

European Association for Health Information and Libraries

Minutes of the General Assembly

held 28th June 2008 at 11.45am, Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland

1. Quorum

Tellers reported that over 90 EAHIL members were present, therefore the meeting was declared quorate. The President reminded those present that only members could vote at the meeting.

2. Opening Remarks and Welcome

The President welcomed members to the meeting. There were several important matters to address, and she thanked all those present for their participation.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the GA meeting held 15th September 2006 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and the minutes of the GA meeting held 15th September 2007 in Krakow, Poland, were both formally proposed, seconded and **carried** for approval, *nem con*.

4. President's Report

Suzanne Bakker had prepared a written report which was available to members and published on the website. She drew attention to the fact that EAHIL currently had 1114 active members, which indicated a vibrant and growing organisation. She also reported on the move of the secretariat from the NVB to the association's accountants, which had worked well and had saved significant amounts of unnecessary expense and duplication of work.

5. Treasurer's Report

Manuela Colombi presented the financial outcome for the past year and the proposed budget for 2009/2010. The financial situation remained healthy and additional sponsorship from Ebsco had enabled the Board to increase the number of scholarships available for conference/workshop attendance. After a brief discussion, the General Assembly accepted and **approved** the Treasurer's report *nem con*. Members of financial auditing committee 2007 were Oliver Obst and Gussun Gunes; for 2008 it will be Oliver Obst and Theodora Oker-Blom.

6. JEAHIL Editor's Report

Sally Wood Lamont had prepared a written report which she presented at the meeting. Happily the economic position remained healthy, with interest in advertising in the journal growing and the journal continues to cover production costs and make a steadily increasing profit. The editorial board had implemented a number of changes and improvements, including detailed *Instructions to Authors* and a *Checklist for Authors*, as well as introducing layout changes by grouping all the scientific articles together at the beginning of each issue, and a new cover design. These changes have been well received by the membership.

The editorial board had discussed and decided on themes for the forthcoming issues for 2008/2009 and a list would be published in the August 2008 issue.

7. Report of the Election Committee

On behalf of the auditing committee, Françoise Pasleau formally announced the results of the recent elections for the Board and President. There were 3 positions available for election to the Board, and 5 candidates. Benoit Thirion, Manuela Colombi and Lotta Haglund were elected, with Helena Bouzkova (taking office after Tony McSeán's resignation) and Ivana Truccolo as co-opted member. Suzanne Bakker had been re-elected as President, with 215 votes. (Applause). Suzanne thanked the Election Auditing Committee and asked that they be formally re-elected, which was **carried *nem con***.

8. The Nominations Committee

Suzanne Bakker thanked the present Nominations Committee for their work and asked that they be re-elected, which was **carried *nem con***. There would be an election forthcoming for Council Members, with vacancies available depending on the size of the membership in each member country. The term of office for Council membership was confirmed as 4 years, with re-election possible up to a maximum of 8 years.

9. Amendments to the EAHIL Rules of Procedure.

Suzanne Bakker explained that draft revisions to the Rules of Procedure (as necessitated by the change in the constitution of EAHIL to a non-fee paying association as reflected in the revised Statutes) had been prepared and these had been discussed in the recent Council meeting, where several helpful suggestions had been made for changes and small revisions. Therefore it was proposed that the draft Rules of Procedure be **adopted as a provisional official working draft** for the time being, and published on the website. The Rules of Procedure would then be revised again if necessary in the light of further developments. This was formally proposed and **carried** with one abstention.

10. EAHIL Registration: evaluation pilot.

Suzanne Bakker reminded members that a working group had been formed to produce a practicable set of proposals for an EAHIL certification process. Membership included Helena Bouzkova, Suzanne Bakker, Ioana Robu, Maurella Della Seta and Françoise Pasleau. It was a complicated issue and further work was necessary, but it was the intention to have a paper on the subject with formal proposals ready for voting at the Lisbon General Assembly.

11. EAHIL Awards for Best Presentations at Helsinki 2008.

The President announced the awards for the best presentations at the Helsinki meeting as follows:

Best First-Timer Poster: Ilse Schødt (co-authors H. Christensen, C. Skrubbeltrang).

Best Poster: Tuulikki Airaksinen (co-author Kirsi Salmi).

Best First-Timer Oral Presentation: Christine Bouwir (co-authors: Sandrine Vandenput, Michel Vandenput, Nancy Durieux, Nicolas Fairon, Françoise Pasleau).

Best Oral Presentation: Dieuwke L. Brand-de Heer (co-author Suzanne Bakker).

12. EAHIL Awards of Merit.

The President announced the decision of the Board to award the **EAHIL Award of Merit 2007** to **Linda Lisgarten**, in recognition of her many years' valued service to EAHIL as a UK Council Member and latterly as a Board Member and as co-chair of PHING. The President was also happy to announce that the **Award of Merit for 2008** was awarded to **Ulrich Korwitz**, who was well-known to most EAHIL members from his work in organising the EAHIL conference in Cologne in 2002, as well as his support and influence on discussions regarding the role of library services in providing affordable access to scientific information in biomedical and health sciences in Europe.

At this point the President also gave public thanks to **Meile Kretaviciene**, who was leaving the Board after several years of valuable service, especially with regard to her useful knowledge of the problems and concerns of the Baltic states and her work with the Nordic-Baltic co-operation with EAHIL.

13. Future EAHIL Meetings.

As previously announced, the 2009 Workshop would take place in Dublin and the 2010 Conference would be in Lisbon. The Board was now seeking expressions of interest for 2011, 2012 and 2013, and those wishing to put forward proposals were encouraged to contact the Board as soon as possible.

14. Greetings from the M.L.A.

Bruce Madge had been able to join the meeting and gave a brief report on the MLA's successful conference in Chicago in May, as well as describing some of their current initiatives with regard to International Co-operation. A full report would be published in *JEAHIL*.

15. Any other business.

There being no other business, the President closed the General Assembly, thanking all present for their valuable contributions.

To be signed at the General Assembly in Dublin, date

EAHIL President

EAHIL Secretary