

Minutes from the EAAE Council meeting, Barcelona, Friday 8th November 2013

ETSAB, Barcelona.

Present: Adalberto Del Bo, Ferran Sagarra, Ivan Cabrera, Karl Otto Ellefsen (president), Koenraad van Cleempoel (treasurer), Manuel Couceiro da Costa, Zdenek Zavrel

Excused: Excused Gunnar Parelius, Nur Caglar, Herbert Buehler

Minutes: Lou Schol and Erling Rognes Solbu

Welcome by the President. Erling Rognes Solbu was introduced to the Council as support to the President from the Oslo School of Architecture and Design.

1. Minutes from the meeting in Chania

The minutes were approved without comments.

2. EAAE Economy – external audit

External audit

The situation was presented by treasurer Koenraad van Cleempoel. The Council has ordered an external audit by PWC concerning the collaboration between EAAE and ENHSA, and in particular regarding funding and organization of the Chania conference/meeting.

The external audit report by PWC will be finished at the end of November. The report costs approximately 5000 Euros. The scope of the audit is

- A) to review all internal transactions above 15000 Euros in 2011 and 2012 and identify possible issues or risks
- B) to formulate recommendations for good practice in economy/transfer management.

Recommendations so far:

- A) To formalize the collaboration between EAAE and ENHSA
- B) The internal control is weak. Payment processes and routines for internal control should be implemented.
- C) Payment to private persons represents a tax risk by Belgian law – partly for the private person, partly for the organization/payee (transfer may be seen as private income). All transfers should be accompanied by sufficient supporting documents.

There is no problem with VAT.

Karl Otto will contact the ENHSA leadership in Thessaloniki for a meeting before Christmas.

The audit will be finished in December and discussed in the Council meeting in Prague in January. PWC will present the conclusions from the audit at the GA in March.

EAAE economy

The EAAE gets most of its income from school membership fees. There is enough money for organizing the planned activities in 2013 and 2014. Some Dutch and British schools have not renewed their membership in 2013.

There were uncommonly high expenses made in spring of 2013 by the former Council.

The 2014 budget should be prepared by the Treasurer, and approved by the General Assembly. The 2014 budget draft will be presented and discussed in the Council meeting in Prague, 17/18 January 2014.

3. EAAE Website

Ivan Cabrera informed the Council about the process and status.

The current web site is difficult to manage and requires coding.

The EAAE web should be an important site for information sharing. Examples: students should be able to gather information on mobility options etc, available positions at the member schools should be announced through the website. The website should also provide links to projects and collaborators (EAAE will put up link to ARENA).

The new website is based on a Wordpress platform. It will probably be ready by January. Official launch is planned for March.

Knowledge of the website should be spread through social media.

News

The new website will be split in two columns: Agenda and Events

All announcements will be presented with a color specific to the type of announcements, e.g. green for competitions.

After the launch, the pdf's in the online guide with presentations of each school will be replaced by html-pages. Each school will be able to sign in to edit the information at any time.

The French version of the association name is to be kept in the website headline unless otherwise decided by the GA.

The old/current EAAE logo will be used during launch. A contest for a new logo should be organized in 2014. This will be discussed in Prague.

4. Members

118 schools have paid the membership fee in 2013 (148 in 2012). Most of these schools have not formally announced their departure from EAAE, but just not paid the membership fee. Some new schools are added.

Decision:

Lou Schol will make a list of the schools that did not renew their membership for a discussion in the Prague meeting in January on possible actions to be made.

Invoices for 2014 will be distributed in early January.

5. Networks and projects

Postponed

6. Research conference 2016 EAAE/ARCC

Up till now + 200 abstracts arrived for the 2014 conference in Hawaii.

The council needs to find a school that is willing to host the 2016 conference within a few months. Lisbon and Barcelona are candidates. The council will also ask TU Delft. Adalberto (head) and Karl Otto constitute the intermediate committee for this work.

The host school for 2016, and the EAAE should be represented during the Hawaii conference 12-15 February 2014. Travel costs of the Council member, representing EAAE, will be covered by EAAE.

Adalberto proposes to continue the experience of the EAAE-ARCC Milano Conference 2012 "Cities in transformation. Research & Design" in EXPO Milano 2015, an important worldwide event.

"Cities in transformation. Research & Design" could propose to Expo 2015 and to the Milano City Administration - through EAAE and Politecnico di Milano – an architectural student competition on a relevant Milano area. The competition could start in June 2014 and conclude in June 2015 with the award ceremony and a conference to be planned between the EXPO events.

The EAAE should take the opportunity to promote the association (+ website) through the research conference.

7. EAAE/ENHSA – a discussion of roles as an input to the EAAE strategic discussion

This was discussed under various sub-topics of the meeting.

The EU-funding for ENHSA ends in 2014. This backdrop spurred some important questions regarding what happens in future years;

- Will ENSHA propose a new EU-project?
- May the EAAE take over some activities, e.g. thematic networks?
- May the EAAE establish a new network for EU-funding?
- A new European Architectural Research Network network has been established: ARENA. How will the EAAE relate to this organization?

The EAAE (Adalberto responsible) will make contact with ARENA through the School in Delft that hosted the last Arena conference.

Continued under 9. Strategy.

8. Statutes and regulations

Gunnar Parelius was absent and not able to present the draft. The council went through the draft document with current articles, lawyer's proposals and the preparatory committee's proposals for changes. Only articles with significant changes were discussed.

Comments are presented in attachment.

Decision:

The council president + secretary will bring this discussion to Gunnar in a meeting, and a new draft for statutes will be presented in the January meeting in Prague.

9 EAAE Strategy

The president prepared a document ahead of the meeting with notes for the discussion, which may also serve as a draft for a new strategic document.
(In attachment)

Membership and representing interests, discussion:

Adalberto: There is a stronger need than ever for an association due to the economic situation in Europe, and the need to stand together to promote the interests of the architect profession within the EU.

Ferran: There are an increasing number of schools in Europe. Criteria to become an EAAE member should be established.

Koenraad: The Council should define which services EAAE can offer its members. As part of the process we may ask the members what they expect.

Manuel: The EAAE may serve as a partner for schools in processes of accreditation of courses and programmes. This may be related to label/criteria for membership.

Karl Otto: What may be the demands for membership? Offering master's degree, phd, fulfilling 11 points of ACE? The Council must find the balance between making it more difficult to become a member (exclusivity) and offering services that make it attractive to be a member.

Ivan: It is not clever to disqualify schools through strict rules if we want to be a legitimate organization representing architectural education in Europe. On services: EAAE should take the role as a hub for information on education in architecture in Europe.

Zdenek: There is a division between those offering master and those not.

Koenraad: Difficult to go further than the national accreditations. May be viewed as elitist.

Ivan: Accreditations are good, rankings are difficult.

EAAE as forum

Generally agreed upon and not a topic for discussion.

Projects

The EAAE has not been the host of EU funded projects, and cannot be in the future. How can new projects be initiated? Set up a new organization for projects, or go directly to one school?

The EAAE would have a stronger moral right to keep in control if it was able to finance the projects. Project management would also be a good service to the members. Is it possible to raise the membership fee to achieve more control?

The deadline for applying for EU funding of projects under the new Erasmus+ programme will most likely be in March 2014. The Council should develop several scenarios for 2014 projects.

Publication policy

Karl Otto: It would be good to present one high prestige book per year. There is not sufficient material available in the 1:1 project to base the publication on this.

The publication should be an ambition for 2014. The Council needs to find an editor before the GA, and present the publication as a budget matter in the GA. Karl Otto will take this further with the help of Ebbe Harder.

Accreditation, Evaluations and rankings

For American institutions rankings are a source of income.

How may EAAE involve in rankings?

EAAE may offer start up-help/expertise in accreditation processes.

Ferran: European countries have interpreted Bologna differently. The EAAE could help build a community of European architects- what is a European architect, e.g. in relation to an American one?

Koenraad: The strength in Europe is the diversity of academic profiles. Accreditation is building up arguments to explain competence obtained in courses/programmes. EAAE may help schools build such arguments.

Karl Otto: The EAAE could set up a list based on degree levels offered (BA-MA-PhD) and who is accredited by who. We may end up with a list of established research institutions, but we should not be afraid to take such initiatives. There should be some markings.

Manuel: The Council should consider what to do with current member schools that do not fulfill the criteria? How may the EAAE assist/support these institutions?

Adalberto: We should strive to open up the relationship between EAAE and ACE.

Zdenek: It is important to be aware of the differences between accreditation (national) and notifications (ability to practice abroad, Diploma Supplement, Erasmus Charter for Higher Education).

Economy

Discussed separately

Further process

The Council should agree on a number of principles – a mission statement. The final strategic document should be short and concentrated. Karl Otto will write a suggestion for a mission statement.

Manuel, Koenraad, Adalberto and Ferran will produce a second version of the document by 15 December. The document should start with the mission statement. If necessary Karl Otto will produce a third one ahead of the January meeting in Prague.

The strategic document should be distributed to the EAAE members around 1 March and voted upon in the GA.

This decision will be communicated to the members through the notes from the president after the Barcelona meeting.

10. GA spring 2014

As agreed upon in June, Ferran is leaving the council at the end of 2013. The Council agrees that it is important to keep the younger members in the council – Ivan, Koenraad and Nur. To signal stability the President should stay on for another year.

Zdenek stresses the importance of representation of the (former) East European countries. He will announce the need for a new council member in a meeting of Central European schools which will take place in Budapest, November 20-21.

In the GA: election of Vice President and at least one new member (hopefully from Switzerland, The Netherlands or France).

The president will inform the member schools of the need for a new council member in the notes from the president.

11. Council work plan

Meeting in Prague 17-18 January.
General Assembly in Hasselt 28-29 March.

12. Requests for membership

- 1) School member: Ondokuz Mayis University, Faculty of Architecture, Samsun, Turkey
- 2) Associate school member: Universidad de Monterrey, Neuvo León, Mexico.

Approved.

The president thanked Ferran Sagarra for hosting the meeting.