

Minutes of the 27th annual general meeting of members of the Academia Europaea, held at The Technical University of Darmstadt on 7 September 2015, 13:00pm local time

Present: The President and 48 members

The President Professor Dr. Cloetingh welcomed members to Darmstadt and thanked the local organisers (Dieter and Ursula Fellner) and the Rector of TU Darmstadt – Professor Dr Prömmel, for their hospitality.

1. The draft agenda [as previously published on the AE website], Papers had been made available in advance, both on the website and were tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been notified in advance, as described in the notice for the AGM. The President proposed a change or order of items 6 to be considered before item 5.3. The change was agreed.

2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2014 (Barcelona), were approved without amendment and signed by the President.

3. Questions to the Trustees

No questions were put. No comments were received

4 Transactions of Ordinary business: Elections and appointments.

4.1 Election of a Treasurer

The President proposed that the AGM provide a vote of thanks to the retiring Treasurer Professor Roger Elliott. This was duly granted.

The President briefly described the process that had been followed in the search and identification of the candidate. The candidate was asked to leave the meeting. The President then briefly outlined the nomination of the candidate – Professor Peter Scott. A brief statement and CV had been tabled for delegates. The President formally moved the resolution. There were no objections raised and the candidate was therefore unanimously elected for a term of three years (until the AGM of 2018). Professor Scott was then invited back into the meeting to an acclamation. Professor Scott briefly introduced himself and his objectives for the term.

4.2 Re-election of a Vice President

The President moved the resolution to re-elect Professor Anne Buttmer as a Vice President (officio) for a second and final term of three years (until the AGM of 2018). There were no objections and the resolution was passed unanimously.

4.3 Co-opted Trustees

The President moved the resolution that the AGM approve a further period of co-optation of Professor Ole Petersen – until the AGM of 2017 and Professor Theo D’haen until the AGM of 2016. There were no objections and the resolution was passed unanimously.

5. Reports

5.1 The President tabled the 2014 consolidated activity report. Member questions were invited and none were forthcoming. The President specifically mentioned the new collaboration and agreement between the Academia Europaea and FEAM, euroCASE, ALLEA and EASAC for science advice to the European Commission. The successful launch of the new Hubert Curien Initiatives Fund was described. Finally the President thanked the Wroclaw, Barcelona and Bergen staffs for their considerable efforts in 2014 and Ms Teresa McGovern at the London HG office for her administrative support. The Graz information centre team (of Dana Kaiser and Helmut Leitner) were also thanked.

The President moved the resolution to adopt the 2014 activity report. There were no objections and the report was adopted.

5.2 The Treasurer

5.2.1 Annual Financial Statement. Prof. Scott reported on the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2014. He remarked that for the first time, the accounts included the expenditures of the Hubs. However, they were not separately reported and complex to read. The Treasurer announced that Hub finances would be more clearly reported in future accounts. Treasurer also indicated that the Board would explore expansion of the Patron membership scheme. There were no questions from the floor. The Treasurer moved the resolution to adopt the accounts for 2014. These were adopted.

5.2.1 The Treasurer moved the resolution to re-appoint Keith Vaudrey and Co Ltd as auditors. The resolution was adopted.

5.2.3 Treasurer moved the resolution to fix the recommended member donation at 120 Euros for 2015. It was pointed out that this figure had not been changed since 2003. The Resolution was adopted.

6.1 The President then moved to proposals to amend the Regulations. An explanatory memorandum had been published to all members in advance of the AGM. The President described the changes in structure and the impacts of the creation of the four Classes. The President also described the need for greater flexibility within the Board to respond to external developments and the growing activity of the AE, especially with four Hubs and active engagement in European Science Policy work. The propose changes were explained especially that creating new Vice Presidents (ex officio) would not reduce or impact on elections of Officers and such positions were tied to the term of the President. The President then moved the resolution to adopt the changes to Regulations. There were no objections and the Resolution was adopted.

5.3 The President then returned to item 5.3 of the agenda and invited the Class Chairs coordinator and Chair of the Life Sciences Class (Prof. Ole Petersen) to report on the 2014 nominations cycle. Prof. Petersen reported that the first cycle under the new Class system had operated well. There were still many improvements needed, including; the need for more individual members to nominate candidates – to any Class. The “rejection” of candidates was not a permanent decision and such a decision was not intend as an insult to candidates. Therefore it had been decided that in future, such candidates would be designated as “not elected this year”.

5.3.1 It was reported that the following had been elected by the Council at Darmstadt: Class A1 (Humanities) – 83 candidates; Class A2 (Social and related Sciences) 43 Candidates; Class B (Exact and Natural Sciences) 66 candidates and Class C 9Life Sciences) 53 candidates. All new members would be contacted and the 2015 nominations cycle would be open from 10 October until 15 March 2016. In response to a question from the floor, Prof. Petersen reported that the earlier closing date was due to the earlier AGM in 2016 (26 July).

5.3.4 Prof. Svend Erik Larsen – Chair of Class A1 (Humanities) described Class proposals for creation of a new Section – Film, Media and Visual Studies. He moved a resolution that the AGM approve the creation. This was approved.

Prof. Petersen then also proposed creation of a new Section in Class C (Life Sciences) in Clinical and Veterinary Sciences to address a significant gap in membership and to allow further re-focussing of other Sections within the Class. This resolution was adopted.

The President invited members to look carefully at the distribution of the disciplines within the Sections and to bring any serious gaps to the attention of the Section Chairs, this also covered geographical imbalances and gender issues.

The President then invited Academic Directors/representatives of the Regional Knowledge Hubs to present brief reports. Reports were made by;
Wroclaw -Dr Ola Nowak
Bergen – Prof. Laszlo Csernai
Cardiff – Prof. Ole Petersen

The President apologised for Barcelona (Prof. Guerrero) who had been taken ill. The President also thanked the staff at the Graz Information centre for all their work on the website, membership nominations administration and database.

5.8 The President then invited Dr Lynn Kamerlin (immediate past President of the Young Academy of Europe to report. The AGM were informed that the YAE membership stood at 125 members. All AE members were encouraged to identify suitable young scholars for nomination. AE members were informed that Prof. Nicole Roberts (Materials Science, Oxford) had been elected as the new President of the YAE for 2016.

5.9 Prof. Balazs Gulyas then reported on the outcome of the search for the 2016 Erasmus medallist. It was announced that the 2016 Erasmus Medal would be awarded

to Professor Martin Rees (Cambridge, UK) – Astronomer. The award would be presented at the 2016 annual meeting on 27th July, in Cardiff, Wales.

7. No other business had been officially notified and the President thanked members present. The meeting closed at 14:15.

Minutes signed at Cardiff on 27 July 2015

Sierd Cloetingh, President

DC/minutes/ Nov. 2015.