

Minutes to the ordinary general assembly of the Association of Community Colleges (ACC) 2003

Date: Monday, August 11th, 2003

Location: Casa Cares, Via Pietrapiana, 56, I-50066 Reggello, Italy

ACC Members present:

John Petersen, Conchi Gallego, Jan-Christoph Napierski, Elisabeth Alber, Eva Valvo, Peter Ciaccio, Erik Jentges, Larissa Kus, Silvia Cardi, Laszlo Dani, Dasa Bolina, Mjellma Mehmeti, Emma Yeoman

1. Official welcome by John
2. Election of the chair of the assembly and of a secretary
Elisabeth is proposed as the chair of the assembly and is unanimously accepted
Erik is proposed as the secretary and is unanimously accepted
3. Statement of the chairperson of the board
Elisabeth opens the meeting and introduces John to give an overview of last year's work. The Act on European Community Colleges was published in print in the Journal of World Education as the result of a CC in Spring 2003 in Denmark (School for Europe Community College 2; SECC II). An Action 6 proposal was also published in this Journal, aiming at the implementation of a system of scholarships within the EU-Youth Programme. The SECC II was organized by Allan Siao Ming Witherick and Ieva Astakovska and was attended by 35 former Youth 2002 participants. As a result the idea for the First European Community College (FECC) was conceived. A project description was drafted by John in Autumn 2002, and work has been done on the statutes of the FECC in spring. There was positive feedback by several governments who support the idea to implement a system of scholarships to start a concrete CC. Currently an answer by the Danish Ministry of Education is awaited on how this idea can be supported. This summer, the Transylvania Community College (TCC) in Romania is happening, and shall finalise with a proposal to the EU-Constitution on Minority Rights. The European Rights Community College (ERCC) organized by the Italian Committee in Reggello (Florence) has just ended. The ACC has now more than 320 members and has become eligible for benefits in the Danish tax system where the ACC office is located. Last year, the EVS volunteers Eric Pichereaux and Naomi Woltring worked in the office and contributed a lot to the success of the ACC. Conchi helped in the office in the summer for 4 weeks. On September 1st 2003, the office will move from Aabenraa to Aarhus. A new website was set up which can be edited by the members without a single web-administrator. In November and December 2002, an Enlargement Tour was done at Danish Folk-high-schools, with Europeans presenting the Enlargement Process of the EU in their home countries to an audience of Danish students. A three-day seminar by the Board on the development of the ACC was also done at that time, producing the work plan for 2003 that is available on the website. In Latvia, the possibility of co-founding a real folk-high-school was explained in detail. The school in Rite has the status of a self-sustaining Ltd and hires staff only on a temporary basis. It has been decided to change the school's status into a NGO and re-found / co-found it in collaboration with a Danish supporting circle and a Latvian supporting circle. The anticipated co-founding makes it necessary to change the ACC statutes which had been proposed by the Board in due time to the GA. John concluded that everything is going very well.
4. Presentation and adopting of the accounts
Elisabeth gives an overview of the Statement of Accounts from January 1st - December 31st 2002 which had been signed by the auditor Lene Albrechtsen. Short explanations

were made by John on behalf of the Treasurer Linda Jakobsone who could not attend the GA. The account was accepted by the GA.

5. Election of Board members

The mandates of Agota Illyes, Laszlo Dani, Mjellma Mehmeti and John Petersen were running out. Agota and Laszlo did not renew their candidature, new candidates were Eva Valvo and Dasa Bolcina. All present Board members gave an introduction on the Board positions. All four candidates were elected unanimously into the Board, Eva left her position as a substitute.

The candidates for substitutes were Laszlo Dani and Helena Soares Silva. Mjellma proposed Emma Yeoman as another candidate for the substitute position. The counting of the ballots on the voting of the substitutes was done by Peter and checked by Elisabeth. The results were Emma (12), Laszlo (11), Helena (1). Emma and Laszlo accepted the candidature.

On behalf of the ACC, John thanked Laszlo, Siebren and Agota for the good work they had done.

6. Election of Auditor

Lene Albrechtsen was re-elected as auditor and also thanked for her work.

7. Proposals received and general debate

John explained the two proposals made by the Board in order for the ACC to be a cofounder of the Rite Folkhigschool in Latvia.

Both proposals on the article 3 and for practicable reasons on article 7 were agreed upon and the statutes have been changed.

The third proposal which was made by Nataliya Nikolova on the establishment of local ACC groups was discussed in the GA. The position of the Board was presented by Conchi. ACC is an European NGO, but there is a need to have personal contacts among members, so it is possible for local communities of members to become active in an informal way. Committees must be formed according to the existing ACC statutes. Only in Latvia a committee has obtained a legal status on a national level; this may happen for practical reasons (such as opening a bank account etc.) on the precondition that the first two paragraphs of the statutes of the local branches are identical to the ones of the ACC International, and that the members of the local branches are members of the ACC International. These local groups shall seek contact to the Board to keep it informed. Since an intensive debate had started on the ACC email-group, a workshop with the GA participants was done, where the email-debate was presented and the FECC-project was explained. The results collected by Marzia will be posted on the mailing-list and will be added as an appendix to these minutes.

8. Site of next years GA

It will be announced as soon as there is certainty in the planning.

9. Any other business

The annual renewal of the ACC membership can be done by email; a reminder will be sent out via email from the ACC office in due time before the GA. Any change of address shall be reported to the ACC to keep the membership data updated.

In order to help the ACC with the public relations and to become more present, the GA welcomes members to ask the office for information materials.

10. Adopting of the minutes

The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Chair of the ACC
John Petersen

Chairing the General Assembly
Elisabeth Alber

Deputy Chair of the ACC
Conchi Gallego

Secretary of the General Assembly
Erik Jentges