

MINUTES OF THE EASA GENERAL MEETING

Veszprém, 2nd October 2015

The EASA General Meeting is held on 2nd September 2015 at 12:30pm in Room 1, Building B, Conference Centre, University of Pannonia, Hungary.

Members of the Board Present:

Marc Delrez (University of Liège, Belgium; Chair)
Dolores Herrero (Zaragoza University, Spain; Secretary)
Dominique Seve (Université du Havre, France; Treasurer)
Gabriella Espák (Debrecen University, Hungary; Webmaster)
Martin Renes (Universitat de Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain)
Vanessa Castejon (Université de Paris 13, France)
Helga Ramsey-Kurz (Innsbruck University, Austria)
Anne Brewster (UNSW, Australia; Australian representative)
David Callahan (Aveiro University, Portugal; former Chair and General Editor of JEASA)

Members of the Board Absent:

Katherine Russo (University of Naples, Italy)
Lyn McCredden (Deakin University, Australia; Australian representative)
Bronwyn Lay (Switzerland, postgraduate representative)

Call to Order

Marc Delrez, the EASA Chair, calls the meeting to order at 12:30pm and Dolores Herrero, the Secretary, agrees to record the minutes. The proposed agenda is as follows:

1. Report from the Chair
2. Report from the Treasurer
3. EASA Journal
4. Further EASA Conferences
5. Report of the Nominating Committee/ Election of Officers
6. Any Other Business

A quorum of Board Members is present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, is ready to proceed with business.

1. Report from the Chair

The Chair reports that most of his activity has consisted of correspondence on behalf of the Association. The main issues tackled have been those concerning the organization of the 2015 Conference in Hungary and the reconsideration/updating of EASA membership fees. The Chair,

after having consulted with other members of the Board, finally considered the possibility of collecting membership fees annually: instead of the former 40 euros every other year, he suggests that the Association should now charge 30 euros per year. The proposal is unanimously approved.

2. Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer evokes the problems she had to face to collect the Association membership fees, mainly because these were not included in the Conference registration fees and therefore had to be paid into a different bank account. The Treasurer then explains that direct debit is, at this moment, out of the question. Direct debit is only possible for associations, and the EASA account was opened in her own name, since an association in France can have an account only if it is domiciled in France. The best solution would be to rewrite the EASA constitution (Article 9) so that the Association account can be domiciled in the Treasurer's country (and not the Chair's), and the Treasurer can then transfer the current account onto an association account.

The Chair then takes the floor to make it clear that the EASA Constitution will require some slight revisions. Amusingly, this official document clearly states what should be done in the event of the Association deciding to dissolve, but makes no provisions, and is therefore silent on procedure, as regards amendments to the text of the Constitution itself. It is unanimously agreed that the new Chair and Board should feel entitled to study all of these matters and draft some modification proposals, which will undoubtedly contribute to offloading the Treasurer and securing the Association's financial well-being. These modifications should then be submitted for ratification by the majority of EASA members at the next General Meeting of the Association.

The Treasurer finally informs the meeting that the number of EASA members as of September 2015 has decreased by comparison with September 2014 (the main reason for this being that the Prato Conference attracted a higher number of delegates), and then provides a comprehensive update on the association's financial situation and forecast. It is resolved that the secretary will attach a copy of the Treasurer's report to the Association minutes so that all EASA members are duly informed of these financial details.

Two new auditors are designated: Caty Ribas (Universitat de les Illes Balears, Spain) and M. Pilar Royo (University of Zaragoza, Spain).

3. EASA Journal

David Callahan, the Chief Editor of *JEASA*, reminds the members present that the Journal publishes two kinds of issues: General Issues (edited by the journal's Chief Editor) and Monographic Issues (edited by solicited specialists). He then (again) deplores that the supply of articles for the next General Issue of the Journal remains very low, and that potential guest

editors eventually withdrew their offer to bring out monographic issues, which is why it was not possible in 2015 to stick to our planned policy of publishing two issues per year. A debate begins as to the ways in which the Journal can have the continuity it needs to get properly rated. EASA members should be informed of the good and bad news as regards *JEASA* so that they might consider the possibility of submitting more papers in order to guarantee the regularity that the survival and success of the Journal demand. The proposal is approved. David Callahan also makes it clear that the Journal's General Issues should by no means be equated with EASA Conference Proceedings. *JEASA* is an open-access and peer-reviewed Journal that welcomes articles of all kinds, including those resulting from the oral presentations given at EASA Conferences, but all of the articles received are subjected to the same professional refereeing process.

David Callahan finally requires the nomination of some Assistant Editors to help him deal with the Journal matters faster and more efficiently. Three EASA members volunteer to do so: Marc Delrez, Dolores Herrero and Martina Horakova. The floor agrees to the nomination of these three members as Assistant Editors.

4. Further EASA Conferences

The Chair insists on the desirability of the Association meeting frequently, and does not doubt that the decision taken at the previous General Assembly held in Bordeaux, i.e. that we alternate between large-scale international conferences and smaller, perhaps more specialized, workshops or symposia organized in intervening years, whenever this can be possible, has clearly contributed to giving EASA much more dynamism and visibility, since two successful Conferences (Prato 2014 and Pannonia 2015) have been held since then.

As to the date and place of EASA's next Conference, the Chair informs the assembly that the Association had originally received two offers:

- 1) Université de Paris 13, France (Vanessa Castejon) (2016)
- 2) University of Barcelona, Spain (Martin Renes) (2017)

However, due to several infrastructure problems, Vanessa Castejon has had to withdraw her offer to organize a Conference in 2016. As a result, the Association can only count on the 2017 Barcelona proposal, which is unanimously approved.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee/ Election of Officers

David Callahan, in his capacity as Former Chair responsible for the Nominating Committee, signals that both the current Chair (Marc Delrez) and the Secretary (Dolores Herrero), who have reached the end of their second mandate, will now like to step down. Dominique Seve, the Association's Treasurer, is on the other hand willing to remain in office. All the other current members of the EASA Board express the desire to remain active for the Association, but in two years' time (2017), David Callahan informs, most of them will have to be replaced. Martin Renes, current member of the Board, offers to become the new EASA Chair. Since there are no

other proposals, Martin Renes is unanimously nominated as Chair. As regards the position of EASA Secretary, M. Pilar Royo offers to replace Dolores Herrero. This being the only proposal, M. Pilar Royo is unanimously nominated as Secretary. David Callahan points out that the fact that both of them belong to the same University (Zaragoza, Spain) can undoubtedly facilitate the transition, but also makes it clear that, since Martin Renes is already a Board member, his nomination as Chair in turn means that yet another EASA member should join the Board. Jan Lencznarowicz (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland) offers to become a new Board member, and his proposal is once again unanimously approved, since the floor agrees that his nomination can clearly strengthen the Central/Eastern Europe presence on the Board.

6. Any other business

A discussion ensues as to how *JEASA*'s cover and the aesthetics of the Association website can be improved. Gabriella Espák, EASA's Webmaster, states that she cannot generate content herself, and that, if the website is to keep on having so little vitality, there is no point in worrying about its aesthetics. Several suggestions are made but, as no consensus can be reached in the very little time still available before the meeting has to be closed, it is agreed that the new EASA Chair, together with the other member of the Board, will further reflect on these issues and make a more considered proposal at the next EASA General Meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 13:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Herrero, EASA Secretary.