

10th EALTA Annual General Meeting
Held on Saturday 25 May 2013, 16:00 at the Military Museum Istanbul

Present: Conference participants who are Individual and Associate members of EALTA – European Association for Language Testing and Assessment.

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from the 2012 AGM
2. President's report on EALTA activities since the last AGM
3. Membership Committee report including presentation of the work carried out jointly with the task force led by Sauli Takala
4. Election of Officers
 - a. Election of EALTA President
 - b. Election of EALTA Chair of membership committee
5. Presentation of work on policy issues carried out by the task force led by Neus Figueras
6. Presentation of EALTA accounts for 2012: Tony Green
7. Appointment of the auditor for 2013
8. 2014 Conference venue and dates
9. Date of the next AGM
10. AOB

The meeting was called to order by John H.A.L. De Jong (JdJ), President of EALTA.

The President announced that there was a change of order in the agenda between points 3 and 4. The agenda that was sent to the membership had Election of officers as number 3 but it was felt that this should follow the presentation of the Membership Committee's work given that one of the items was the proposal to allow associate members the right to vote.

There were no objections to this change.

1. Approval of minutes from the 2012 AGM

Norman Verhelst demanded a clarification about his intervention during the 2012 AGM on the use of funds sitting on the account (mentioned in the minutes on page 2). Since no changes were requested, the minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2012 were approved.

2 President's and Executive Committee's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2012

- JDJ commented on the 2013 conference and thanked Peter Holt and his team for excellent preparation and hosting of the event. He also expressed EALTA's gratitude to the sponsors for their support. Moreover, JdJ acknowledged the generous contributions of the pre-conference workshop leaders, the three invited keynote speakers and the SIG leaders.
- JdJ reported on the high number of proposals for the 2013 conference. In order to accommodate a greater number of papers, the number of parallel presentations in the conference programme was increased from previous conferences.

- JdJ reported on the activity carried out during the year including various SIG meetings, additional resources on the website, and the successful second EALTA Summer School held at the University of Gothenburg. Special mention was given to the work of the two Special Task Forces working on Membership and Policy issues and the work started by the Executive Committee on Electronic voting. This latter to be continued over the coming year.
- The EALTA membership numbers at the time of the conference were the following.

Individual members: 908 / 39 countries
Associate members: 121 / 32 countries
Institutional members: 56 / 21 countries
Expert members: 18 / 7 countries

Between the 2012 and 2013 Annual General Meetings the EALTA Membership Committee received no application for Expert Membership. Concerning Institutional Membership, there were 6 applications, of which 4 were successful.

The number of Individual and Associate members had decreased in comparison to the previous year due to the renewal of membership, which takes place every 5 years. JdJ used a graph showing that a similar decline in membership had happened following the renewal in 2007, but that we still have more members than in 2008.

JdJ showed a graph of the top 10 countries for Individual members and paid particular attention to Cyprus, which is number 9 on the list of absolute numbers but number 1 by far if considered the ratio between members and the country's population.

- 3 The Chair of the Membership Committee Angela Hasselgreen could not attend the AGM and had delegated Jayanti Banerjee to deliver the report on the various items that had been sent to the membership with the AGM papers (ref. pp 13-17 of the AGM papers).

All proposals from the Membership Committee were accepted. Since two of them involved a change in the EALTA constitution, the members present at the AGM were asked to vote. The two items received unanimously positive voting, hence the constitution will be amended accordingly:

Associate Membership That the restriction concerning voting rights be repealed

Expert Membership That the current criteria be replaced by the ones proposed (see AGM papers).

The Associate members present were given immediate right to vote.

- 4 JdJ reported that **Alan Davies** had been nominated by Angela Hasselgreen and seconded by Jayanti Banerjee for Chair of Membership Committee and that there were two candidates for the post of President: **Charles Alderson** nominated by Karmen Pizorn and seconded by Ari Huhta and **Gudrun Erickson** nominated by Eli Moe & Claudia Harsch seconded by Hildegunn Lahlum Helness & Oscar Soler Canela.

A videoed speech by Charles Alderson was played, followed by a speech by Gudrun Erickson. There was no speech from Alan Davies who was not present at the AGM.

Both Institutional and Associate members were asked to vote using a ballot paper that was given to them after checking their membership status. Gudrun Erickson received 39 votes and Charles Alderson received 20. GE was therefore elected the new President of EALTA. Alan Davies was elected Chair of the MC with 59 votes.

- 5 Neus Figueras presented the work carried out by the task force on policy issues, which resulted in a Decalogue to be included as a new Section (D) of the EALTA Guidelines (ref. pages 18 and 19 of the AGM papers). NF explained that, ideally, the new Section D should be linked to relevant references of best practice but that key questions about the practicality of this had to be considered. JdJ explained that the Executive Committee had debated this proposal

and that, after considering all practical issues, advised against the addition of references to the Decalogue, as this task would require a lot of work, would not be exhaustive and once completed would need to be continuously updated as the field develops.

Hence the following was going to be presented to the AGM for voting:

- that a Section D be added to the Guidelines, that no references were included in the Decalogue but that instead scientific, peer reviewed documentation evidencing claims about CEFR alignment of tests be made publically available on the EALTA website.

There was some debate about whether the reference only to the CEFR as a framework would be too limiting, but although EALTA recognises the existence and importance of other frameworks, the general feeling was that the new Section D was in line with the other sections of the Guidelines for Good Practice and did not need to be amended to include other frameworks. The AGM therefore voted positively to the addition of the new Section D as it was circulated in the AGM papers.

The new Section D would need to be translated into all the languages of the current Guidelines.

The AGM agreed with the advice against the inclusion of references to the Decalogue.

There followed a debate about the publication on the website of links to CEFR linkage reports and/or peer reviewed documentation during which some suggestions were made about how this could be organised.

However given the complexity of the matter and the time available the action point agreed was that the issue will be further considered in communication with the membership, with the aim of reaching a decision as soon as possible.

- 6 EALTA's Treasurer Tony Green (TG) reported on the EALTA accounts for 2012 (balance sheet included in the AGM papers, verified by the 2012 EALTA Auditor, Carol Spoettl). Like in 2012, there was some discussion about what would be the best use of the funds sitting on the EALTA account. The Executive Committee reiterated the fact that there is a need to keep a safety net for the organisation of the annual conference but that different options for use of the funds to the membership will be further discussed.

The accounts were approved by the AGM.

7 Appointment of the auditor for 2013

The meeting approved the appointment of Peter Holt as the auditor for 2013. JDJ thanked Peter for accepting the task.

8 2014 Conference venue and dates

The 2014 EALTA Conference will take place on 29 May-1 June at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom, with pre-conference activities scheduled for 27-29 May. The conference will be organised by Claudia Harsch. Further information about the conference will be given in due course, via the EALTA website and electronic membership list.

JDJ encouraged proposals to the Executive Committee for future conference venues and organisation.

9 Date of the next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held during the 2014 EALTA conference at the University of Warwick on Saturday 31 May.

10 AOB

There was no other business raised.

Closing of the AGM and warm thanks to Angela Hasselgreen for the work carried out as Chair of the Membership Committee over the past 3 years.

Formal thanks to John De Jong were deferred to the next day as part of the closing of the conference.

Between the 2013 and 2014 AGMs, the EALTA Executive Committee will have the following members:

Gudrun Erickson – *President*

Claudia Beccheroni – *Secretary*

Tony Green – *Treasurer*

Alan Davies – *Chair of the Membership Committee*

Peter Holt – *2013 Conference organiser representative*

Claudia Harsch – *2014 Conference organiser representative*