact details are collected by the office.

Denis will leave Council at the end of this year. Bénédicte Gendron will take over the role of Council contact person for enquiries from potential new members. Denis will provide Bénédicte with protocols on responses to potential new members.

12 Dates of next meetings

There will be two Council meetings during ECER on Tuesday 12th (17:00-19:00) and Saturday 16th September (11:00-13:00).

The winter meeting will be held at the University of Ghent on 13th & 14th January 2007. The 16th & 17th June 2007 was proposed for the summer meeting but the dates and venue have still to be confirmed.