

Fourth EALTA Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 16 June 2007 – 16.00
Hotel Calipolis, Sitges

Present: Conference participants who are individual and associate members of EALTA.

Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from the 2006 AGM
3. President's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2006
4. Membership Committee report
5. Presentation of EALTA accounts for 2006
6. Appointment of the auditor for 2007
7. Election of the EALTA President
8. Election of the EALTA Membership Committee Chair
9. 2008 Conference venue and dates
10. Date of the next Annual General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Neus Figueras (President of EALTA)

1. Approval of the Agenda

Neus Figueras (NF) called for discussion items under Any Other Business (AOB). None were suggested. The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from the 2006 AGM

Since no changes or clarifications were requested, the 2006 AGM minutes were approved.

3. President's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2006

NF reported on the 2007 conference and thanked the sponsors for their support. She also acknowledged the generous contributions of the pre-conference workshop leaders. Commenting on the rapid growth of EALTA, NF reported the following membership numbers at the time of the conference:

Individual members: 716

Associate members: 74

Institutional members: 31

Expert members: 12

NF also pointed to the following achievements during 2006, which was the year when the association...

- Sustained growth and maintained efficient operation
- Undertook the first important change in the Executive Committee
- Strengthened EALTA as part of the landscape
- Attracted growing interest among institutions
- Attracted motivated practitioners and expert professionals
- Started to develop a corporate image
- Worked on implementing the EALTA Guidelines for Good Practice (GGP)

She also listed challenges for the next year, of importance in the individual member dimension as well as in the institutional dimension:

- Activate list and discussion groups
- Serve members in their training needs outside conferences
- Improve logistics
- Reach countries in Europe not yet reached
- Gain more visibility and influence
- Make EALTA's influence felt at European policy fora
- Maintain spirit of cooperation in a competitive/aggressive field
- Retain independence
- Stay low bureaucracy

Finally, NF gave examples of short-term plans for the association, namely to...

- Disseminate and support implementation of the GGP
- Make most out of ECML proposal concerning the GGP (if accepted)
- Reach out to EALTA's three main audiences
- Hold mid-year event(s)?

4. Membership Committee report

The Membership Committee Chair, Sauli Takala (ST) reported that, during 2006, the membership committee, comprising ST, Charles Alderson, Alan Davies and Felianka Kaftandjieva, received and approved:

- 8 applications for institutional membership
- No applications for expert membership

ST invited further applications for expert and institutional membership.

5. Presentation of EALTA accounts for 2006

During 2006, after the AGM in Kraków in May, the EALTA accounts were handed over from Jayanti Banerjee, Lancaster University, UK, to the new Secretary/Treasurer Gudrun Erickson (GE), Göteborg University, Sweden. Due to this, the budget statement for 2006 includes three currencies: GBP, Euros and SEK. 2006 being the year of handover, the EALTA Executive committee had appointed a second person to audit the accounts, Dorte Velling Pedersen (DVP) at Göteborg University, Sweden.

The accounting period for EALTA runs from 1 January – 31 December. GE reported on incomes and expenditures during 2006, and the balance in the EALTA bank account on 31 December 2006 (54,278.89 SEK and 300 Euros; in total, approximately 6,200 Euros). The statement had been verified by the 2006 EALTA Auditor, Jayanti Banerjee, and countersigned by DVP.

GE pointed out that, as before, all efforts are made to minimise costs, for example by relying on committee work incurring no costs, keeping travel expenses down by holding regular Skype meetings in the Executive committee, and carrying out correspondence via e-mail, thus avoiding postage and stationery costs. Furthermore, web hosting is still offered by Lancaster University, at no cost for EALTA.

6. Appointment of the auditor for 2007

The meeting approved the appointment of Dorte Velling Pedersen as the auditor for 2007. NF thanked DVP for accepting the task.

7. Election of the EALTA President

NF presented the nomination for the new EALTA President – Sauli Takala – nominated by Karmen Pizorn, seconded by Angela Hasselgreen; also nominated by Johanna Panthier, seconded by Mats Oscarson.

The meeting approved by acclamation the appointment of Sauli Takala as the new President of EALTA.

ST expressed his gratitude for the appointment and his strong ambition to carry on the good work in EALTA. He also gave examples of things he would like to promote, namely...

- To continue strengthening EALTA's position and its links with other related organizations, while keeping to EALTA's unique mission
- To continue exploring ways to promote activities that help to improve professionalism in assessment and testing in all its forms; one aspect of this would be to promote closer links between foreign language and mother tongue in assessment and testing
- To explore with the membership the possibility of electronic publications of varying kinds, ranging from rigorously refereed electronic journals to from-theory-to-practice fora
- To explore the possibility of arranging invitational seminars/conferences on some topical/important theme, which might issue in a themed electronic publication; one such topic would be exploring the links between assessment and testing in the mother tongue and foreign languages

ST also emphasised that in all of this, he would like to draw on ad hoc working groups to explore the options and present proposals to the Executive Committee and to the broad membership.

8. Election of the EALTA Membership Committee Chair

NF presented the nomination for Chair of the EALTA Membership Committee – Felianka Kaftandjieva – nominated by Günther Sigott, seconded by Ülle Türk.

The meeting approved by acclamation the appointment of Felianka Kaftandjieva as EALTA Membership Committee Chair.

9. 2008 Conference venue and dates

NF announced that the 2008 EALTA Conference will be held on May 9-11 in Athens, Greece.

10. Date of the next AGM

The next AGM will be held at the 2008 EALTA conference in Athens, Greece.

11. Warmest thanks

The Executive Committee and the participants at the AGM expressed their warmest thanks to Neus Figueras for her strong commitment and excellent work as the first President of EALTA. NF will remain on the Executive Committee during the coming year, in her role as past conference organiser. Furthermore, many thanks were conveyed to Dianne Wall for co-ordinating the paper selection for the EALTA 2007 conference.