



Management Committee Meeting

Brussels – 11th February 2014

MINUTES

Attendees

Members present:

Begona GINER (Past President)
Toomas HALDMA
Philip JOOS
Ann JORISSEN (President)
Araceli MORA
Thorsten SELHORN
Hervé STOLWY
Martin WALKER
Nicole COOPMAN (Executive Secretary)

Apologies from:

Martin MESSNER (Treasurer)

Attended partly via Skype:

Ian THOMSON & Christine COOPER

Agenda

1. Welcome, apologies and adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising

ITEMS FOR REPORTING/NOTING

3. President's update (*Ann*)
4. Treasurer's update (*Martin*)
 - 4.1 Preliminary EAA Accounts 2013
 - 4.2 Savings and investments
5. Update on PhD Forum 2014 (*Thorsten*)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6. Congress issues
 - 6.1 Financial results of EAA Congress 2013 (*Ann*)
 - 6.2 Final budget for EAA Congress 2014 (*Toomas*)
 - 6.3 Sponsorship contributions to EAA Annual Congress (*Ann*)
 - 6.4 Update of Conference Guidelines (*Ann*)
7. Committee issues (*Ann*)
 - 7.1 Publications Committee issues
 - Journal Editors' fees
 - 7.2 From hard copy to digital copy
8. Governance issues (*Ann*)
 - 8.1 Nominations: President-elect (2014-2015), MC Members (2014-2017), PC Member (2014-2017)
9. PhD support and training (*Ann*)
 - 9.1 Financing of PhD activities
 - 9.2 PhD training: Overview of Management Research Active Schools
 - 9.3 PhD activities: The way forward
 - Review and selection of proposed initiatives
 - Job market proposal
10. Other discussion items
 - 10.1 Progress report on social media
11. Any other business

Minutes

1. Welcome, apologies and adoption of the agenda

The President, Ann Jorissen (AJ), welcomed all members and guests present and conveyed the apologies of Martin Messner who is currently in Australia as well as those of Ian Thomson, Congress Chair 2015, and his substitute Christine Cooper, who attended the meeting partly via Skype.

The proposed agenda was approved.

2. Matters arising

No matter arising was raised.

ITEMS FOR REPORTING/NOTING

3. President's update

The President reported on what had happened since the October 2013 MC meeting:

1. Follow up on October 2013 MC meeting

- a. Recep Pekdemir (RP) and Marc Wouters had been informed about the MC decisions.
- b. The conference guidelines went through another update for which the approval would be sought later in this meeting (see item 6.4).
- c. Looking for the PhD students' needs, AJ had found in Thomas Jeanjean's survey done in 2012 that they were asking for:
 - i. Advanced courses on quantitative methods
 - ii. Specialist courses
- d. Searching for the information on how students end up with a particular PhD programme, AJ found out that only between 20 to 30% are "free movers" while 70 to 80% are students financed by the university as research and teaching assistant or by a research grant obtained by the supervisor. This last category is then automatically enrolled in the PhD programme of the institution that finances them.
- e. The PhD Forum 2014 organised by Thomas Jeanjean (TJ) and Thorsten Sellhorn (TS), on which the latter would report later, was well underway. Philip Joos (PJ) had been invited to join them in order to replace TJ as of next year.
- f. She had contacted Alan Teixeira (IASB) in relation with the outcome of the MC discussion.
- g. The MC held a short discussion on AinE and the visibility of the journal.

2. With regard to items related to the FRSC

- a. Peter Walton (PW), the chair of the FRSC and the FRSC members had developed an inspiring comment letter in response to the discussion paper issued by the IASB on the conceptual framework;

On behalf of the MC, AJ congratulated PW and his team for all the work he had done. The comment letter was already posted on the websites of IASB and EFRAG.

- b. In response to a call made by the FRSC to all EAA members, Elisabetta Barone, Soledad Moya and Jacqueline Birt had volunteered to produce - within a very short timeframe - an overview of academic research on leasing requested by IASB.

On behalf of the MC, AJ thanked the three ladies for having sent the overview to IASB.

3. Regarding the upcoming EAA congress

- a. AJ reported on behalf of the SSC Chair Aljosa Valentincic (AV), that the submission and review process for the Tallinn congress went smoothly; they had reviewed 955 papers, accepted 850 papers (414 PS + 436 RF) and rejected 105 papers. On behalf of the MC, the President thanked the SSC and SC for their work.

The SSC had met some issues during the review process that will need attention both at the SSC level and the MC level. After analysis, AV will prepare a report to be submitted for discussion at the MC meeting next May in Tallinn.

- b. The selection of the doctoral colloquium students was finished as well. 108 applications were received of which 36 were selected, for which the MC is grateful to the DC Chairs. The DC faculty will consist of Peter Pope, Joachim Gassen and Ann Tamayo (financial accounting), Beatriz Garcia Osma, Catherine Shakespeare and Bill Rees (financial analysis), Chris Chapman, Sally Widener and Frank Moers (management control) and Andrea Mennicken, Martin Messner and Keith Robson (social and organisational).

4. Follow up on the Global Gathering organised in August 2013. AJ mentioned that:

- a. A white paper about journal rankings would be drafted.

AJ reported that AAA will embark on writing this white paper and are inviting EAA to identify 1 or 2 persons to help them. She recalled that the main purpose of the white paper was to help academics in that research papers published in other journals than the top three of top four journals would also be recognised as valuable academic output. She asked the MC about their commitment to be involved in this initiative, and in case of a positive reply whether MC members volunteered to participate in the production of the white paper.

The MC also discussed which initiatives the EAA could take in this domain. The MC looked at the position of European accounting journals and how their position and visibility could be improved. In addition the MC thought that there is also a need for a policy statement saying that journal rankings should not be used in a blind and direct way to assess the performance of individual researchers.

It was finally decided :

- 1) to help the AAA writing the white paper on publications. Begoña and Martin M. volunteered to follow up on this. After the meeting, Thorsten also expressed interest.
- 2) to put on the agenda of the October 2014 MC meeting the policy statement regarding journal rankings. It was suggested that this could also be a topic for discussion at an EIASM Associations' meeting.

- b. A request for organising a one day session for emerging scholars before the start of the annual congress had been made by Recep Pekdemir (RP).

RP had sent such a proposal to both the AAA and the EAA. Since the format of the EAA's annual congress is different from the AAA's annual congress, it is for the EAA more difficult to fit this into the organisation of their annual congress. AJ will inform RP that it is not feasible anymore to organise it in Tallinn given that rooms are only booked for three days and not longer as is the case for the AAA annual congress.

5. Further to her discussion with Salvador Carmona (SC), the PC Chair, on the **selection procedure for the EAR Editor**,
 - a. The call for nominations would be launched soon;
 - b. All PC and MC members being nominated for the position of EAR Editor will be excluded from all related discussions.
6. Regarding the **EAA Annual Congress 2015**, AJ reported that Christine Cooper (CC) was the new Congress Chair in replacement of Ian Thomson, who was moving to another university.
7. Regarding the **EAA Annual Congress 2016**, AJ announced that the University of Maastricht had officially confirmed a few days prior to this meeting their willingness to host and organise this congress. She recalled that preliminary discussions on Maastricht being host took place in the October 2013 MC meeting.

4. Treasurer's update

4.1. Preliminary EAA accounts 2013

4.2. Savings and investments

In the absence of Martin Messner (MM), the Treasurer, the President conveyed MM's comments on the still provisional Accounts 2013 and the EAA savings, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

MM drew the attention on the fact that despite a huge surplus from the Paris congress 2013, the overall surplus 2013 was relatively small. He also pointed out to the deficit foreseen for 2014.

AJ reminded that 600.000€ out of the 800.000€ available on the saving accounts had to be kept for self insurance, meaning that there was a buffer of only 200.000€, which at the current rhythm of expenditure would be spent in a couple of years. Hence there was a need to be careful on the amounts spent and to look for savings, while trying to raise funding.

It was generally agreed that a blockbuster conference for 2017 would be most welcome.

The funds for academic development had to be reduced. Unless there were other sources of income, the current spending could not be maintained.

It was suggested to look for funding for the Doctoral Colloquium which would allow for that money to be used for other doctoral initiatives. Although it was acknowledged that a clear case as to what is the benefit for one of the Big 4 to sponsor the DC could help, it was recognised that it would not be easy given that many organisations were not eager to give funding in this period of financial and economic crisis.

Both the provisional Accounts 2013 and the savings were approved.

5. Update on PhD Forum

TS, one of the organisers of the PhD Forum 2014, reported that the forum was going to take place on the first day of the EAA congress, just before the opening session and recalled that the objectives of this event were to foster networking among PhD students, to increase the visibility of the EAA within the community and to complement the EAA offer in terms of doctoral activities

The programme consisted in:

- a welcome address by the EAA President and the EAA 2014 Congress Chair
- an update of doctoral activities
- a keynote speech on “What is relevant research in Accounting”
- and 5 breakout sessions addressing each a different aspect; one session was redundant and was asked to be taken out.

On behalf of the MC, the President thanked the 2 co-organisers, TJ and TS, as well as PJ who will join the PhD forum team in 2015.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6. Congress issues

6.1. Financial results of EAA Congress 2013, Paris

The President reminded that during the October 2013 MC meeting it had been announced that the EAA Annual Congress 2013 ended up with a surplus of 86.245,94 €. Given the importance of the surplus, it had been requested to compare the real Paris figures with the budget in order to identify the reasons for this discrepancy. After an extra analysis, the reported surplus was confirmed.

AJ presented the various elements/facts that had led to that surplus, namely:

- the Congress Chair 2013 had negotiated catering costs as fixed costs (since the actual number of participants was well over the number of participants agreed in the catering contract, a surplus was created);
- a considerable amount of funding had been received;
- costs had been cut down on the production of the abstract book;
- many jobs during the congress had been performed by Academics in replacement of staff that would have been hired.

A short discussion was held on the possibility of re-discussing the conference model, in that the LOC would receive incentives to collect more sponsorship and realise more savings in negotiations in return for a part of the surplus.

6.2. Final budget for EAA Congress 2014, Tallinn

Toomas Haldma (TH), the Chair of the Congress 2014, presented his latest budget circulated prior to the meeting. He explained that this was not the final budget yet as much would depend on the final number of delegates. He presented a comparison with previous years showing the variability of attendance and mentioned that he was expecting between 1.200 and 1.300 delegates, which the MC regarded as being a bit optimistic.

Ian Thomson (IT), the outgoing Chair of the Congress 2015, together with Christine Cooper (CC), the incoming Chair of the Congress 2015, presented via skype their latest budget, which was circulated during the meeting. Ian went through the list of main changes in the budget since October 2013 also handed over during the meeting.

6.3. Sponsorship contributions to EAA congress

The President reported that the FEE (Fédération des Experts Comptables Européens), who wanted to organise a symposium in Tallinn, had asked her for the amount to be paid for the organisation of such a symposium.

AJ mentioned that there was a need for a policy to define sponsorship fees. ACCA and CIMA were regular sponsors of the EAA congresses and regularly gave the same amount (5.000 UK£).

TH took this opportunity to inform the MC that 9 **symposia** would be organised in Tallinn and referred to the competition between two topics: a) IFRS 5 years later and b) Digital accounting.

The MC asked TH how the **Editors' Panel** was doing and whether he knew which journals would be represented. This led to a discussion about who was actually involved in the organisation of that panel.

According to the MC, this is the only one panel for which the EAA cannot accept that one person decides on his own who to invite. The SSC should monitor this panel in coordination with the Congress Chair.

6.4. Update of conference guidelines

As anticipated earlier, the Conference Guidelines had gone through a new update. The proposed changes had been clearly marked in the revised version circulated prior to the meeting.

As no comments on these changes were made, the revised Conference Guidelines were approved.

7. Committee issues

7.1. Publications Committee issues

The President briefly recalled the discussion related to the increase of the Journal Editors' fees during the October 2013 MC meeting. The outcome had been that the MC fully shared the PC's views and agreed with the PC that the financial support to the Editors should be construed in the spirit of a recognition model. A full compensation model for the editor's time spent on the journal was not acceptable.

After having exchanged their views, the MC agreed that the President would inform LvL:

- a. of the decision of the MC to follow the opinion and proposal of the PC and to discuss the Editor's fee in the context of a recognition model instead of a full compensation model.
- b. of the proposed fee increase for 2015.

The MC also discussed the consequence of an increase of the EAR Editor's fee on the AinE's Editor fee and decided that both should be proportionally increased.

During the discussion, it was mentioned that in the future T&F should pay the contribution to the Association and not directly to the Editor. The EAA would then transfer the full amount to the Editors. This would create for more transparency with respect to the amounts the Editors receive for their contributions to the journals.

7.2. From hard copy to digital copy

The President reminded that this topic had already been discussed by the MC in 2011 and re-discussed in 2013 between the PC Chair and the Publisher.

The MC decided to include a digital copy of the journals in the membership fee and to charge an additional amount to those who still wanted a paper copy. The question was how much extra would be charged for the paper copy. The MC agreed on a 20€ extra.

Since the switch from paper copy to digital copy of the journal would change the package included in the membership fee, this decision has to be submitted to the approval of the Board in Tallinn. The change could also be perceived by the members as a de facto increase in the membership fee. It should therefore be explained to the EAA members that the membership fee would not be changed, but that the money saved through the switch would be used for other activities in the EAA (e.g. academic development activities).

The change would be applicable as of 2016.

8. Governance issues

8.1. Nominations

PC Member (2014-2017)

On the basis of the report from SC, the PC Chair, the President reported that from a list of very good candidates, the PC was presenting a shortlist of two candidates, with a slight preference for Peter Ove Christensen.

The only thing that needed to be checked was whether the candidates intended to compete for the EAR Editor's role.

The MC approved unanimously the PC choice.

President-elect (2014-2015)

The President started by explaining that she had looked into the criteria received from Past Presidents Aileen Pierce and Begoña Giner and had used those criteria, i.e.

“The President-elect must be very active in EAA activities and be either a member of the Management Committee or a Chair of one of the significant EAA committees within the past years.”

130 persons had been nominated by the EAA Members for this position. After examining the names of those candidates that satisfy the conditions and have accepted to be considered, the MC unanimously agreed that SC was the perfect candidate. Because Salvador is currently the Chair of the PC and a number of important decisions are underway in the PC (choice of the EAR Editor and negotiations with Publishers) and currently led by Salvador, a transition period needs to be foreseen.

The MC unanimously approved the nomination of Salvador Carmona as President-elect as well as the President's proposed way of proceeding.

MC Members (2014-2017)

Next the President explained how she proceeded for making the shortlist of MC candidates. She had also looked into the criteria set in the past and followed them.

“The ideal candidates will be active in EAA (and/or European research and networking activity more broadly), will have a European institutional affiliation and will have potential to contribute to the Association in a pro-active way.”

The short-listed candidates should not:

- *have previously been EAA President;*
- *be currently on EAA committees (except perhaps in the larger Scientific Committee outside of the Standing Scientific Committee.)”*

233 persons had been nominated by the EAA members for membership to the Management Committee. One of the new MC members had to be a Board Member given that the MC needed to include at least 3 Board Members. This implies that among the candidates to be proposed as MC member to the Board, there need to be at least two Board members. The President consulted the members of the Management Committee on the nominations. The MC is appointed to ensure an appropriate mix of experience and expertise in the areas for which the MC has responsibility. Considering the representation of research areas, contribution to prior EAA activities and geographical spread, the following four names would be presented to the Board: Paolo Collini, Beatriz Garcia Osma, Chrystelle Richard and Hanna Silvola.

The first candidate to be selected by the EAA Members will have to be one of the two candidates that will be Board member in 2014-2015. The one with the highest votes will be selected.

The second candidate is the one from the three remaining candidates who will obtain the highest votes.

The MC unanimously agreed with the candidates short-listed by the President as well as her proposed way of proceeding.

9. PhD support and training

9.1. Financing of PhD activities

9.2. PhD training: Overview of Management Research Active Schools

9.3. PhD activities: The way forward

The President reported on what had happened since the October 2013 MC meeting.

- 1) Willem Buijink (WB), in his position of Academic Director of EIASM, has established a list of EU research and doctoral granting schools by looking at the Dallas and the Brigham Young rankings, as well as participation in the EDENs.

It was questioned what to do next with this list. It was agreed that criteria for good doctoral programmes need to be defined:

- track record (completion rate, number of publications in decent journals, number of recent publications, number of supervisors, etc.)
- critical mass
- size of programme
- training opportunities on site
- quality of training and supervision

Martin Walker will draft a document, which will then be discussed at the MC. The President will also send this document to TJ and JG.

- 2) Peter Pope (PP) had expressed the idea to replicate - but with a European orientation - the Rookie Recruiting and Research Camp that Peter Wysocki and his colleagues at Miami had been organising in the last few years. At the same time, WB proposed a similar initiative (see his report circulated prior to this meeting), to be organised under the auspices of EIASM, inviting all Associations to endorse the event.

AJ mentioned that PP had been informed of WB's proposal and agreed to see how this proposal would develop before continuing with an EAA job market proposal. If it didn't work, it would still be possible for the EAA to develop its own job market.

The President suggested passing on to WB the MC comments and the feedback to come from PP, and asking WB to accommodate his proposal accordingly by the end of March in order to discuss it at the May 2014 MC meeting.

During the discussions on the job market, MW proposed to develop also an online database in which universities recruiting staff and PhD students available on the market could get in contact. Therefore the MC decided first that in the meantime the online job market on the EAA website would be maintained and second that with respect to the development of the database for PhD students possibilities need to be foreseen for students to announce that they are looking for job opportunities and for recruiting universities to get access to these student data. In the development of these online systems, the regulation on privacy must be respected.

- 3) In view of the reduced amount available for 2014 with respect to academic development, it was decided that the amount would be used to organise a Writing to Publishing Workshop in the Fall 2014, an initiative initiated by Salvador Carmona when he was the EAR Editor.

AJ proposed to the MC to use part of the budget foreseen for academic development activities, i.e. 10.000€ in line with prior workshops, which they approved unanimously. AJ would inform SC and ask for his advice as to who could be put in charge of organising the event. In addition AJ reported that RP was willing to host this workshop and that perhaps he could attract some additional sponsoring.

- 4) As a follow up of the suggestion made during the last MC meeting on developing web-based material for PhD students and making sure that they have a platform to connect and find announcements of workshops, MOOC-like presentations, etc. TS and PJ started discussing possibilities for the creation of such a database and platform within the EAA website or social media. TS and PJ suggested to announce it at the next EAA conference. They will create content by putting online MOOC-like short presentations of the PhD Forum and perhaps the doctoral colloquium. AJ will ask the DC Chairs if they would like to approach keynote speakers in the DC to provide a number of slides or a recording of part of the presentation to be put on the website. TS and PJ asked if the remaining resources after deduction of the expenses of the Writing to Publishing workshop, foreseen for academic development in 2014, could be used to set up the database of European PhDs. The MC agreed that the remaining money could be used for that purpose.

It would be necessary to find an incentive for PhDs to register themselves, whereby MOOC-like short presentations or the list of doctoral programmes in accounting were mentioned. BG suggested that the money not spent on academic development activities this year, could be transferred to next year. This would allow to consider in 2015 more new proposals and maybe launch a call again. This suggestion was unanimously approved by the MC.

- 5) TS and PJ suggested to further develop the PhD Forum as it was much appreciated. As a teaser, a summary of the topic by some faculty members could be the object of a 10 minutes tape.

10. Other discussion items

10.1. Progress report on social media

AJ mentioned that Nicole had set up a Facebook page for EAA, currently promoting the EAA congress 2014, the PhD Forum and a workshop in accounting.

The MC agreed to launch it, as soon as a moderator was found and some criteria for joining were set (e.g. accessible only to EAA members ?).

It was suggested to ask the Newsletter Editor-elect, Ariela Caglio, if she would be willing to be involved in the moderating of the EAA Facebook page with the help of a PhD student.

Martin Walker proposed to ask a few PhDs to sign up and see how they were interacting.

11. Any Other Business

Before adjourning the meeting, the President summarised the discussions by listing what the MC had approved, namely:

- the conference budgets
- the raise of the Editors' fees
- the nominated President-elect
- the nominated MC members
- the nominated PC member
- the allocation of 10.000€ for the Writing to Publishing workshop
- the development of the data base of doctoral programmes

It was also approved to keep alive the online job market and to see how the rookie job market would develop, as well as invite Ariela Caglio to follow up on Facebook.

It was decided that the next interim MC meeting taking place in Tallinn on Tuesday, 20th May 2014, would start at 15.00hrs, i.e. one hour later than already announced, in order to allow everyone to arrive in time. It would consequently end at 19.00hrs.

No other question or remark was made. The President thanked all attendees and wished them a nice trip back home.
