

General Assembly of the CEUC

Neuendettelau, Germany

6<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

Agenda:

Welcome

David H welcomed everyone to the assembly.

Approval of minutes, General Assembly, 7<sup>th</sup> June, Dublin 2018.

Minutes approved.

Election of Minute Secretary of the General Assembly.

Marylee Anderson: approved by the assembly.

Election of Ballot counters.

Åsa and Susanne: approved by the assembly.

Election of Chair of General Assembly.

Donald McEwen: approved by assembly.

Approval of the Chair's Annual report.

David H spoke to his report and emphasised the last paragraph about the rich diverse community of people within the CEUC and assured that he would work hard to ensure that this diversity continues and grows.

Annual report was approved by the assembly.

Approval of the Treasurers Financial Report.

Risto provided the treasurers report. He summarised the budget giving evidence to demonstrate that the accounts are well-balanced and in surplus.

Scott Evans reported that they were delighted that there was a surplus from the Dublin conference which has helped towards the current budget.

A new bank account has been successfully opened.

With the global conference next year there will not be as much membership fee expected. Risto and the Board will try and put some effort into collecting fees despite there being no CEUC conference next year through the website and email.

Exploring ways in which CEUC can help with future scholarships and financial assistance for attendance at future CEUC conferences was discussed. Risto demonstrated how the current budget could allow this to happen. There will be more transparency to show how these have been distributed at future General Assembly meetings.

Question: Does the CEUC have a reserve money policy?

Risto answered that there currently is no policy for a minimum reserve but due to the current healthy balance the Board will discuss this at future meetings. It was noted that there is consensus amongst the Board to advertise and support those University Chaplains for whom attendance at future CEUC conferences is financially difficult.

Budget Auditors Commented: A statement was read from the auditors, Markus and Renske, acknowledging the surplus from this year and the amount in the accounts. They gave thanks to Risto for his management of the accounts and the Board for their management of the budget.

### **Appointment of new auditor:**

Inge was put forward to become an Auditor of the CEUC accounts. Proposer: Petra. Seconder: Camilla. Approved by the general assembly.

The assembly thanked Markus for all his hard work as auditor. Renske will continue for 1 year.

### **Budget for 2019-2020**

Risto presented the Boards suggestions for next years budget including sponsorship and subsidies for IACHE 2020.

Question: Can we be given a general impression of how much the Board would like to have in reserve and how there will be less surplus in the budget and when will this be clarified especially relating to scholarships?

Response: There have been discussions amongst Board that money within the accounts should be more operational and this is an ongoing discussion that the Board is having. Assurance was given that this would be on the next CEUC agenda.

Question: Will some of the surplus money be used towards the inclusion of those University Chaplain who are unable to regularly attend CEUC conferences and to advance CEUC within other European countries? In particular, chaplains from Eastern Europe and bearing in mind the relatively low income of those countries in comparison to others.

Response: This was agreed.

Question: Would this come from the membership fee? There was concern that consideration should be given to the different scales of income at each institution and that any membership fee reflects this i.e. a sliding scale of membership fees.

Response: It was noted that there were no applications from Eastern Europe this year and perhaps more needs to be done to focus on how the availability of funds are made. It was agreed that clear and careful consideration needs to be given to the minimum surplus figure and that this will be taken forward by the Board.

Question: Will there be a General Assembly in Sheffield?

Response: Yes.

2019/2020 CEUC Budget was approved by the assembly.

## **Approval of new election regulations**

Janning spoke to the election paper regarding changes to the election to the Board.

The main differences are that the Board will be elected during an assembly for a term of 3 years apart from the treasurer who is chosen by the Board.

The new process for election was explained and an open discussion was held.

Question: Can you stand for as many periods as you want to? Suggestion was that there would be a 2 term restriction.

Response: It was discussed by the Board that the responsibility of how long a person would remain on the Board would lie with the assembly.

In reply to this response, a Proposal was put forward to change the draft to say that 2 terms would be the limit of Board members i.e., a Board member could serve for a maximum of 6 years. This proposal was seconded.

There was a lot of discussion on how to take this proposal forward that was complicated and covered areas such as length of term, how many repeats, possible gaps between terms.

Comments:

Takes time to gain experience in the roles therefore 2 terms might be too short.

That it would be 2 consecutive terms of Board membership, but this would not mean that people could not stand again after a period of time.

How fast might the total Board turn over if there is a maximum of 6 years of being on the Board?

It's a good principal to have a set time to be in the Board and perhaps 3 is more appropriate.

Suggestion that there is an online conference discussion that can take this forward.

Is the assembly happy to delegate a group to take this forward?

Those on the group: Petra and Karin will liaise with the Board to help them make a decision on this.

This was approved by the assembly.

Question: How would the runoff take place? Its not clear in the paper.

A second ballot would be held. This will be clarified in the paper.

Question: Is it expected that the one running is present at the Assembly?

Response: Yes

Question: And are they expected to attend all the future assemblies?

Response: No

Question: When you have a 3 year term when will it start? Will the years you've been in office be counted? Thinking through the implications of those who have been on the Board already.

Response: Years already served on the Board would be counted. This would allow that all 6 Board members aren't replaced straight away.

Question/comment: Free and fair elections should occur so that those from eastern Europe are not disadvantaged to attend Board meetings.

David H – Thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussion of Board elections and noted that the Board had spent time discussing this. He recommended that we vote on the election paper with Karin's recommendation included, namely 2 consecutive terms of office.

Question: How many members of the Board would need to be re-elected if this is agreed?

2 Board members will have been 3 years in 2020 so continuity would continue.

Proposal: The election paper is to be accepted with the addition that Board members serve 2 consecutive terms. After which they would need time off the Board before going forward for re-election.

Assembly voted unanimously for the proposal.

### **Alteration to the constitution (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Janning highlighted the new areas on the constitution paper.

Approval: 46 in favour; against 0.

### **Faith Identity of the CEUC (1<sup>st</sup> reading)**

David H began by reminding the group that there had been a group identified for discussing this at Dublin. David apologised to Karuna and Hogetsu that neither had been included in the discussion, but that an appeal had been given out to invite participation to anyone who wished to be included.

CEUC has traditionally been a Christian body and the suggestion was that it should become multi-faith. However, the group who met to explore this change acknowledged that this this would make it difficult for a number of members to attend future CEUC conferences. The paper with the suggested amendment was given its 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

Approval. For: 46. Against: 2. Abstention: 1

### **Election of the Chair and Vice Chair**

David and Beata were both re-elected.

Assembly agreed to the continuation of their roles on the Board.

### **IACHE: Sheffield 2020 presentation**

Presentation was given for Sheffield 2020. Help was asked to encourage majority world participation. There will be a guaranteed fixed price for majority world or those financially constricted. There has been a lot of effort put into ensuring that the conference is as inclusive as possible.

Question: If majority world attend is there translation arranged?

The Board for the 2020 conference will discuss this suggestion.

### **CEUC 2021 venues: Call for suggestions**

Trondheim was suggested. It's a university city with a strong university chaplain presence. The challenge will be to keep costs down as Norway can be expensive, relative to other nations. They will seek sponsorship.

This suggestion does need to be finalised by November 2019 so that planning can be properly attended to.

Question: Would a shorter conference be possible? Perhaps 1 day less so less expensive? Can it be the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June when the university term stops?

These questions will be explored with the Board.

### **CEUC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book update**

Jasja spoke about the book for the 20 year anniversary of CEUC in 2022. It will have highlights but also thoughts for the future.

Assembly showed their appreciation for this.

### **AOCB**

1. Can members of Board be from other denomination or faiths?

Yes – assigned by church or institution in the election paper.

2. Finland would like to host 2022 conference and will discuss it at their annual conference in November.

### **Votes of thanks**

David asked the assembly to remember Beata in their thoughts and prayers.

Chair thanked all who attended the assembly and in particular the Chair, minute taker, ballot counters and all those who contributed.