

# Minutes NERA Board meeting 6-7 September 2016

Times: Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 13:00 – 18:00, and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:15

Place: Aalborg University, Copenhagen

## Attendees:

Anna Slotte (Finland), Satu Perälä-Littunen (Finland), John Benedicto Krejsler (Denmark), Elisabeth Bjørnstad (Norway), Gry Paulgaard (Norway), Gestur Gudmundsson (Iceland), Robert Thornberg (Sweden), Eva Hultin\* (Sweden), Maike Luimes (treasurer), Herner Sæverot\*\* (Editor)

\* Paragraphs 1-12

\*\* Paragraph 16-18

## **1. Opening** – Anna Slotte

## **2. Election of secretary** – Robert Thornberg

## **3. Election of two controllers** – John Benedicto Krejsler and Gestur Gudmundsson

## **4. Acceptance of agenda for the meeting**

The agenda was accepted.

## **5. Check of previous minutes from Board meetings in Helsinki**

Minutes approved.

## **6. General information: Member list, policy paper, bylaws etc.**

Anna Slotte talked about the policy papers, bylaws, and the procedures. She also gave some member list data.

## **7. Budget and economy: Information and discussion**

**a) NERA's economy, budget etc:** Maike Luimes presented the budget 2016 and the budget is in good balance.

**b) Economical report from Helsinki congress 2016:** Anna Slotte reported on the budget of the conference.

**c) Member fee:** Anna Slotte reported that although we have received a request from the Universietsforlaget to higher the member fee, the Board disapproved that proposal.

**d) NERA's Currency-issue (NRK/euro/open):** Maike Luimes reported that the issue of changing NERA's currency is rather non-significant in economic terms. The Board decided to let NRK remain as the NERA's currency.

### **8. Presentation of the upcoming congress in Copenhagen 2017**

The local committee chair Morten Misfeldt gave a brief report about the theme, plans, preliminary program schedule, buildings, practical issues, the keynote speakers, a preliminary flyer, and budget. The local committee member Palle Rasmussen participated in the discussion via Skype. The Board expressed worries about the proposed registration fees as being too expensive and its risk of lowering the participation rate. There was a discussion about budget revision possibilities in order to lower the registration fees. Palle Rasmussen gave a brief report about the roles and plans for the networks in the forthcoming conference. Morten Misfeldt showed the tentative online submission system followed by minor comments from the Board. In a follow-up discussion, the Board come up with some suggestions as feedback to the locale committee. John Benedicto Krejsler was assigned to write a draft, which he did and then was reviewed and approved with a few minor revisions by the Board. Anna Slotte will communicate the feedback to the locale committee.

### **9. Board session for Copenhagen 2017**

Anna Slotte introduced a discussion concerning the Board session for Copenhagen at NERA conference 2017. Information on the Board session has enhanced across the three conferences in which it has been included. Elisabeth Bjørnstad suggested the possibility of placing the Board session between the keynote speakers at Saturday. In general, the Board is positive to this session. A drawback is the cost. The problem of placing the Board session in scheduled parallel sessions is that it will compete with the networks. Participants who strongly identified themselves with networks will probably choose symposia and paper sessions within the networks than the Board session. The Board decided to postpone the decision to arrange a Board session in Copenhagen 2017 and to instead make this decision per capsulam.

### **10. Helsinki conference 2016**

**a) Evaluation:** The Board reviewed and discussed the reported feedback from the participants.

**b) Feedback about accessibility:** The Board discussed an email in which

concerns about conference accessibility with regard to disabilities and high registration fee was raised.

**c) Report from network meeting in Helsinki 2016:** Elisabeth Bjørnstad gave a brief review of the network activity. She has received 15 network reports from the 25 active networks from the 2016 conference. Furthermore, Elisabeth Bjørnstad reported from the convener meeting in Helsinki. In particular, the conveners had concerns about too many paper presentations per session, the need for guidelines for evaluation abstract quality and rejection, the competition between networks, and missing author names in the program. There was also a discussion among the conveners whether the conveners or the organization committee should schedule the symposia and paper sessions. The Board discussed and emphasized the value of a collaboration between conveners and the organization committee. The Board also decided to develop guidelines for quality evaluation in the review process of submitted abstract based on the guidelines for writing abstract. In addition, the conveners need guidelines for how to delegate abstracts for peer review. Elisabeth Bjørnstad and Gry Paulgaard will work with these guidelines. In addition, a discussion on blind peer review will be raised on the next convener meeting. Further, Elisabeth Bjørnstad reported that Classroom Research network intends to be closed, especially due to the lack of a convener and network meetings, and this decision has to be made in the general assembly meeting in Copenhagen 2017. The network "Poststructuralist Pedagogical Research" wants to change their name to the "Post-Approaches to Education". The Board approved the name-change.

## **11. Economical support to networks**

### **a) Applications from networks for economic support to pre-conference etc.**

#### **Decisions**

- i. **Network 16, The Nordic Society for Philosophy of Education (Torill Strand): Preconference, 22-23.3.2017:** The Board suggested to approve 18000 NOK but the final decision will be made per capsulam after paragraph 11 b has been investigated.
- ii. **Network 19, Teachers' Work and Education (Per Lindqvist): Two days conference 9-10.11.2016:** The Board suggested to approve 13000 NOK but the final decision will be made per capsulam after paragraph 11 b has been investigated.
- iii. **Network 22, Posthumanistic and Poststructuralist Pedagogical Research (Bosse Bergsted):** The Board suggested to approve 19000 NOK but the final decision will be made per capsulam after paragraph 11 b has been investigated.

**b) Network 16: Granted support not used:** Maïke Luimes reported a mismatch between the intended activities in the application and the final activities. The Board decided to check with Carl-Anders Säfström and Hans-Petter Ulleberg if there is more information, and based on that Anna Slotte will ask the applicants about this mismatch.

**c) Network 17 has used network support to pay a salary to the invited keynote speaker:** The Board decided to give direct feedback to the convener of the actual network and to inform at the next convener meeting that network support is not allowed to be used to salary, as well as that it is not allowed to deviate from the application without a new approval from the Board.

## **12. Guidelines for arranging congresses (Gestur, Anna, Sirpa, Niels): Checkup**

Anna Slotte reported on work with the guidelines. The document has been completed but Anna emphasized that it should be viewed as a “living document” that could be revised and updated when needed. The evaluation from the Board was positive.

## **13. NERA’s negotiations with SAGE (The Working Group)**

This paragraph was decided to be postponed to the Editorial Board meeting September 7<sup>th</sup> after the present

## **14. Upcoming congresses**

**a) 2018, Oslo, contract etc:** Anna Slotte gave a brief report. The contract has been written. It has also been signed by the Dean Berit Karseth (Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oslo) and the Chair of the organizing committee Professor Jorunn Møller. The Board approved the contract, and it will be additionally signed by Anna Slotte.

i. **Need to add criteria about Wednesday-Friday as Conference days?:** Xx

**b) 2019, Uppsala:** Anna Slotte and Robert Thornberg briefly reported that Jonas Almqvist at Uppsala University had discussed the issue with his Professor colleagues and that they are positive that Uppsala University will act as the host university of the conference.

**c) 2020, Finland:** Anna Slotte suggested Åbo as a preferable place for the conference in Finland 2020. The Board discussed various alternatives but preferred Åbo as well. Åbo was thus decided to be considered as the first option and Wasa as the second option.

## **15. International collaborations**

**a) EERA-issues:** John Benedicto Krejsler reported from the EERA council meeting in Berlin (18-19 March 2016) and from the ECER conference and the

EERA council meeting in Dublin (Augusti 2016). He highlighted a set of challenges EERA faced (e.g., when including countries in which democratic values and human rights are not taken-for-granted). In 2017, the ECER conference will take place in Copenhagen. In 2018, ECER conference will be in Bolzano, Italy. In 2019, ECER conference will be in Hamburg, and in 2020, it will probably be in Glasgow. John also reported on EERA's open access journal. Some information will be highlighted on NERA website.

**b) EERA's offer to NERA-members: The Journal:** Anna Slotte informed that NERA members have the right to get a free access to EERA's journal but that there is a logistical-technical problem that has to be and soon will be solved before this can be realized.

**c) NERA's slot at AERA: Network 5, The Curriculum Research Network will represent NERA at AERA 2017 with the symposia "Post-Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism: Implications for Leadership and Curriculum Making":** Anna Slotte reported that after casting lots, the application from Network 5 was approved.

## **16. Homepage issues**

Maike Luimes briefly reported about the network homepages within NERA website. Elisabeth Bjørnstad commented on some of the challenges. The picture of the NERA congress at the website should be removed when the actual congress is over.

## **17. Other issues**

**a)** Anna Slotte reported that Berit Karseth recently told her that Jorunn Møller has resigned as the chair of the organizing committee at NERA 2017 in Oslo. Berit will search for a new chair.

**b)** Gry Paulgaard initiated that a possible theme in the Board panel would be the tension between Education/Pedagogy (pedagogik) and Educational Sciences (utbildningsvetenskap) in which the former has been threatened by the later in the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway and Denmark). The Board discussed this problem. The Board supported the theme and decided to either put the Board panel into the NERA conference 2017 (Saturday) or postponed it to NERA conference 2018. A working group assigned to plan this included Herner Sæverot, Gry Paulgaard, and John Benedicto Krejsler.

## **18. Closing of the meeting**

**Controllers:**

John Benedicto Krejsler

Gester Gudmundsson