Academia Europaea   DRAFT

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Academia Europaea held at University of Wroclaw, Poland on 16 September 2013

Present: The President and 62 members

The President welcomed members to Wroclaw and thanked the local organisers of the AE Knowledge Hub Wroclaw, the Wroclaw Convention Bureau staff and the University authorities and City authorities for their hospitality.

1. The draft agenda [as previously published on the AE website], was adopted with a change in the order of business. Papers had been made available in advance, both on the website and also in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been notified. One additional item had been notified.

2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2012 (Bergen), were approved and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 2012.

3.1 Professor Genoveva Marti, as Academic Director of the new Barcelona Knowledge Hub, gave a short presentation setting our plans for the coming year. [see the Hub website at http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/] and announced the date and venue for the 2014 Annual Business meeting and associated conference (see http://www.ae2014barcelona.com/). There were no other matters arising that were not otherwise covered by the substantive agenda.

4 Elections and appointments.

4.1   On a proposal from the Board of Trustees: The AGM approved the co-option of professor Jerzy Langer to the Board of Trustees for a further year.

4.2.1   Following the retirement of Professors Cinzia Ferrini and Susan Bassnett from the Council and following a call for nominations published to all members in accordance with the regulations: The Board tabled a list of 6 candidates for election to fill two vacant seats on the Council as Independent members. A secret ballot by members present was held: Two tellers were appointed to count. The following were elected for a period of three years (till the AGM of 2016) – Professor Laszlo Csernai (Bergen) – Physics and Professor Marie Farge (Paris) – Physics.

4.2.2 On a motion from the Board of Trustees: Professor Balazs Gulyas (Stockholm) having completed his first term as an Independent member of the Council was proposed for re-appointment for a second and final three year term. The AGM approved the re-appointment.

4.3   In accordance with the Articles of Association of the Academia Europaea Ltd and the Regulations: The AGM were informed of the launch of a call for nominations for candidates for election to the Presidency of the Academia Europaea. That election

would take place in SPRING OF 2014 and for the first time would be an electronic ballot of all eligible members of the AE. The AGM were invited to note the composition and mandate for a search group, approved by the Council.

4.4 Professor Ferrini (Trustee) described the process for nomination and identification of the Erasmus Medal for 2014. The award is granted by the Council. The recipient in 2014 would be **Professor Kurt Melhorn (Max Planck Institute of Informatics)**, a noted computer scientist and leading expert in the design and development of algorithms. The AGM noted with thanks the sponsorship of the award and annual lecture by the Trustees of the Heinz-Nixdorf Foundation. It was also announced that the 2015 award would be made to an eminent AE member, drawn from the Humanities and Social Sciences under the coordination of Professor Gulyas.

5. Reports

5.1 The President gave a full account of the activities and achievements of the Academia Europaea for the past year. In particular, he announced the successful agreement with the City of Barcelona and Region of Catalonia for the establishing of a new Regional Knowledge Hub of the AE in that city. The audited annual report for the year had been tabled and made available on the web. There were no questions from the members. On a proposal from the Board, the members present adopted the annual activities report.

5.2 The Treasurer reported on the financial year that had ended at March 31, 2013. The full audited accounts had been made available for scrutiny and would be published on the AE website in due course. The Treasurer then highlighted the current and continued vulnerabilities in the finances of the AE. He reported that measures to stabilise the finances had been successful with a reduction in London core costs and the transfer of some areas of responsibility and support for members to the Wroclaw Hub and to the Graz information group (under contract). However members were reminded of the importance of paying an annual contribution as the critical source of core funding for day-to-day operations. The AGM noted with gratitude the many sponsors of activities held during the past year; the Patron members for their continuing support and noted the valuable new contributions from the two Regional Hub sponsors. The Treasurer reminded members that that in line with common European practise, the financial/reporting year had been changed with effect from January 2013 to a calendar year reporting cycle.

On a proposal from the Board, the AGM adopted the annual accounts without dissent.

5.2.1 The Treasurer proposed on behalf of the Board, a motion to re-appoint the independent auditors – Messrs Keith Vaudrey and Company Ltd for a further year. The members approved the motion on a show of hands.

5.2.3 The Treasurer proposed a resolution on behalf of the Board, to maintain the 2014 annual subscription at 120 Euros for Ordinary members and to continue with exemptions for members aged 75 and over and for Foreign and Honorary members to be invited to make voluntary contributions. The AGM approved these proposals without dissent.

5.3 <u>Chair of the Nominations Sub committee</u> – Professor Ole Petersen reported on the 2013 election cycle of new members of the AE. He reported that out of approx. 350 candidates some 256 had been approved and elected by the Council. Invitations to accept election would be sent out from 1 October. He reminded all members present of their right to nominate candidates across all Sections of the Academy. He also noted the continuing, significant ageing demographic resulting from the initial years' recruitment of members, and therefore the need to work hard to identify excellent active and emerging scholars, as future candidates for membership. Prof Petersen reported on a substantial increase in the current year of the numbers of candidates submitted and approved for membership. He announced that the new 2014/15 cycle for nominations would open on 1 October and close on 31 March 2014. Elections would take place in Barcelona in July 2014.

Prof. Petersen also announced the establishment of a review panel that would look at the current Section Committee structures, disciplinary divisions, balance and nominations processes. A report to the Board would be made and any recommendations for changes put to the AGM. He invited all members with views to contact him.

5.4 <u>Editor-in-Chief of the European Review</u> – Professor D'Haen tabled a report on the past year of the European Review. The online subscription was made freely available to all AE members. The AE provided a subsidy to Cambridge University Press for this benefit. Alternative Hard copy was also still available for a small nominal charge. Announcements on how to access the journal and also an option to continue to receive hard copy (for a fee) would continue via the website and E-newsletters to all members. Members were also told that there was increased demand from authors worldwide and that content continued to increase. The 2014 and 2015 volume content was already in place. Members were reminded that online publication did increase the flexibility to include colour and hypertext links to additional material (online versions only) at no additional costs. Members also benefitted from ad hoc Focus sections in issues and supplementary issues which were sponsored and generally open access.

5.5 Dr Ola Nowak, manager of the <u>Wroclaw Knowledge Hub</u> gave a powerpoint presentation that reported on the first full year of operation of the hub. The Hub had hosted several Trustee meetings; developed active links with the University and Academic Hub and launched a scheme for Internship training. The Hub had taken over aspects of the administration of new members and h was assisting the Graz information group with web and database administration. The Hub had run the first (of three) annual AE Post graduate summer school (sponsored by the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) and contributed to a series of visiting lectures.

5.6 <u>EASAC</u>. Prof. Brian Heap MAE – retiring President of the European Academies Science Advisory Council gave a brief overview of science into policy activities undertaken I the past year He reported that AE member Prof Jos van der Meer wold take over the Chair of EASAC during 2013. Pro. Heap reported that EASAC had entered into relationships with the EU Chief Scientific Advisors office and with a number of the policy Directorates General and that the (EASAC) Council had agreed to three main foci of activity – Environment; Energy and Biosciences.

6. There were no reports from Sections

7. Any Other Business

71. Professor Jan Vaagen (Physics) took the floor to announce a proposal for establishing a third Regional Hub of the Academia Europaea, to be based in Bergen. He reported that the proposed focus for the third hub would be on the "Northern Seas Dimension" – to cover such issues as Arctic issues; energy and culture; Food and natural resources. In a brief exchange of views, it was noted that a small team from the Board of trustees would work with the proposers to develop an acceptable concept and agreement. Prof. Straus (Law) intervened to offer a vote of thanks to the existing sponsors of the two regional hubs and stressed the importance of such a development to the visibility and credibility of the Academia Europaea, but that any such developments should be for a minimum period of five years.

There were no other questions or interventions from the floor and the President declared the 2013 AGM closed.

Minutes signed at Barcelona on 16th July 2014

Lars Walløe, President

DC/minutes/ Sept. 2013.