

Minutes of the EERA Council meeting

**University of Crete
Tuesday 21st September 2004**

1 Apologies

Kyriaki Doulas, Tomas Escudero, Martin Lawn, Jules Pieters.
No new members

2 Confirmation of Minutes of 5th & 6th January 2004 Council Meeting

- 5.i. Remove sentence beginning “Unfortunately ...”. Change final sentence to, “Margaret agreed to write to the representative of St Patrick’s College, following advice from Denis Bates on a suitable wording.”

Rest of Minutes approved

3 Matters arising from Minutes of 5th & 6th January 2004 [not arising elsewhere on the agenda]

- 8.i. Edwin circulated his report on the convenors’ questionnaire and spoke briefly on it. This would be discussed at the Saturday council meeting.

4 ECER 2004 Crete

4.i Thank you to local organisers

The Council meeting was joined by Prof. Andreadakis and Prof Damanakis. Practical arrangements through Triaena concerning social events, coffee breaks and help with registration were outlined. 195 delegates had attended the Pre-conference and it appeared to have been very successful. Certificates of attendance should be issued to Pre-conference delegates. The EERA Council thanked the local organizing committee and the University of Crete for their work.

4.ii Chairing of Sessions, Keynotes and Roundtables

Guidelines for chairpersons and returns for each session would be issued as normal. Michel Caillot would chair the first keynote, Ingrid Gogolin the second and Sverker Lindblad offered to chair the Unesco roundtable.

4.iii Location of rooms, equipment in rooms, student helpers

There would be a presentation following the keynote on room locations. Some presentations in the main conference would be in Greek. The Secretary General explained about the need

for some late adjustments to be made to the programme, and other practical matters concerning distribution of rooms within networks, equipment and student helpers.

4.iv *New website launch*

The new website with some content already mounted would be demonstrated in the registration area by Sam Saunders of Educationline. Comments and suggestions were invited from the Council and convenors.

5 Planning for the social event following the Roundtable

The main points for discussion would be a 'European Social Science Citation Index' and infrastructure development, particularly bibliographic databases and resources that can be accessed trans-nationally.

Related points concerned PERINE, whose recent funding bid to the EU was turned down, and the EU infrastructure bid led by Martin Lawn, which appeared not to have been understood by the reviewer. Ingrid Gogolin spoke of the need for an agenda and plan for EERA, before any approach is made to the EU concerning these disappointing outcomes and future funding possibilities.

6 Planning for the joint Council/Convenors meeting

6.i *Secretary General's recent communication with Convenors*

The Secretary General spoke briefly to her recent consultation with the convenors, which examined the roles and responsibilities of convenors and indicated that a network report would be a requirement for inclusion in the programme for ECER 2005. She would meet with three convenors (networks 3, 6 and 8) to discuss what was going on within their networks, since these convenors did not produce any written report following ECER 2003. At the joint Council/ Convenors' meeting this communication and the findings of the questionnaire survey would also be discussed.

6.ii *Items for the agenda*

A further item for the agenda was the quality of the work that went on within networks and at ECER. Sverker Lindblad spoke of the need to improve the quality of the arguments within papers and discourses.

7 Treasurer's report to AGA

Wim Jochems was welcomed officially as EERA's new treasurer. The treasurer's report for the AGA was outlined and agreed by the Council

8 Discussion of the AGA

The arrangements and agenda for the AGA were considered to be satisfactory.

9 Thank you to the outgoing President

Michel Caillot was warmly thanked by Ingrid Gogolin for having served as EERA President.

University of Crete Saturday 25th September 2004

10 Welcome to the new President

The Secretary General welcomed Ingrid as new President.

11 Apologies for absence and welcome to new members

Zoran Pavlovic. No new members.

Edwin Keiner has been re-elected as Convenor representative.

12 Appointment of Secretary General Elect

Although the current Secretary General's term officially ends in December 2004, she has agreed to continue for a further year. Council was grateful and agreed that this was the most sensible option at a time when the 2 other office bearers have changed. As the office is now stable, it was agreed that it is not necessary for the next Secretary General to be located in Scotland.

13 EERA Office: issues and priorities for the forthcoming year

The main priority will be working with the Treasurer to identify ways to reduce costs. The re-establishment of the Open Network will avoid the extra work involved in redirecting papers which do not fit any of the existing networks. Information for the new website will be reviewed and updated. A short bi-monthly office report will resume after the conference.

14 Budget proposal 2005

Wim thanked Lesley for providing him with financial information in recent months. He reported that by the end of the year there will only be enough money to cover EERA's expenses for the first half of 2005. Income from the next conference will not be received until July/August. It was agreed that the registration fees should not be increased by more than €20. At the January meeting ways to reduce costs and increase income will have to be discussed. The Secretary General stressed that the hard work and investment in building a stable office should not be allowed to disintegrate.

Denis Bates welcomed the clarity of the Treasurer's report. He stressed that Dublin is an expensive city. The Dublin organisers will submit their financial figures at the end of October. The costs of ECER 2005 will be discussed at the January meeting.

15 Communications

15.i EERJ

Martin reported that in early 2005 the journal will have to strengthen its editorial board responsibilities. An increase in library licences would be a valuable source of extra income. Margaret asked Martin to compose a short email about the journal to send to 2004 delegates to try to increase subscriptions.

15.ii Website

The EERA site has been moved to the University of Leeds who also provide the searchable online conference programme service. The new site will be available to the public in January. The Treasurer will negotiate the costs of annual maintenance for the new site with Phil Sheffield at Leeds. The new site will have a password-protected discussion area for Council and Convenors.

16 Review of ECER 2004

16.i Pre-conference

The review of the Pre-Conference will be on the January agenda.

16.ii Main Conference

It was agreed that ECER 2004 was a very successful conference. Council thanked the local organisers.

It was noted that some poor papers which did not meet the criteria were presented. The need for rigorous reviewing was agreed in order to maintain the quality of ECER.

It was noted that the problem of non-native English speakers having difficulty understanding presentations in English persists. Methods to resolve this problem will be discussed in January.

17 Issues arising from formal discussions during ECER 2004

17.i Council/Convenors meeting

Convenors will be given the opportunity to comment on the new website. At the end of October Convenors will revise their network descriptors and suggest common themes for a special edition of EERJ. Edwin Keiner will employ a student assistant to co-ordinate work with the Convenors.

17.ii AGA

No matters arising.

17.iii Roundtable

After the EERJ Roundtable discussion, the possibility of collaboration between an EERA network (possibly VETNET), an EARLI equivalent and the national research Councils was proposed. The UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) are willing to organise it.

It was agreed that this was a positive development which would enhance EERA's visibility in Europe. Ingrid should write to Dr Alan Brown to answer his suggestion.

18 ECER 2005 and venues for subsequent ECERs

During ECER 2004 the office bearers have had informal discussions with Prof. Sheelagh Drudy who will lead the local organising committee at University College Dublin.

There will be two Keynotes at ECER 2005. The local committee will choose and pay the fee of one and EERA will choose and pay for the other. Council were urged to think of suggestions for Keynotes so that the selection can be confirmed and included in the Call for Proposals. Suggestions should be emailed to the office as soon as possible after Crete.

The University of Gothenburg have formally offered to host ECER 2008 and it is possible that Estonia could be a venue for 2009. Council agreed that this was a positive development considering past difficulties in securing venues. Formal procedures regarding offers to host ECER need to be developed. This will be discussed in January.

19 Future EERA developments

19.i CRISS, Educational research mapping in Europe

Item not discussed.

19.ii Future possibilities

Following the success of the EERJ Roundtable, the publishers agreed to finance and support a workshop, in January or February 2005, for representatives from national organisations, networks, libraries and PERINE to discuss the European Social Science Citation Index.

20 Date of next meetings

The next meeting will be held in Dublin on 22nd & 23rd January 2005.