

# Minutes NERA Board meeting

## August 2014

Dates and times: 14/8, 12:00-19:00 -15/8, 8:30-10:00,

Place: Gothenburg University, Pedagogen, Västra Hamngatan

### Attendees:

Carl Anders Säfström (Sweden), Robert Thornberg (Sweden), Anna Slotte-Lüttge (Finland), Sirpa Lappalainen (Finland), Niels Kryger (Denmark), John Benedicto Krejsler (Denmark), Elisabeth Bjørnstad (Norway) Gestur Guðmundsson (Island), Maike Luimes (treasurer), Herner Sæverot (NSE).

### **1. Opening** – Carl Anders Säfström

### **2. Election of secretary** – Elisabeth Bjørnstad

### **3. Election of two controllers** - Gestur Guðmundsson and Anna Slotte-Lüttge

### **4. Acceptance of agenda for the meeting**

The agenda was accepted and extended with three other items:

Journal discussion

Language policy at the conference

Quality of papers and abstracts (or up to 1200 words...same as EERA)

### **5. Minutes from Lillehammer**

Minutes approved with corrections in attendance, item 6 and 7.

*Maike Luimes* attended the meeting

*Correction in item 6 g. Conference in Denmark 2017* – John B Krejsler, Niels Kryger and Gestur Gudmundsson have already

met with Palle Rasmussen and more colleagues at Aalborg to discuss the next conference in Denmark.

*Correction in item 7 Finances. Budget adjustments. Transfer 10 000 NOK to the Ahlström account every other year.*

## **6. General information**

Notice, both NERA and ECER will take place in Copenhagen/Aalborg in 2017

## **7. Budget/economy, information and discussion.**

The Board discussed how involved the Board will be in controlling budgets.

### *Board decision:*

As the contracts between NERA and organizers of each conference involve economic obligations, budget and “bokslut” should be controlled by the board.

#### **a) NERAs economy/budget etc**

Maïke Luimes (treasurer) informed about the budget. The budget is in balance.

#### **b) Economical reports from networks**

Maïke Luimes presented economic reports from network 3, 14 and 17 pre conferences. Each network will be contacted if there are some issues related to the application and economic report.

The Board sees that there is some vagueness in the application related to what we support and decided to outline more detailed guidelines related to the application and economical report.

### **c) Economical report from Lillehammer congress 2014**

The Board has not received any economic report from Lillehammer. Carl Anders Säfström will contact Per Ericsson.

To ensure that the Board has information about the economic statuses after arranging NERA conferences the Board will take a closer look at the contracts between NERA and local committees. It should be written clearly in the contract that the organizers are required to deliver an economic report to be accepted by the board.

### **d) Negative figures for member recruitment**

Robert Thornberg opened the discussion about negative figures for member recruitment.

We see a downward tendency in recruitment of members.

Issues discussed related to recruiting members were e.g.

- Locate conferences in big cities to attract people
- Membership list
- Require to be a member to participate to the conference; membership included in the conference fee
- Use the Board sessions to bring up the Nordic perspective
- Sessions for PhD students (emerging researchers) – pre conferences for PhD students.
- Electronic system – member profile- more relevant information for the members.
- How to describe NERA at the Web?

#### Board decision:

Sirpa Lappalainen makes a draft about how we describe us on the web (deadline October 1<sup>th</sup> – respond October 15<sup>th</sup> )

Working group (Carl Anders Säfström, Anna Slotte-Lüttge, Maike Luimes and Elisabeth Bjørnstad) take a closer look at

integrating conference fee and membership fee. The discussion will be followed up at the next Board meeting in Mars 2015. Further discussion at the March meeting about the suggestion about membership acquired for the right to present at the conference.

### **8. Report from network meeting in Lillehammer 2014**

Anne Slotte-Lüttge presented the report from the network meeting:

20 conveners attended the convener meeting.

The conveners brought forward a need for more information about network meetings in the conference program.

Sverre Tveit informed about the website for the networks.

One convener brought forward the language policy at the conference and wanted that the conference language to be English to meet European delegates and not exclude anyone. The convener addresses the issue for the Board. See Item17: Language policy at the conference.

For more information see the minutes from the convener meeting.

#### **a) Rules for support to networks. Decision.**

See also 7b.

#### ***Board decision:***

Carl Anders Säfström and Maike Luimes will make an outline guidelines for supporting networks and a new application form.

New guidelines will be presented at GA and at the convener meeting in March 2015.

**b) Applications from networks. Decision**

Carl Anders Säfström presented the applications for pre conferences at NERA Gothenburg 2015.

*Board decision:*

The Board is positive to both applications.

**c) Procedures for searching for new network coordinator**

Hans Petter Ulleberg will be in charge for one more year.

Any other business

The report from the convener meeting shows low participation on the network meetings. How can we ensure more participation? Suggestions: Network meeting clearly announced in the conference program – lunch only served at the network meetings?

**10. Presentation of the upcoming congress, program, sites, economy, etc (local committee)**

The chair of the organization committee Ilse Hakvoort and the local committee presented and informed about the upcoming congress.

The Board questioned about registration for symposium, registration of new NERA members and a need for a brief description/ instruction for paper/abstract.

**9. Working group on procedures for arranging congresses**

Working group consisting of Gestur Guðmundsson, Anna

Slotte-Lüttge, Sirpa Lappalainen, Niels Kryger presented a first draft of handbook for procedures for arranging congress. The draft needs to be translated to English.

The handbook needs to have one practical part and one policy part. The practical part will help the next institution to organize the conference and the policy part will give an overview of NERA`s policy and values to follow.

Board decisions:

At the March meeting the Board needs to bring up, for further discussion, the policy and value issues for NERA

Next Board meeting – discussion about symposiums presented at the conference need to include two or more Nordic countries. The board will present possible changes in policy at GA 2015.

**11. Organizing the Boards session for Gothenburg 2015 (theme, representation from the board/chair, participants). Decision.**

The Board evaluated the first Board panel arranged at Lillehammer. The panel went very well, but the panel participants need more instructions and a possibility to deliver a short written presentation before the panel discussion.

The theme for the Board panel at NERA Conference 2015 will be “Nordic in a European context. Relation between educational research and policy – Horizon 2020”

Board panel in Helsinki 2016 will focus on Language and publishing in Nordic Countries.

John B. Krejsler and Carl Anders Säfström will organize and chair the Board panel. Send information about participants to Maike Luimes before Early Bird registration.

## **12. International collaborations/representations. Discussion.**

John B. Krejsler informed about EERA and WERA.

EERA is opening for an expanding and broadening of the understanding which countries can be considered European. Who is inside and outside the European boarder? Inside EERA there is discussions about what will happen with the rules and statements when they include other countries?

EERA has an ongoing value discussion related to research and policy something that lead us in NERA to discuss our research and policy values –to make clear our point of view. What values do we want John to promote from NERA? (E.g. emphasize freedom of speech and enlightenment, dialogue about values across the countries, independentresearch?)

For more information about EERA see minutes of the EERA Council Meeting.

### **Board decisions:**

Niels Kryger makes a draft presenting NERA`s policy and research values for the next Board meeting in Mars. NERA`s Policy and research values will be presented at GA in Mars 2015

## **13. AERA representation from NERA, application. Decision.**

Carl Anders Säfström presented the application for NERA`s

symposium slot at AERA.

Board decision:

The Board agreed and accepted the application.

**14. Congress in Helsinki 2016, contract issues. Discussion.**

Anna Slotte-Lüttge and Sirpa Lappalainen represent the organization committee for Helsinki and gave a short presentation about the work related to the upcoming conference in Helsinki 2016.

Carl Anders Säfström will discuss the contract and agreements in more detail with Helsinki.

**15. Network webpage**

The homepage need a «home» button visible from all sites.

Board decision:

The Board decide to spend 15 000 NOK to reconstruct all the networks webpages.

**16. Ahlström award 2015.**

Working group for the Ahlström award: Editor for NSE Herner Sæverot, Robert Thornberg and Elisabeth Bjørnstad. The working group outlined a proposal.

**17. Any other business**

**Journal**

The Editor will continue to use the Board members as experts and review advisers. All Board members send an overview of their research field and competences to Herner Sæverot before September 15<sup>th</sup>.



The Board wants the NSE to have a clear Nordic profile and be more visible and in front at NERA`s conferences.

### **Language policy**

The Board maintains NERA`s language policy. The conference language is English, but the participants have the opportunity to present in Swedish, Danish and Norwegian. Presentations in one of the Nordic language have to be noticed in the submission of abstract, in the conference program and these presentations will be placed at the end of the sessions.

### **Quality of papers and abstract**

This issue will be discussed in more detailed at the next board meeting.

### **18. Closing of meeting**

Next Board meeting March, 3rd 12.00 at Pedagogen University in Gothenburg.

Attachments

Controllers:

Anna Slotte-Lüttge

Gestur Guðmundsson