

## **18<sup>TH</sup> EUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Thursday, 7 April 2016  
9.00 – 11.00

National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **Part I: EUA as an association: formal and financial matters**

##### **1. Approval** of the Agenda

Martine Rahier, Vice-President of EUA and Chair of the General Assembly, welcomed participants and thanked the National University of Ireland Galway for hosting the EUA statutory meetings and Annual Conference.

The proposed agenda was approved without amendment.

##### **2. Approval of the Minutes** of the 17<sup>th</sup> EUA General Assembly that took place at the University of Antwerp on 16 April 2015

The minutes were approved without changes.

##### **3. Approval** of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure were approved without changes.

##### **4. Presentation** of the 2015 Annual Report

L Wilson, Secretary General of EUA, briefly presented the 2015 Annual Report, noting that the second part of the GA would also feature presentations on a number of specific activities undertaken in 2015 that had been of particular strategic importance to EUA. The finalised report would be published shortly after the General Assembly.

##### **5. Presentation** of the 2016/2017 Work Programme

L Wilson presented the main features of the 2016/2017 EUA Work Programme. Strategic objectives for EUA in the next two years would include promoting and reinforcing universities as key societal actors; increasing understanding and trust between universities and their stakeholders; demonstrating universities' achievements; and standing up for university values in difficult political, economic and societal contexts. She then summarised EUA's priorities and actions by thematic area, covering learning and teaching, research and innovation, internationalisation, governance and funding and institutional development.

In response to a question concerning the nature and extent of EUA's activities in Africa, L Wilson and T Loukkola, Director of Institutional Development, explained that EUA had established links with African universities and partner organisations. A new project on quality assurance on the African continent was currently under development.

#### 6. **Approval** of the 2016 Budget

The Vice-President presented the revised 2016 budget, which Council had adopted the previous day.

**Decision:** The 2016 budget was unanimously approved.

#### 7. **Approval** of the 2015 Financial Report and Accounts

The Vice-President reported that due to a higher fee collection rate than in previous years, the reception of outstanding project monies related to EUA's evaluations of Romanian higher education institutions as well as difficulties encountered in filling some open positions at the EUA secretariat, a large budget surplus (approximately EUR 700 000) had remained at the end of the year. This would be carried over from 2015 and a project reserve set up over a 3-4 year period, which would be used to develop a major initiative on the quality and relevance of student learning outcomes, a topic of major importance for both universities and policy makers. She invited EUA's members to contribute actively to this work

**Decision:** The 2015 Financial Report and Accounts were unanimously approved.

The Vice President proposed to the members of the General Assembly to grant full discharge to the Board members for the fulfilment of their mandate during the year 2015.

**Decision:** Discharge was granted by the members of the General Assembly to the Secretary General, the President and the Board.

#### 8. **Appointment** of the Auditors for the 2016 Accounts

The General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Vice-President to continue the arrangements in place since 2009, and thus to appoint Fernand Maillard & Co, Brussels (BE), to audit the 2016 Brussels accounts, and OGH expertises, Geneva (CH), to act as auditor for the 2016 Geneva accounts.

#### 9. **Approval** of 2017 subscriptions for EUA members

The Vice-President reported that, in line with the method endorsed by the General Assembly in 2011 in Aarhus, annual membership subscriptions had been updated based on the development of national GDP figures and student numbers of EUA's individual member institutions. The latest revision of membership fees dated back to 2013.

**Decisions:**

Individual full members – subscriptions were **approved unanimously**

Collective full members – subscriptions were **approved unanimously**

Individual associate members – subscriptions were **approved unanimously**

Collective associate members – subscriptions were **approved unanimously**

Affiliates – subscriptions were **approved unanimously**

### **Part II: EUA and its members**

#### 10. **Presentation** of key activities in 2015 and 2016

The Secretary General, M Gaebel, Director of Higher Education Policy, and L Borrell Damian, Director of Research and Innovation presented the work conducted by EUA in 2015 on the following key topics: EUA's policy work, with a particular focus on EFSI and EUA's international support for academic freedom and human rights; EUA's Trends 2015 report on Learning and Teaching in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA); and EUA's work on Open Science, with a particular focus on its new Roadmap for Open Access to Research Publications

**11. AOB**

There was no other business to report. The Secretary General closed the General Assembly at 11:00.



Martine Rahier  
EUA Vice President



Lesley Wilson  
Secretary General

Brussels, May 2016