

Minutes NERA Board meeting 8 March 2016

Times: 9:30- 18.00

Place: Helsinki University

Attendees:

Carl Anders Säfström (Sweden), Robert Thornberg (Sweden), Anna Slotte (Finland), Sirpa Lappalainen* (Finland), Niels Kryger (Denmark), John Benedicto Krejsler (Denmark), Þuríður Jóhannsdóttir (Iceland), Elisabeth Bjørnstad* (Norway), Hans Petter Ulleberg* (Norway), Maike Luimes (treasurer), Herner Sæverot** (Editor)

* Paragraphs 6a and 6b and then from paragraph 7c.

** Paragraph 8

1. Opening – Carl Anders Säfström

2. Election of secretary – Robert Thornberg

3. Election of two controllers – Þuríður Jóhannsdóttir and John Benedicto Krejsler

4. Acceptance of agenda for the meeting

The agenda was accepted.

5. Minutes from Board meeting August 2015

Minutes approved.

6. General information

a) This year conference: Sirpa Lappalainen briefly reported about the conference. There are 632 participants registered.

b) Board panel: Niels Kryger gave a brief review of the forthcoming Board panel at this year conference. Based on the NERA Board panel, the Board will suggest a statement considering the refugee situation and will then present it at the General Assembly.

c) Networks: Hans Petter Ulleberg gave a brief review of the network activity. He has received 14 network reports from the 25 active networks from the 2015 conference. The need of sending network reports will be stressed at the 2016

convener meeting. According to the 2015 convener meeting, the conveners are happy with the new website. The conveners also emphasized the need of having three instead of four papers in the sessions, which now has been possible in the current conference.

d) EERA/ECER: John B Krejsler and Niels Kryger reported from the EERA meeting in Budapest. Next ECER conference (23 – 26 Augusti 2016) will be in Dublin. In 2017, the ECER conference will take place in Copenhagen. In 2018, ECER conference will probably be in Bolzano, Italy. Refugee situation was discussed in EERA. There was also an upcoming discussion on video-presentation and distance presentation. The next EERA Summer School (seasonal school) will take place in Linz, Austria. John suggested that we should spread information about this Summer school. There is also an on-going work on ethical guidelines. Furthermore, the increasing problem of legitimizing and receiving grants for social sciences and humanities in the general field of research was discussed at EERA, not least concerning Horizon 2020.

7. Economy

a) Maike Luimes presented the budget 2015 and the budget is in good balance.

b) Maike Luimes presented the budget proposal for 2016.

c) The Board discussed if we should use NOK, that we have done so far, or shift over to Euro when establishing and signing future contracts with other parts. The Board decided that the issue is too important to come with a decision at the sitting meeting but has to be examined further. Maike Luimes will work with this.

8. The Journal

a) The suggested deal from SAGE: Carl-Anders Säfström gave a brief review of the negotiation process with Ellie Craven at SAGE and her questions to NERA in this process. Maike Luimes then gave a further review of the proposals delivered by Ellie Craven, indicating less stability and a higher economical risk. Herner Sæverot discussed advantages (e.g., international reach, a more modern review process, indexing and impact factor) and disadvantages (e.g., considerably increased cost in relation to membership fee). Advantages and disadvantages were further discussed in the Board. One proposal was to make a clear distinction between NERA and the journal so that NERA would not be economically dependent on the journal but on membership, whereas the journal will be depending on its selling capacity. In accordance with this proposal, NERA still owns the journal. Language issue and the profile of the journal were also discussed. Further negotiation should continue with SAGE. To

take into the negotiation: (a) the language issue, (b) the Nordic profile issue, and (c) the funding structure, including the relationship between the journal and NERA. The negotiation group that will represent NERA Board in the further negotiation process with SAGE consists of Herner Sæverot, Gestur Guðmundsson, John Benedicto Krejsler and Maike Luimes.

9. Terms for president, vice-president: Carl-Anders Säfström initiated a discussion on the issue of balance between change and stability in these positions. He suggested that we should put into the policy paper that the position of president should be for three years, and that the person first has to be a vice-president or an ordinary Board member. Such a time limit would ensure a balance between change and stability, and counteract persons to be in this position too long. It will create a more dynamic shift in representing the Nordic countries over time. An additional suggestion from Carl-Anders was that the vice-president is assigned for at least one year, and then is expected to be a president for three years. Hans Petter Ulleberg cited the bylaws paragraph 7 in which it is stated that, “The president can be re-elected for four years consecutively”, so there is already a time limit. Nevertheless, a revised suggestion is then to shorten this time limit to three years. The Board agreed with this proposal and decided to bring this proposal to the agenda for the General Assembly for this year and the next year. The Board emphasized the praxis that a vice-president should be expected to candidate for the president position.

10. Guidelines, Template for contracts, policy paper: Carl-Anders Säfström briefly talked about the template for contracts with universities organizing the NERA congress, which also has been checked by lawyers. Sirpa Lappalainen and John B. Krejsler stressed that there might be a need for more details in the template concerning responsibilities of costs, e.g., if there are pre-conferences, details about this should be more precisely described in the template for contracts. The Board stressed that the responsibility costs for pre-conference is neither within the main conference nor NERA. Those who prepare a pre-conference have the economical responsibilities themselves, and they have to apply for funding. Hans Petter suggested that it is important to set up routines and to communicate to the networks to make them aware of examining all the possible costs with the host university before applying for a pre-conference. Maike Luimes suggested that we should include NERA Board panel in the template for the contracts paragraph 4. However, because the Board is not sure about the future of the Board panel, we should not include that at the moment. The Board also reviewed the guidelines draft. Before publishing the

draft the Board decided that the draft should first be proofread. Maïke will proofread it and then send it to the president of the Board before the guidelines can be published. In addition, the Board reviewed the policy paper draft that included Gestur Guðmundsson's edits. A few comments were discussed. Few minor edits were made and the guidelines draft was then accepted. The revised guidelines will be informed in the General Assembly.

11. Upcoming congresses

a) Aalborg Copenhagen 2017. Niels Kryger gave a report about the preparation of the conference and showed the website and the flyer. The conference will be held 23-25 March, hosted by the Department of Learning and Philosophy, Aalborg University in Copenhagen. Because the conference is held two weeks later than it uses to be, this information has to be spread.

b) Norway 2018: Hans Petter Ulleberg reported that the conference in 2018 would be held in Oslo.

c) Sweden 2019: Carl-Anders Säfström reported that Uppsala University earlier on has shown interest of hosting the conference. Robert Thornberg will take contact with Jonas Almqvist at Uppsala University to initiate a discussion of their possible interest in hosting the conference 2019.

13. Other issues

a) Board report and plan: Anna Slotte-Lüttge stressed that the board report and plan have to be updated before the General Assembly. Few minor edits were done in the Board plan during the meeting.

b) Presentation of the new candidates: Eva Hultin (Sweden), Christian Ydesen (Denmark), and Gry Paulgaard (Norway).

14. Time for August meeting in Copenhagen

This paragraph was postponed to the constitution meeting with the new Board at the end of the conference.

15. Closing the meeting

Controllers:

John Benedicto Krejsler

Puríður Jóhannsdóttir