

Minutes: Nera Board meeting and Editorial Board meeting in Jyväskylä, University of Jyväskylä, Wednesday March 9th 10-18

Attending: Berit Karseth, Tone Dyrdal Solbrekke, Hans Petter Ulleberg, John Benedicto Krejsler, Niels Kryger, Camila Kovero, Göran Björk, Carl Anders Säfström, Robert Thornberg, Björn Hasselgren and Gyða Jóhannsdóttir. Kasper Koefoed was absent due to illness

1. Welcome

2. Election of 2 minute controllers: Göran Björk and Carl Anders Säfström.

3. Agenda was approved:

- Any other business: Berit will introduce two received letters

4. Adjustment and approval of minutes from Board meeting in Helsinki in August

- On page 2 Tone instead of Toni. Otherwise the minutes were approved.

5. Reports

a. Finances: Report on balance sheet 2010 was approved

b. Networks report from Hans Petter

- Last year there were 25 networks listed , two without a convener and network 6 and 22 might be merged. Discussion at the conveners meeting in Malmö centered among other things on different definitions of networks, the size of the networks and how they sometimes overlapped each other.
- The board decided :
 - A working group consisting of Carl Anders, Niels and Hans Petter shall come up with suggestions on alternative organizations of theme/networks and send the first draft before 1st of June.
 - At the conveners meeting in Jyväskylä Hans Petter will discuss further improvement of the conveners report and stress the importance of the conveners participation in the congress

preparation as evaluators of abstracts and setting up the slots, also it is important to inform the conveners of when this preparatory work is supposed to take place.

- Berit and Niels will attend the conveners meeting

c. Webpage:

- Berit reported that the structure of NERA Webpage does not call for an organization number. The webpage was set up by The Department of Educational Research, Oslo University. It was decided to simplify the structure. At present there is a webpage that the networks can use, but they can also use a simpler form if they choose so. It would be preferable and not expensive to hire assistance to put edit the web. Three topics will onwards be on the front page, one of which should be changed at least every month.

6. Congresses

a. Jyväskylä 2011

- Satu Perälä-Littunen informed the board of the organizational process of the conference. The committee had faced several difficulties but got everything under control. She stressed the importance of involving the network conveners as soon as possible as well as informing them of when the workload was expected.
- The Board found the congress preparations very satisfying and thanked Satu for excellent work

b. Denmark 2012

- Niels Kryger introduced the theme of the congress, (*i.e. Everyday Life, Education &*

Transformations), the website as well as the keynote speakers. Practical issues were discussed.

It was decided that board members would individually comment on the theme and the Danes were responsible for the final text of the theme. The board was content with the organization and the marking of the 40 years anniversary

c. Iceland

- Gyda informed that the School of Education would sign an agreement to host the conference in 2013. An organization committee will be established before the August Board meeting in Copenhagen and the first draft on the theme would be introduced.

d. Norway 2014

- Berit received a letter from Högskolan in Lillehammer dated 22nd Nov. 2010 where Högskolan applied to host NERA congress in 2014. The applicants suggested *Neo-liberalism and Education* as the theme of the congress. Furthermore, it was suggested to change the usual date of the congress till late March due to other annual events taking place in Lillehammer. Decided: To give Lillehammer positive feedback but both date and theme has to be discussed further with the board.

7. International collaboration

a. EERA report

- John informed the board that he had introduced NERA's aim, role and main activities to EERA
- He also informed the board of some of the main activities of EERA.
- He stressed the importance of NERA having a representative in EERA even if NERA faced financial difficulties at the moment. Otherwise NERA would place itself outside the international arena.

b. WERA report

- Berit informed that she had not received any minutes from WERA's last meeting. She also stated her opinion that NERA was too small to be a member of WERA. NERA as an association had not gained anything by the membership and the same was the case regarding NERA's member

8. Further development of the webpage

- See number 5.c above.

9. Membership fee and congress fee for retired Nera members

- It was decided that the membership fee is the same for retired members as for regular members. However, retired members of NERA could, get the same discount of congress fee as PhD students.

10. Annual Delegates Assembly

a. Board's reports and plans

- The board's report was discussed. Berit is responsible for the final version of the document
- The budget was discussed. The financial situation is very tight this year but hopefully this is an exceptional year in that respect.
- Following are some of the issues from the discussion
 - The tendency of decreasing number of members is of great concern i.e. 555 members are predicted
 - How can the board recruit members?
 - It is found very critical to lower the salary of the referee and the treasurer and therefore decided to raise their salary to normal if the economical situation allows so in six months time.
 - It was also found critical to tone down international collaboration
 - Important to stress that this year is hopefully an exceptional year

- Important to come up with strategies to counteract this tendency, especially regarding recruiting members
 - It was decided that:
 - The Board will increase the attractiveness of the Annual Congress by advertising and marketing the Congress through different channels
 - The board members will get a list from Universitets forlaget of those who have been members but are not any more. The board members will contact these people and try to recruit them again
 - The board members will also run a campaign to recruit members around the second call of papers

- b. Election committee: report from Anne-Lise Arnesen
 - A detailed report from Anne-Lise Arnesen was introduced

11. Ahlström Awards – final decision

- The board decided that the Ahlström reward should go to Staffan Larson for his article "An emerging economy of publications and citations" *Nordic studies in education*, 2009, special number p. 34 - 51.

12. Any Other Business

- Berit received an e mail from Sverker Lindblad where he wrote that the Swedes were thinking of establishing a Swedish research association in the arena of pedagogic. Berit will answer.
- Beritreceived an e-mail from Jan Erik Johanson regarding a possible connection between the journals, Nordisk Barnehageforskning and Nordic Studies in Education. Berit will answer and ask for further clarification

Editorial meeting:

1. Evaluation of issues 3/10 and 4/10 2010

- Issues 3 and 4 were discussed

2. Article of the year (Universitetsforlaget (appendix 1)

- Decided to suggest Kerstin Bergqvist's article "Think of how you can know that you have reached your goals" Reflection and self-control in late-modern schooling " , *Nordic studies in education*, 2010, number 3, p. 137-149.

3. Manuscripts 2010 (appendix 2)

- 62 manuscripts have been received, 42 have been sent to reviewers and 20 manuscripts have been refused
 - 24 manuscripts of the 42 were reviewed during 2010. 1 manuscript was withdrawn by the author, 7 manuscripts were accepted and 14 were refused.

4. Special issues

- a. Torill Strands "Toleration " – papers from the pre-conference of the Nordic Society for philosophy of education in Malmö 2010 now Educating the Global village. Planned publication in 2011.
- b. A suggestion for a special issue "Social Education in Nordic Education" was received from Elisabet Cedersund. Decided: The suggestion can not be accepted in the present form.

5. Report from Universitetsforlaget (appendix 4)

- The report was discussed. Some of the issues from the discussion:
 - Decreasing number of subscribers.
 - Marketing campaign? It does not seem useful at the time being as the target group for printed version of *Nordic Studies in Education* is quite limited. One of the advantages of being a NERA member is to have the printed version of the journal.

- The relation between Idunn and open access.
- Open access does not seem to be an option now in the light of NERA´s financial difficulties.
- Decided:
 - The board will continue to search for ways to market the journal at the congresses.
 - The editor shall find out the meaning of “språkvaskning”

6. Annual Report 2010 (appendix 5)

- The draft was discussed and decided that the editor was responsible for the final version

7. Plan for 2011 (appendix 6)

- The plan was discussed and the editor is responsible for the final version.

8. NERA´s 40 years anniversary

The Danish congress organizers want to publish a thematic issue consisting of the keynote speakers lectures. The congress organizers will be responsible for this publication and the articles will be peer reviewed.

- a. It has not been possible to find people to write freely about NERA in a special issue of the journal
- b. Alternative ways were discussed:
 - Ask one person from each country to write about NERA in a special number.
 - Find authors to write two or three articles in number 4.
 - Get older NERA members and young NERA members to participate in a panel discussion at the congress i Copenhagen. Some of the subject matter could be published in the journal (numer 4, 2012) .

- Republish former excellent articles with comments in number 1, 2012.

9. Any other business were none

Secretary: Gyða Jóhannsdóttir