

DRAFT

Minutes of the 28th annual general meeting of members of the Academia Europaea, held at The University of Cardiff on 27 June 2016, 11:00am local time

Present: The President and 36 members

The President Professor Dr. Cloetingh welcomed members to Cardiff and thanked the local organisers (Professor Ole Petersen) and the Vice Chancellor of Cardiff University – Professor Colin Riordan, for their hospitality.

1. The draft agenda [as previously published on the AE website], Papers had been made available in advance, on the website and were tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been notified in advance, as described in the notice for the AGM. The agenda was adopted

2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2015 (Darmstadt), were approved without amendment and signed by the President.

3. Questions to the Trustees

No questions were put. No comments were received.

The President took the opportunity to announce that Professor Peter Scott (Treasurer and Trustee, elected at the AGM in 2015) had unexpectedly resigned, due to personal reasons. Therefore, in accordance with the Regulations (section 8), the Board had taken the decision to appoint Prof Ole Petersen to acting Treasurer at their meeting on 26 April 2016. A formal election would be held at the AGM in 2017. Prof. Petersen was an existing Trustee at the time of the appointment.

4. Transactions of Ordinary business: Elections and appointments.

4.1 Election of an Independent member of Council

The AGM noted the retirement of Prof. Balazs Gulyas from the Council and minuted a vote of thanks. Following a call for nominations to all members: two candidates had been declared in advance of the AGM. The President moved the resolution: “That the AGM do elect an independent member of the Council for the period 2015 – 2018”. Members were asked to place ballot papers in the box at the end of the AGM. Votes were counted and the result announced after the AGM by the executive Secretary. **Professor Xavier COSTA-GUIX** was duly elected. His term commenced at the close of business of the AGM.

4.2 Re-appointment of two Independent Members of the Council

The President moved the resolution of the Board of Trustees: “That members re-appoint **Marie Farge** and **Laszlo Csernai** to Council for a final term of three years,

effective immediately”. There were no objections and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

4.3 Co-opted Trustees

The President moved the resolution that the Board seek approval by the AGM for co-option of the following as Trustees”: Professor Balazs, Gulyas (until the AGM of 2018); Professor Theo D’Haen (until the AGM of 2018); Professor Eva Kondorosi (until the AGM of 2019); Professor Don Dingwell (until the AGM of 2018) and Professor Svend Erik Larsen (until the AGM of 2019). The resolution was adopted without objection.

5. Reports

5.1 The President tabled the 2015 consolidated activity report. Member questions were invited and none were forthcoming. The President thanked the four Regional Knowledge Hubs for their major contributions to an increased activity programme. The President specifically mentioned the new collaboration and agreement between the Academia Europaea and FEAM, euroCASE, ALLEA and EASAC for science advice to the European Commission; the diverse range of projects funded out of the Hubert Curien Initiatives Fund, including the ongoing video archive interview project organised by the Young Academy and Prof. Buttimer, and the tribute symposium on the Brain held at the Bogmoletz Institute in Kiev in honour of Prof. Oleg Krishtal. The HERCuLES group (Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society) group were thanked for their continuing organisation of excellent symposia and publications in the field of higher education research and policy was described. Finally the President thanked the staffs of the Wroclaw, Barcelona and Bergen Hubs for their considerable efforts in 2014 and Ms Teresa McGovern at the London HQ office for her administrative support. The Graz information centre team (of Dana Kaiser and Helmut Leitner) were also thanked.

The President moved the resolution to adopt the 2015 activity report. There were no objections and the report was adopted.

The full 2015 report was made available publically on the ae-info website and would be reported to the UK Charity Commission in fulfilment of regulatory obligations.

5.2 The Treasurer

5.2.1 Annual Financial Statement for 2015. Prof. Petersen reported on the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2015. The audited accounts had been published in advance of the AGM and were tabled for members attending. He reported that for 2015, auditors had advised that Hub accounts were not to be incorporated, as Hubs were not legal subsidiaries of the Academia Europaea and acted autonomously with respect to financial matters. Hub financial interests were reported as needed in notes to the accounts. The Treasurer pointed out the increased expenditures on activity – in particular through the Curien Fund, which had been possible in 2015. This situation would only be possible in the future if member donations continued to increase. Members were specifically reminded that the AE, as

a not-for-profit Charity was increasingly dependent upon member donations for core functions. The Academic Director of the Bergen Hub asked for the floor and described recent changes in local sponsoring arrangements that had impacted on the AE directly. There were no questions from the floor. The Treasurer moved the resolution to adopt the accounts for 2015. These were adopted.

5.2.2 The Treasurer moved the resolution to re-appoint Keith Vaudrey and Co Ltd as auditors. The resolution was adopted.

5.2.3 Treasurer moved the resolution to fix the recommended member donation at 130 Euros for 2017. It was pointed out that this was the first increase 2003. The Resolution was adopted.

5.3 The President invited the Class Chairs coordinator (Prof. Ole Petersen) to report on the 2015 nominations cycle. Prof. Petersen reported that the second cycle under the new Class system had operated well and that the invitation process for new members had been modified to speed up acceptances. As a result, 167 (of 205) new members had already been admitted at the time of the AGM. All new members would be invited to a welcome event at Budapest in 2017.

5.4 The President then invited Academic Directors/representatives of the Regional Knowledge Hubs to present brief reports. Brief oral reports were made by;

Wroclaw -Dr Ola Nowak

Bergen – Prof. Jan Vaagen

Barcelona- Prof. Ricard Guerrero

Cardiff – Prof. Ole Petersen

Full Hub reports were included into the consolidated activity report for 2015.

5.8 The President then invited Professor Nicole Grobert, President of the Young Academy of Europe to report. The AE members present were informed about the 2016 YAE AGM – September 19 – 20 at Oxford (Corpus Christi College), UK. Senior Academy members would be welcome. The YAE President also reported on developments in Policy advice, campaign activities in the areas of future careers, gender and publication. All AE members were encouraged to identify suitable young scholars for nomination.

6.1 AOB: Prof. Balazs Gulyas then reported on the plans for the 2017 Annual conference in Budapest September 4 – 7

6.2 Prof Gulyas announced that a second extended call for the 2017 Erasmus Prize had been opened. Further nominations were invited.

7. The President then invited comments from the floor. There was a strong interest in the AE position with regard to the outcome of the UK national referendum vote for UK to leave the European Union (so called BREXIT). The President re-assured members that the AE had been founded back in 1988 as a Pan-European Academy with a catchment area on a continental scale. The Trustees would develop a statement in this context and the President also stated that the Trustees would take whatever steps necessary to ensure that the mission of the AE could continue effectively

whatever the practical outcomes of the BREXIT. This position was reinforced by Prof. Petersen (Treasurer) who reminded non-UK based members that there was a general view that the overwhelming majority of the UK academic community had voted strongly to remain as EU members. Prof Pavel noted that the European Mathematical Society and European Physical Society had already issued statements and that the AER could contribute by stressing the need for solidarity in science across the European continent. There was a general agreement.

The President thanked members present for their continuing support for the AE and for their attendance and formally closed the meeting.

Minutes signed at Budapest on 4 September 2017

Sierd Cloetingh, President

DC/minutes/ August. 2016