

## Minutes - NERA Board meeting 2021-03-02 from 9 am to 5 pm (CET)

### Tuesday 2 March

- 9.00 NERA Board Meeting  
12.30 Lunch  
13.15-14.15 General Assembly  
15.00-16.00 NSE Editorial Meeting  
16.10-17.00 NERA Board meeting and constitution of board

### Board members:

Monica Londen(Finland), Piia af Ursin (Finland), John Benedicto Krejsler (Denmark), Christian Ydesen (Denmark), Ketil Knutsen (Norway), Gry Paulgaard (Norway), Michael Dal (Iceland), Anette Olin (Sweden), Eva Hultin (Sweden), Maike Luimes (treasurer)

**Editor:** Herner Sæverot (Norway)

### AGENDA

1. Opening

*John opened the meeting*

2. Election of secretary

*Christian was unanimously elected*

3. Election of two controllers

*Piia and Gry were unanimously elected*

4. Acceptance of agenda for the meeting

*The agenda was accepted*

5. Minutes from the Board meeting August 18, 2020 and extraordinary Board meeting on October 13, 2020.

*Accepted with the remark that the tasks described in points 9 – E and 11 – a – II have not been carried out. Since the last meeting, all energy has been invested in extraordinary tasks due to Covid-19. A point was made that the convenor meeting should not be placed on the last day of the conference.*

6. Report from NERA2020 conveners (Turku).

*The report was accepted*

7. Economy (Maïke Luimes).

a. Balance 2020

*Maïke presented the balance and the accounts. Incoming balance was 132,559 and the outgoing balance was 228,417. The balance was approved, and the board notes a positive development in the balance.*

b. Budget proposal for 2021

*Maïke presented the budget proposal. A key consideration is the outgoing balance which must be 50,000 NOK according to practices so far. The estimated outgoing balance is 27,404 NOK. The board regards the budget in 2021 to be an emergency budget. The economic model should be viable from 2022 onwards. The board approved the budget and decided to check up on the balance/budget situation in June when more is known about the congress.*

c. Other issues

*The board decided to postpone the Ahlström award from 2021 to 2022, which will give an economic buffer of some 24,000 NOK.*

*The board decided to have the August board meeting online instead of going to Iceland.*

8. NERA's economy and account of Board-SDU communication concerning NERA 2021 (John, Michael & Maïke)

a. Presentation of status and challenges, 2021 and afterwards (John & Maïke)

b. Discussion of 2021 challenges in light of uncertainty of NERA November conference

*John presented the outcomes of the negotiations with SDU. The 2021 conference has been moved to November 3-5. Alternatives have been discussed in case the pandemic extends and derails an onsite conference. An agreement has been made that a full online conference can be made. A decision about the online or onsite nature of the 2021 conference will be made in late June. If the conference will be online, SDU will not pay fees to NERA meaning that NERA's income would rely solely on conference registrations.*

*There was a discussion about the price level for participating in the NERA 2021 conference which is blurred by a distinction between VAT/non-VAT.*

*John will make contact with SDU to clarify the issue about VAT and the price level. The board's position is that the price level cannot exceed 3,120 DKR.*

*There was a discussion about the possibility of having a hybrid online/onsite conference. Going hybrid might alleviate some of the uncertainty in terms of participation. Even though an onsite conference is possible some participants might still prefer an online presence.*

*John will discuss the issue with SDU.*

*John presented the economic situation with the journal and Cappeln. The challenge is that for the time being NERA has to pay VAT which makes it uncertain whether NERA can pay the*

*publication fee to Cappeln in 2021. Paying the publication fee will depend on the 2021 conference being onsite. NERA has a policy of transparency with Cappeln and the economic issue will be discussed between the board and our Cappeln contact throughout the year.*

9. Network issues (Gry)

*Gry presented the situation concerning the networks based on the network report. There are currently 25 networks.*

10. International collaborations (Eva, John)

a. EERA (Eva)

*Eva presented the situation based on the minutes from the latest EERA board meeting (19 September). The ECER 2020 conference was online and that same goes for the 2021 conference. The EERA summer school will also be online. Glasgow would like to host the ECER conference in 2023.*

b. SERA (Eva & John)

*Eva presented the situation. There is a good exchange of participants between events. SERA and NERA will invite members to submit papers on how to understand the concept 'pedagogy'. Collaboration is expanding and we will discuss the concrete collaboration initiatives at the August Board Meeting. A working group consisting of John, Eva and Christian was established.*

c. Other issues?

*No other issues were discussed.*

11. Board report 2020. Discussion of draft.

*The draft was discussed, and a few amendments were made. The report was approved for presentation at the GA.*

12. The Board plans for 2021

a. Candidates for new board members. Discussion about special duties?

*The list was presented and approved.*

b. Presentation of the board's plan at the annual meeting

*The draft was discussed, and a few amendments were made. The plan was approved for presentation at the GA.*

c. Other issues

*Due to force majeure the Board proposes that the GA 2022 meeting will take place simultaneously with the NERA 2022 conference, i.e., between June 1 and 3. That will mean a change from the requirement in the NERA Bylaws that the GA meeting should take place no later than March. The arguments are: (1) that the GA meeting has always taken place at the an-*

nual conference in March; (2) An online March meeting would not attract sufficient members.

### 13. NERA Conferences

- a. Denmark, November 3-5, 2021

*The plan is in place*

- b. Iceland, June 1-3, 2022

*The contract has been signed*

- c. Norway 2023

*The congress will be either in Oslo Met or in Stavanger. A decision will be made in the August meeting.*

- d. Sweden 2024

Stockholm or Gothenburg are possible venues. Anette and Eva will explore possibilities.

### 14. Website issues (Michael)

*Michael presented the situation. The website is being regularly updated but there is currently a problem with the 2019 congress banner being constantly displayed. The website is made in WordPress which is an outdated format. There is a need to update the platform and format of the website within the next couple of years.*

### 15. Follow ups from the Board Meeting in August 2020

- a. Working group (Herner, Eva, Christian and Gry) considering NERA's language policy.

*The issue will be moved to the August meeting.*

### 16. Next meeting

- a. August 17-18 (from noon-noon), Iceland (or online?)

*The meeting will be online on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 18:00*

- b. Proposal: We postpone the 2022 spring board meeting and GA-meetings to the Iceland 2022 (June 1-3) Conference in order to allow physical presence of members

*See above.*

### 17. NERA annual general assembly 2021. Checking of agenda and appendixes.

*Done.*

## 18. Nordic Studies in Education Board Meeting

- a. Large grant from NOP-HS for 2021 and 2022.
- b. What does NOP-HS say about NSE? Are we going in the right direction? Should we do otherwise?
- c. Discussion: Should NERA and NSE concentrate on all the Nordic countries (8 altogether) or just Scandinavia and Finland? What about the Baltic states? And Scotland?
- d. Status of papers and reading of issues 2020
- e. Plan for publications 2021
- f. Special Issues
- g. Other

*NOP-HS has given the journal the highest ranking. The reason is a very strong presence of authors from all Nordic countries.*

*There was a discussion about ways of recruiting more authors from a broader Nordic sphere (Baltic states, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Scotland and Ireland)*

*The Nordic education conversation format might be a good forum for such an endeavour.*

*It was decided that Eva, Monica, Michael, John and Herner form a working group for the Nordic education conversation where they will discuss the possibilities of recruiting additional authors from a broader Nordic context.*

*There are 95 submitted manuscripts which is record-breaking, and the readership also seems to be increasing (based on visitors on the website). It means that switching to Cappel and going OA has not meant a decline in submitted manuscripts or the visibility of the journal – on the contrary.*

*Issue 1 for 2021 has not been published and issue 2 will be published in April or May. Issue 3 is a special issue reflecting the first Nordic education conversation, and issue 4 is also well under way.*

## 19. Constituting board after GA and other issues.

*The board continues with the present positions.*

## 20. Closing of the meeting.

Controllers:



Piia af Ursin



Uly Raugaard

