

Minutes NERA Board meeting March 2015

Dates and times: 3/3, 13:00- 19.30

Place: Gothenburg University, Pedagogen, Västra Hamngatan

Attendees:

Carl Anders Säfström (Sweden), Robert Thornberg (Sweden), Anna Slotte-Lüttge (Finland), Sirpa Lappalainen (Finland), Niels Kryger (Denmark), John Benedicto Krejsler (Denmark), Gestur Guðmundsson (Island), Maike Luimes (treasurer).

1. Opening – Carl Anders Säfström

2. Election of secretary – Robert Thornberg

3. Election of two controllers – Niels Kryger and Anna Slotte-Lüttge

4. Acceptance of agenda for the meeting

The agenda was accepted.

5. Minutes from Board meeting August 2014

Minutes approved with correction of item 15 in which it should be “Network issues” instead of “Homepage issues”.

6. General information

a) Hans Petter Ulleberg gave a brief review of **the network activity**. He has received network reports from roughly half of the 25 active networks from the 2014 conference. Repeated follow-up reminders have to be emailed to the conveners in which a request of filling in the report form and send it to Hans Petter is stated. If there is a minute from the network meeting, it should be attached in the email together with the network form. Two conveners have resigned (network 1 and 3) and these networks have to elect new conveners in the network meeting in NERA Congress 2015. A new website have been constructed and will be presented to the conveners together with guidelines on how to use it.

b) Gothenburg 2015: There are 680 participants registered. 148 people indicated that they would like to become a new member. There have been some problems with the online submission of symposia as well as some problems of being double booked in the conference program. The two networks without conveners was a problem too. Having an option in the online

submission system of not presenting the paper within a network seemed to be more problematic than benefitting.

c) Helsinki 2016: Sirpa Lappalainen briefly reported on the preparation progress of the forthcoming conference in Helsinki. Keynote speakers have confirmed. Lunch will not be included in the price in order to lower the conference fee. The network meetings will take place in a prolonged coffee break. Anna Slotte-Lüttge reported an idea from Studentförlaget to let publishers co-arrange seminars with authors within the parallel paper session slots. The Board identified a set of problems (e.g., competing with paper sessions; most publishers are publishing textbooks for students but the conference intends to be a research conference) and therefore proposed a “middle way” in forms of reception or market place outside the conference program. Carl Anders brought up the idea of “Editor’s talk” in a previous discussing with a peer-reviewed research journal. The Board favours the idea of “Editor’s talk” as a possible activity parallel with paper sessions. That might in particular attract doctoral students as well as junior scholars.

d) Aalborg Copenhagen 2017. Niels Kryger reported that a committee has been set up and is now working with the preparation. They also have a conference bureau. Their proposal is to have the conference in March 23-25, which is later than usually. Moreover, March 25 is a Saturday. The Board requested arguments from the committee addressing the late date since NERA Board prefers the first week of March in order to address the schedule stability. The committee also have to check with other conferences and investigate if postponing the conference will be a problem. Anyhow, the conference is preferred not to take place in the weekend, meaning that Saturday is not an appropriate conference day. The Board preferred Wednesday to Friday.

e) Norway 2018: Hans Petter Ulleberg initiated a brief discussion of possible places in Norway. A concrete proposal is needed to the August meeting.

f) EERA/ECER: John B Krejsler reported from the EERA meeting. Next ECER conference (autumn 2015) will be in Budapest, and WERA will have a focal meeting there (see weraonline.org). In 2016, the ECER conference will take place in Dublin 2016. John initiated the problem with the selection of keynote speakers in the EERA meeting: How to represent Europe better? Keynote speakers are most often selected from Anglo-Saxon countries such as USA, Great Britain and Australian.

7. Budget

a) NOP economical support cuts for NSE. The cuts and the pressure of having Open Access open up for looking at other publishers. The Board decided to set up a committee consisted of Carl Anders Säfström, Gestur Guðmundsson, John B Krejsler and Robert Thornberg that together with Herner Sæverot (Editor of NSE) negotiate with Sage as an alternative publisher to NSE.

b) Maike Luimes presented the budget and the budget is in good balance.

c) Maike Luimes presented the budget proposal for 2015. The expenses are higher than the income. We have to address that in the long term.

8. Work-group reports

a) **Handbook on procedures for arranging congresses:** Gestur Guðmundsson, Anna Slotte-Lüttge, Sirpa Lappalainen and Niels Kryger presented briefly their handbook draft on procedures for arranging congresses. After receiving comments from the rest of the Board, the group will come up with a final draft that the Board will decide on at the August meeting or per capsulam. The handbook will be treated as a living document open for revisions.

b) **NERA's policy and research values:** Niels Kryger has formulated a proposal to two bullets in addition to NERA's platform based on the Board's discussion at the August 2014 meeting. With some minor revision, the Board approved following bullets:

[The main purposes of NERA are: ...]

- supporting open and free dialogue and critical discussions and researchers' right to conduct autonomous as well as critical research and to disseminate its results
- supporting researchers' right and duty to participate in public debate based on freedom of speech and for the responsibility for the world in common.

c) **Presentation of NERA on Web:** Sirpa Lappalainen presented a first draft for the NERA description. One main concern has been the question of how "Nordic" driven the description should be. Sirpa has tried to formulate a website description without excluding non-Nordic researchers who are interested in Nordic educational issues and research. With the additional "the Nordic research field" at the end of the first paragraph suggested by Carl Anders Säfström, the Board approved the proposed draft:

"The Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA) strives to promote educational inquiry and support the use of research to enhance education. Moreover, it aims to strengthen the visibility of

educational discipline in the Nordic societies and provide a platform for Nordic as well as international collaboration between researchers in the Nordic research field.

NFPF/NERA, founded in 1972, has established itself as a meeting place for educational researchers in the Nordic countries. The foundation for the association's activities is in annual conferences, publishing, and supporting the network activities."

After a proofreading procedure to check the English language, the text will be published online at the NERA website.

d) The idea of integrating membership fee with the conference fee was discussed. The board approved the integration idea and supported that this has to be put into the handbook on procedures for arranging congresses. Moreover, the Board proposed that the integration of membership fee and the conference fee should be implemented already in Helsinki 2016. The Board decided to bring up this issue to the assembly meeting March 2015. If the general assembly approves this proposal, there would be a need to inform the Universitetsforlaget.

e) Guidelines and application form for Network support, and report: Maike Luimes suggested that we should delete the following part in the policy paper Application for support to networks, "In addition to this, the Board of NERA will in accordance with economic means support a group of Nordic researchers from a NERA network, that has been chosen to represent NERA at the American Educational Research Association's Annual Delegates Assembly. Routines and time schedule for AERA submission and support will be announced yearly." The Board approved this proposed removal.

Furthermore, Maike Luimes proposed dates for the application deadline, decision information, funding transfer, and report deadline:

August, 15th: Deadline for applications

September, 30th: Information about decision of the NERA board

November, 30th: Transfer of the funds to the networks

Approx. April 15th (the following year): Deadline for report to the network coordinator and financial report including vouchers to the treasurer

The Board supported the proposal of dates but preferred to change the application deadline from August 15th to August 1st. In addition, the Board proposed to change “network coordinator” to “NERA Board” in order to avoid a possible terminological confusion between *network conveners* and the *coordinator of the networks*. The Board decided to brought the deadline proposal to the assemble meeting.

It was also suggested during the Board discussion to add following two statements in the Application for support to networks:

- The activities that are applied for must be open to the whole network and encourage collaboration between all members in the network
- Support may be given for travel and diet costs for an invited lecture but not to network participant

This additional text was approved by the Board.

Finally, Maike Luimes presented an acceptance letter proposal. With a minor change (stating the coordinator’s e-mail address instead of stating the term “the network coordinator”), the Board approved the acceptance letter proposal.

f) Ahlström award: Herner Sæverot, Elisabeth Bjørnstad and Robert Thornberg proposed the following article to Ahlström Award: “Complexities and Contradictions of Educational Inclusion – A Meta-Ethnographic Analysis” written by Dennis Beach, Marianne Dovemark, Anneli Schwartz and Elisabet Öhrn. This was their motivation: “The authors have an exciting and innovative approach to the theme of educational inclusion. Their article, "Complexities and Contradictions of Educational Inclusion – A Meta-Ethnographic Analysis", is both resilient and original, opening up new perspectives in a field that has changed a lot in recent years due to socio-economic changes, new developments in school policy and increased migration. The article also provides interesting suggestions for a discussion that not only goes on in the Nordic countries, but also internationally. As such, the article provides an important contribution in both the Nordic and the international debate. The article is well structured, and is characterized by an analysis which is clear and consistent. The use of method is innovative and helps to grasp important details which have previously been overlooked. Moreover, the results of this article provide strategic and political insights to a field that has been

characterized by segregation and stigmatisation.” The Board approved the proposal.

g) Sage video team: Robert Thornberg briefly reported from his Skype meeting with Danny Costa, Licensing Editor at Sage about possible, selective video recording at NERA congress. The Sage video team would take care of all work and costs, and they offered NERA three benefits: (a) some share of the profit, but this would be a very small part, (b) the distribution of video material would promote NERA and the NSE journal, and (c) NERA will have the right to distribute video recordings from NERA conferences to all their members. In the discussion, following issues emerged: (a) how would the issue of permission be addressed connected to the issues of selection, timing, and audience, (b) the Board should have an influence on the selection procedure, and (c) Board would need to approve video material before publishing it on the Sage web system. Robert Thornberg will discuss this further with Danny Costa, and then bring this up in the August 2015 meeting.

9. Quality of papers and abstracts

The Board had a general discussion about the quality of papers and abstracts. The Board also decided that the submitted abstract should be longer (500 words). Hans Petter Ulleberg was asked to bring this issue to the convener meeting in March 2015. Thus, the guidelines and the quality evaluation of abstracts will be discussed in the convener meeting.

10. Sage and NSE

Herner Sæverot initiated a discussion about SAGE and NSE. Who is the owner of the journal? NERA or Universitetsforlaget? A Norwegian lawyer should be consulted for this first question. What can Sage offer? Are there any risk if the journal language moves from a Nordic profile to an international profile? These are important questions to address. Still the Board is in general positive to examining if Sage would be an efficient publisher of NSE.

11. Other issues

a) SWERA at ECER: SWERA has sent a request for membership at EERA. The president of EERA has asked the NERA Board if we have any opinion about the request. The issue was viewed as not of the Board’s concern.

b) Signature right: Registration of NERA and Brønnøysundregisterne. Maike Luimes needs the signature right to have access to the bank. The Board decided to give her – and her alone – the signature right.

c) Website: Sirpa Lappalainen's text (see 8c above) and the additional bullets (see 8b above) should be integrated with the description of NERA that is already published in the NERA website (in the Platform section). This full description will then be in the "About" webpage. Sirpa will put the integrated text together, and Carl Anders Säfström will distribute the final draft to the Board via e-mail. A per capsulam decision from the Board will be needed before publishing the revised NERA description online. Furthermore, Maike Luimes briefly informed the Board about the new website. Because Sverre Tveit will resign from his website manager position, Maike Luimes will take over that responsibility.

e) August meeting: Next Board meeting will be August 11-12, 2015 in Helsinki.

12. Closing the meeting

Controllers: Niels Kryger and Anna Slotte-Lüttge