

MINUTES

EPEA General Council Meeting

[Minutes submitted by the Secretary, José Pinto]

Date: Friday, June 14th (2019), at 08:30a.m.

Venue: Technological University Dublin

General Council Meeting: Held during the 17th EPEA International Training Conference (June 12-16, 2019)

Present: A total of 29 members from several regions were present, including the following Steering Committee (SC) members: Annet Bakker – Chairperson; José Pinto – Secretary; Ruth McFarlane – Western Region Representative; Cristina Teoroc – Eastern Region Representative; Daiana Huber (Project Officer); Pris Tatipikalawan (Web editor).

Call to order: At 08:30a.m. by the Chair, Annet Bakker.

1. Opening

A. The chair opened the meeting by greeting all present. She then asked the General Council (GC) to approve a change in the order of the agenda items, so that items number 2 “Approval of minutes of the last General Council meeting (Vienna 2017)” and 4 “Proposals of alterations to the Constitution” had more time for further analysis and discussion [for initial agenda, cf. appendix 1].

The GC approved this proposal and the new order (of the agenda items) is as follows:

1. Opening
2. Elections for the EPEA Steering Committee [previous item no. 5]
3. Reports and status [previous item no. 3]
4. Approval of minutes of the last General Council meeting (Vienna 2017) [previous item no. 2]
5. Proposals of alterations to the Constitution [previous item no. 4]

B. The chair presented two new EPEA branches, already approved by the SC (APEnP from Portugal and SWIPEA from Switzerland), and asked the GC to ratify this decision.

The approval was unanimous and both APEnP and SWIPEA were warmly welcomed.

2. Elections for the EPEA Steering Committee

A. Treasurer Vacancy

The chair informed the Assembly that a vacancy for treasurer had been announced in the *EPEA Newsletter 03 (2019)* and also on its website. Initial deadline was April 30th, but since no candidates sent in their applications, it had been extended to May 31st.

During this extended period EPEA received one application. It was submitted by Claire O'Connell (Ireland).

However, regarding the selection of this candidate the SC and Claire O'Connell agreed on the following procedure:

- i.* Claire to have a couple of meetings with Nyggi Aggernæs, the current EPEA treasurer, in order to know all relevant information pertaining to the exercise of this Office's mandate, before making her decision.
- ii.* Regardless of Claire O'Connell's decision, Nyggi Aggernæs will inform the SC of his evaluation of her abilities.
- iii.* After these steps have been taken, and preceding its final decision, the SC wants to be sure that the new treasurer has a clear view of the job requirements and what is expected of her, and also, given its level of specificity and responsibility, her capabilities for taking up this job.

The GC however, considered that the word 'application' should be changed to 'nomination' (meaning far more than just a mere question of terminology). It also considered the process of replacement as a 'handover' of an officer's duties and, without further ado, declared Claire O'Connell the new treasurer of the EPEA.

With Claire now officially installed as new treasurer, the three persons with signatory rights on behalf of EPEA are: (Chair) Annet Bakker, (Secretary) José Pinto and (Treasurer) Claire O'Connell.

B. Representative for the Eastern Region

The chair informed the GC that due to the expiration of the term of office of the Representative for the Eastern Region, Ioana Morar, a vacancy had been announced in the *EPEA Newsletter 03 (2019)* as well as on its website.

She also stated that, since there are no EPEA branches in this region (and for that reason no voting Liaison Persons), the SC, after evaluating Cristina Teoroc's CV (the only candidate who sent in her nomination), considered that she had highly relevant experience in Prison Education matters, and so, decided to designate her as the new Representative for the Eastern Region.

The GC unanimously supported this nomination.

C. Representative for the Central Region

The chair informed the GC that the current Central Region Representative, Hubert Skrzynski, had asked to leave office. For that motive, this post will be up for election and

candidates will be given one month to send in their nominations, namely from the 17th of June (the day after the closing of this Conference) to the 16th of July.

D. Deputy Chairperson

The chair announced that, as per the Constitution of the EPEA, one year prior to the end of her term of office (June 2021), the position of 'Deputy Chairperson' will be up for election in June (2020).

E. Elections in 2021

The chair also confirmed that the following posts will be up for election in June 2021: Chair, Secretary; Representatives for the Western, Southern and Northern Regions.

3. Reports and status

A. Report on accounts

The chair informed the Council that the full report was not concluded in due time and, so, it had not been also audited.

She stated that, the former treasurer, Nyggi Aggernæs, had sent a brief summary of the report so that members wouldn't get the wrong impression. On the contrary, EPEA closes the year in a good financial situation.

Daiana Huber (EPEA Project Officer) added that as soon as the report is finalised and audited it will be sent out to all members by email. Then, members will have one month to ask questions on it.

She also assured that these questions (and the corresponding answers from the SC) would be available in a FAQ list, on an electronic platform, so that everyone could have access to it.

The GC agreed with this procedure.

B. Activity report

The secretary, José Pinto, presented the activity report.

This document comprehended the years, 2017, 2018 and 2019, namely the period between the last EPEA Conference (Vienna 2017) and the current year, namely:

2017

- Elections (Interim secretary)

2018

- University involvement in Prison Education – Special Interest Group (SIG)
- EPEA representation at events
- European co-financed projects (EPEA is involved in)

- Communication
- Steering Committee meeting in Porto (March)
- 2019 Conference preparations
- Elections (Officers; North, South, West and Central RRs)
- International Day of Education in Prison
- EPEA 25th Anniversary (Strasbourg meeting, December)

2019

- New branches (APEnP & SWIPEA)
- EPEA representation at events
- Elections (Treasurer; East and Central RRs)
- Support to branches
- Communication
- EPEA conference: preparation of the General Council
- Near future actions (preparation of EPEA meeting in autumn; 2021 EPEA Conference: preparation of tender)

The activity report was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of minutes of the last General Council meeting (Vienna 2017)

- A. The minutes of the last General Council meeting (Vienna 2017) were proposed for approval. The GC unanimously approved the minutes.
- B. Kevin Warner stated however that his proposal [Proposal A, included in item no. 5 of the agenda; cf. appendix 1] had precisely to do with the above mentioned GC. He added that the changes made to the Constitution of the EPEA at the last GC held in Vienna cannot be considered valid, because they were not approved by a majority of EPEA members, (which is the right interpretation of the wording: 'by a ballot of members') but by a majority of members present at that meeting. According to this interpretation of the articles of the Constitution, these (changes) should be held unconstitutional and, so, the old Constitution (prior to Vienna) is still in force.
- C. For its part, the GC, agreeing with Kevin Warner's arguments, considered that the amendments to the Constitution, made at the Vienna meeting, are not legal and should not be adopted, until a majority of EPEA members so agree. Thus, this Assembly recommended that a ballot be sent out to the EPEA membership including as attachments the amendments to the Constitution presented at the GC in Vienna by the Steering Committee of the EPEA. The GC suggested that the SC asks for help from branches, Liaison and Contact Persons, to supervise this procedure in order to ensure stipulations of the current GDPR.

5. Proposals of alterations to the Constitution

- A. Considering the previous item and GC's suggestion regarding Kevin Warner's proposal, this Assembly decided that the same *modus operandi* be taken into account in relation to Per Thrane's [for Per Thrane's proposal, cf. appendix 1]. Thus, the latter shall be included in the same voting ballot that EPEA will send out to members.

Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 09:45a.m. and thanked all present for their valuable contribution to this General Council meeting and for their recommendations.

Dublin, June 14th (2019)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – EPEA General Council Meeting 2019 (final agenda with proposals of alterations to the Constitution)