

**Minutes:**

**NERA Board Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark – August 18-19, 2011**

Department of Education (DPU), Aarhus University, Campus Copenhagen, Tuborgvej 164

Attending:

*Denmark:* Niels Krüger, John B. Krejsler

*Finland:* Göran Björk

*Island:* Gestur Guðmundsson

*Norway:* Berit Karseth, Hans Petter Ulleberg

*Sverige:* Robert Thornberg

1. Opening of meeting (at 13) by Chair Berit Karseth. Göran Björk elected as meeting secretary.
2. Election av 2 minute controllers: elected: Gestur Guðmundsson and Robert Thornberg
3. Approval of agenda:
  - a) The agenda was changed and accepted,
  - b) The NERA Board meeting end at 4 p.m. At 4 p.m. starts the Editorial Board meeting.
  - c) Presentation and discussions on the congress in Copenhagen 2012 will be moved to August 19, 2011, when the organizational committee will be present (6 a, i and ii).
  - d) The working group on future of the structure and functions of the NERA network (9 b) will be removed and not be discussed during this meeting because there was no proposal given.
  - e) The International collaboration (10, a, b and c) will be moved to August 19, 2011.
4. Adjustment and approval of minutes from Board meeting in Jyväskylä
5. Follow up the General Asembly 2011

The discussion treated cases 4 and 5 in the same discussion.

In relation to the discussion of increasing the participants in the congresses and as an effect of that increase the members in NERA, the Board was discussing and stressed that the congresses have to be placed to Nordic cities that are attractive to visit and easy to get to. This case is part of NERA:s strategies decided of the Annual meeting of NERA.

The economic/financial situation of NERA is to same degree problematic. The only way to guarantee financial stability is through participaters in congresses and members in the association.

6b. The congress in Reykjavik, Island 2013

Gestur Guðmundsson (deputy member in NERA board, Iceland) is chair of the organizational committee in Iceland. The new organisation of the University of Iceland makes economic aspects of the congress arrangements more difficult and the university board has announced that the university can not guarantee to pay deficit for congresses arranged at the university. The Dean of School of Education and icelandic NERA board members (GJ and GG) have discussed

two possible provisions in the contract. Firstly that NERA should not receive its share of congress fees until all basic costs of the conference are covered. Secondly that the contract should include a calculation of a minimum number of participants – if this number is not reached by the registration deadline (in November 2012), the contract should be renegotiated. Several board members objected strongly against the first idea for provision, as the running of NERA relies on the share of congress fees, and objections were also made against the second idea. No final decision was taken on the matter, except that the organizational committee will continue to negotiate the contract so it can be accepted both by the NERA board and the University of Iceland.

The topic will be something like: Education and Crisis.

#### 6c. The congress in Lillehammer Norway 2014

The topic is now Education, educational research for a sustainable world. This topic is relevant. However, the board asks the organizational committee in Lillehammer to modify the topic linguistically.

#### 6d. The congress 2015 will be in Sweden

The Department of Education and Special Education at the University of Gothenburg applies as a candidate to host the 43th NERA congress 2015. This department in collaboration with the Department of Education, Communication and Learning, the department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional studies have arranged many congresses of this kind during the last years.

The Board accepted Gothenburg and will continue the discussions.

### 7. Budget half year balance

The budget and the half year balance shows:

- That the membership continue to decrease, which will be seen in following table:

place:	congress participants:	income:	members:	member fees:
2001 Stockholm	701	52 575	427	66 185 NOK
2002 Tallin	412	34 000	520	80 600 NOK
2003 Copenhagen	646	79 400	655	101 525 NOK
2004 Reykjavik	800	77 125	604	93 620 NOK
2005 Oslo	650	78 950	850	148 750 NOK
2006 Örebro	700	74 750	916	160 125 NOK
2007 Turku/Åbo	600	82 220	761	133 175 NOK
2008 Copenhagen	?	75 250	749	126 300 NOK
2009 Trondheim	480	46 450	623	105 300 NOK
2010 Malmö	553	61 750	555	93 075 NOK
2011 Jyväskylä	348	38 839	455	76 425 NOK

- There is not much to reduce in the separate credit moments:
  - Board and Editor's meetings are paid by the publisher, Universitetsforlaget and the organizing congress. Board discussed reducing the Board and Editor's meetings from two to one getting more income of the congresses. No decision.
  - The budget 2011 has no expenses for symposia and networks.
  - Membership in EERA will continue and is visible in the budget with membership; 6500,00 NOK and travel expenses; 8000,00 NOK
  - Membership in WERA will continue to the end of 2012 following the contract with WERA.
  - All credit moments are discussed and reduced to a minimum.
- Following this budget lines the outgoing balance 2011 will be about 32 650,00 NOK. This is the absolute limit for the outgoing balance.
- The budget goal has to be a yearly support of 25 000,00 NOK to networks.
- The budget goal is to reach a yearly level of 350 000,00 – 400 000,00 NOK.

## 8. Recruitment strategies

The board discussed and decided:

- the organizing committee of congresses makes the connection and the benefit of congress fee and member fee visible and attractive
- NERA web site has to be attractive and informative in connection to membership
- member campaigns must be connected to congress announcements
- accentuate NERA congresses and networks as significant for the Nordic perspective
- in connection to NORFA the Nordic perspective is important
- accentuate the importance of NERA for both university and university college
- NERA-members get reduced congress fee to ECER
- UF – Universitetsforlaget will be asked to make a system to remind about member fee

The Board discussed even recruitment strategies from other perspectives:

- the status and image of NERA as association, congress and network for qualitatively good research (Malmö and Jyväskylä made good review work)
- the review of abstract is one aspect of the quality (ECER was an example)
- increasing number of congress participants is one important aspect of the image
- the large number of networks give some of the network sessions few participants. This is not good for the image (The Board discussion was the possibility to bring together some network or form round table or symposia).

## 9. Networks

### 9a. Activity reports

- Ulleberg reported that the new way of reporting the network activities has increased the network reports (about 12 of the network)
- The presence of participants at network sessions varies (10 – 100). This is part of the image discussion (p. 8) of sessions big enough to become attractive
- The minutes from the network meeting will be sent to the organizational committee of the next congress and to the Board members. Ulleberg distributes these minutes' summaries.
- The minutes' summaries will become the document for discussions of network fusions
- The network conveners must know that membership is important for the work and future of the network

Reopening the NERA Board , August 19, 2011, at 9.00

## 9. Network

### 9b. The future of the structure and functions of the NERA network. Decision in Jyväskylä, March 9, 2011

- Decision that Hans Petter Ulleberg, Niels Krüger and Carl-Anders Säfström continue and introduce a proposal March 12, 2012 in Copenhagen

### 9c. Application for a new network

On behalf of the Swedish network directed towards leisure-time pedagogy (through Björn Haglund) the board has received a application to establish a new network

The Board discussed and decided:

- Berit Karseth and Hans Petter Ulleberg will discuss the application with Björn Haglund. This network has to find its place among the established NERA network. An important aspect of the future structure and function of NERA network and even the discussion of network fusion
- Decision will be made at the board meeting in March, Copenhagen

## 10. International collaboration

### 10a. EERA – report John B. Krejsler

- EERA discuss the relation between research and financing research. This is important for the question of what happens inside educational research in EU
  - EERA discuss the framework program of EU with consequences for research
  - Keywords in the framework program of EU are research and innovation
  - Collaboration between researchers and policymakers is in focus in this EU context
- The voice of NERA on the Nordic research policy is important in EERA
  - the Nordic countries will make a description. This will show the Nordic perspective in EERA
- Decision: Before March 2012 the Board members of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden will write an overview over the fundings regarding educational research in each Nordic country – what kind of educational research has been funded:
  - Denmark: John B. Krejsler
  - Finland: Marjatta Lairio (Göran Björk inform)
  - Island: Gestur Guðmundsson
  - Norway: Berit Karseth and Hans Petter Ulleberg
  - Sweden: Robert Thornberg and Carl-anders Säfström
- John B. Krejsler distributes a text from Holland as example

#### 10b. WERA – report Berit Karseth

- NERA is bound by the agreement with WERA from the last quarter of 2009 until the last quarter of 2012.
- The Board discussed how to exercise the membership until end of 2012. NERA has no economic resources to participate in WERA meeting during this coming year.
- The Board decision:
  - NERA is member in WERA until the end of 2012 and will pay the membership fee for that period
    - NERA will be represented by EERA during this year

#### 10c. AERA – report Berit Karseth

- NERA has a slot at AERA, but NERA can not support any network to participate.
- If Nordic participants will go to AERA, they can use the NERA slot

#### 11. Any other business:

- Open access to the Journal Nordic Studies in Education was discussed
- The Board decided that the Editor negotiates with the publisher, Universitetsforlaget.

back to:

#### 6a. Congress 2012, Copenhagen

- Report from the organizational committee
- Theme: Everyday life, Education and Transformations
- Keynotes will be published as articles in NSE
- First call March 2011
- Second Call August 2011
  - o Submission deadline: November 8, 2011 (all proposals will be submitted online)
  - o Registration start: October 27, 2011
  - o Information on Review Results: January 14, 2012
  - o Deadline for Early bird registration: January 19, 2012.
- The Board appreciates the work of the organizational committee and the representative of the congress bureau
- The congress budget is ambitious. The congress fee will be about 2900 DKR.

12. Next meeting: March 8, 2012, at 12-18, and March 9, 2012, at 9-12, Copenhagen

13. Board meeting closed March 19, 2011.

Göran Björk (Secretary)

Controller: Gestur Guðmundsson checked October 23  
October 3, 2011

Robert Thornberg checked

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The meeting opened at 16.15

1. Evaluation of No. 1/2011 and No. 2/2011

The Editorial Board accepted these two numbers.

The discussion was about

- a. how to guarantee and even improve the quality of the journal
- b. the policy in the special issues of that kind NO. 2/2011
- c. the Editorial Board participation in the selection of articles and composition of the different numbers

Decision: The Board defends the freedom of the Editor.

2. The contents of NO. 3/2011 was presented and accepted

3. The journal has received 32 articles (August 1, 2011).

4. Special Issue – 40 years with NERA

The discussion was critical to a Special Issue. A main theme in the arguments was that the Editorial Board has to defend the quality of NSE as a peer-review research journal.

Decision:

- Show the 40 year on the cover during 2012
- One article with NERA historical content during 2012
- On the NERA web: articles and discussion on NERA history and research
- The congress in Copenhagen will organize a symposium where young researchers can articulate their opinions of NERA in relation to established researchers in NERA

5. The Editorial Board has to define concrete plans to increase

- the scientific value
- the visibility
- the number of readers

Decision: The Editor will go on with the plans of open access.

The Editorial Board has trust in the Editor's work and is open to discuss issues that raise during the work.

6. New printing works. Gestur Guðmundsson and John B. Krejsler will give review in two weeks

on an article that has been forgotten.

7. An application of a special issue has received from a research group, Unit of Cultural and Feminist Studies in Education, through Sirpa Lappalainen.

Decision: The Editorial Board is positive and ask for a more detailed proposal.

The Editorial Board meeting closed, at 18.15

Göran Björk (Secretary)

Controller: Gestur Guðmundsson checked October 23  
October 3, 2011

Robert Thornberg, checked