

Conference of European University Chaplains

Minutes of the General Assembly held in Soesterberg, The Netherlands, at 16:15 on 9 June, 2015

There were 7 members of the Board and 28 members present.

1. Opening of the General Assembly

1.1. The General Assembly was formally opened by Anette Brandt (Chair of The Board), who introduced members of The Board.

2. Election of chair of the General Assembly

2.1. Anette proposed Karin Borg to Chair the General Assembly, and this was **agreed**.

3. Election of minute-secretary of the General Assembly

3.1. The Chair proposed Allan Smith as Minute Secretary for the General Assembly. This was **agreed**.

4. Election of ballot-counters

4.1. Angela Berners-Wilson and Gunnar Ståklint were appointed as ballot-counters.

5. Approval of the announcement of the meeting

5.1. Anette had previously announced the meeting by email and facebook and asked the AGM to confirm that sufficient notice had been given. This was **agreed**.

6. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly

6.1. The Minutes were **agreed** without amendment

7. Annual report by the Chair of the board

7.1. Anette presented her report as the Chair of the Board.

7.2. Membership of the Board

7.2.1. The Board is currently made up of:

Anette Brandt, Sweden (Chair),
Andrew Wilson, UK & Ireland (Vice Chair)
Günther Sturms, The Netherlands (Secretary)
Risto Korhonen, Finland (Treasurer)
Esther Diederer, the Netherlands
Inge Hoyland, Norway
Dániel Püski, Hungary

7.3. Board meetings

7.3.1. The Board has had monthly Skype conferences and met in person in The Netherlands in November 2014.

7.4. CEUC 2014 (Ariano, Italy)

7.4.1. Last year's conference (in Ariano, Italy) was arranged in cooperation with the Norwegian-Italian travel company *Semplicemente Italiano*. It was a small conference,

with 32 participants attending. The Conference theme was “Making a difference – awareness of our roots.” The size of the conference contributed to an intimate atmosphere that was appreciated by many of the chaplains attending. However, the size of the conference also led to a financial loss.

7.5. Finance

7.5.1. Moving the economy from Denmark to Finland proved to be a much more complicated procedure than expected. A number of solutions were explored. The Board took the decision to use the account of the National Association of University Chaplains in Finland from November 2014. CEUC has a separate account, controlled by the treasurer Salla Tuominen, whom the Board has appointed as Assistant Treasurer. This is a similar solution to that used by IPCA Europe (International Prison Chaplains’ Association), who run their finances through the Swedish Council of Churches.

7.5.2. The financial loss of the Ariano conference was dealt with during the autumn and the Board came to an agreement with *Semplicemente Italiano* in December, to share the loss.

7.6. Website & Facebook

7.6.1. Lise Lotz (Denmark) is our webmaster. Members were encouraged to contribute material. The CEUC Facebook group currently has 197 members.

7.7. IACHE

7.7.1. Günther Sturms, Dániel Püski and Cassandra Howes represent CEUC in the IACHE executive committee. Cassandra and Günther visited Australia last year and took part in a planning meeting. Skype meetings are held regularly throughout the year. Conclusion: financial issues have taken significant amount of the Board’s time. Want to look at how to develop membership.

7.8. Concluding remarks

7.8.1. The various financial issues have taken a lot of the Board’s time. However, there has also been important questions concerning the future. As a result of this the Board organized a number of ‘think tanks’ today, with the aim to get input and new ideas for the coming year.

7.9. A question was raised asking clarification of the lessons learned from the 2014 conference. The Board noted that it was difficult to organize the conference without a local host committee. They also noted the need for a clear agreement on what happens in the event of a financial loss and to have a clear agreed cut-off point for registrations to be reached before going ahead.

7.10. The Chair proposed that the Board’s Annual Report be received. This was **agreed**.

8. **Financial report**

8.1. The Financial Report was given by the Treasurer, Risto Korhonen.

8.2. The Treasurer noted the transfer of responsibility between Lise Lotz and himself had been completed.

8.3. With a reduced attendance in 2014, there was a net deficit for year of €3691.65

8.4. However, the CEUC account has a net balance of €8644.27

9. Report by the auditors

9.1. Renske Oldenbloom presented the report of the auditors (Markus Anker, Renske Oldenbloom). Unfortunately the auditors have not been able to comment on the 2013 accounts. The 2014 accounts have been checked, and agreed by the auditors.

9.2. The auditors noted that it can be difficult to track items through the Finnish National Association of University Chaplains system. In the light of this they strongly recommend setting up an independent CEUC account.

10. Approval of Financial Report

10.1. The Chair proposed the approval of approval of the Financial Report, and that the General Assembly discharge of Board for financial year to 2014. This was **agreed**.

11. Budget 2015/16

11.1. The Treasurer presented the budget for 2015/16. The anticipated total expenditure is €3160. This is a reduced figure because 2016 is a Global Conference year and there will not be a European conference. The anticipated income of €3210 includes a delayed payment from Sweden 2013.

11.2. The Chair proposed approval of budget. This was **agreed**.

12. Constitutional Amendment

12.1. The current wording reads:

§ 1

Name and home

Art. 1

The name of the organisation is Conference of European University Chaplains, abbreviated CEUC.

Art. 2

The home of the organisation is Copenhagen, Denmark

12.2. The Board proposed that Article 2 should be removed. This was **agreed**.

12.3. A further proposal was made to change the title of this section by deleting 'and home'. This was **agreed**

12.4. Anette Brandt noted that these amendments will need to be confirmed by the 2016 General Assembly.

13. Membership Fee

13.1. The Board proposed an increase to €30 for 2016. After some discussion, this was **agreed**.

13.2. It was noted that an opportunity would be available during the 2015 conference for members to pay the membership fee for 2016.

14. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board

14.1. Esther, on behalf of Board, proposed that Anette Brandt and Andrew Wilson be re-elected as Chair & Vice Chair respectively. This was **agreed**.

15. Election of auditors.

15.1. The Chair proposed Markus Anker and Renske Oldenboom be re-appointed as auditors. This was **agreed**.

16. Report from the 'think tanks'

16.1. Members of the Board fed back from the think tanks that had taken place earlier in the day. The ideas and issues raised would be considered by the Board.

17. Global Conference 2016

17.1. Cass Howes. (Chair of IACHE) Introduced Jay Robinson, noting the history of IACHE as a multifaith organization. IACHE's main task is to organise a global conference every four years.

17.2. Jay Robinson then invited members of CEUC to the Global Conference, from 11 to 15 July, 2016 in Bendigo, Australia (Victoria). The theme for the conference is 'Digging, Dialogue and Diversity'. Information is available on iache.org

18. Changes to the Board

18.1. It was noted that Esther Diederer is standing down from the Board. General Assembly thanked her for her contribution over a number of years.

18.2. It was noted that there is currently a vacancy for a representative of Germany.

19. Close.

19.1. The meeting closed at 17:43. The next meeting of the General Assembly is scheduled to take place at the 2016 Global Conference.