

May 18th, 1999

The willingness or ability to fund the idea of establishing a common European NGO working for the development of a common folk high school system has been thin.

Nonetheless, we have had extreme luck, since the Rødding Højskole has offered free lodge and board for the statutory meeting from 17-19 July.

For this reason Elly and I have sent out invitations today and we have been working on a set of statutes for the association.

IT IS GOING TO BE REALITY!

Below I have copied a set of statutes. It is not definite, just as the new name ACC (Association for Community Colleges) is not necessarily definite. The statutes will give you a good idea of the direction of our thinking.

You can still find every information at the www.johnp.dk

Comments are very welcome!

Best wishes
John

Statutes, draft:

§ 1 Name of the association

The association is called The Association for Community Colleges (ACC).

§ 2 Objective of the ACC

The objective of the association is to promote the development of an enlightened European debate.

§ 3 Purpose of the ACC

A system of community colleges on a common European level is considered to be an outstanding way of promoting this objective. The ACC is working for the promotion of the idea of running schools on a common European level by

- a) working for the establishing of a European law supporting community colleges
- b) putting the ideas into practise by organizing community college courses .
- c) lobbying authorities, which could be expected to support the development of common European community colleges
- d) being in itself a European debating network

§4 Language of the ACC

The language of the ACC is English

§5 Membership

Persons already engaged in institutions or associations working for the benefit of the public and on a democratic base, and who can substantiate this, are accepted as members. The decision of the board is final in matters of dispute.

§6 Subscriptions

The annual subscription is to be decided by the ordinary general assembly.

If a member does not pay the subscription in due time, the member is considered to have resigned from the association.

Only members who paid their subscription before the general assembly was called have the right to vote at the assembly.

§7 Ordinary general assembly

The ordinary general assembly is to be held every year in the first weekend of August.

General assemblies should take place in new localities every year, so advantages and disadvantages caused by the distances are equalized.

§8 Call for and agenda of the ordinary general assembly.

Call for the general assembly must take place one month ahead of the assembly.

The call for the ordinary assembly must include an agenda with minimum the following points and a list of candidates for point 4:

- 1: Election to the chair of the assembly and of a secretary
- 2: Statement of the chairman of the board
- 3: Presentation and adopting of the accounts
- 4: Election of board members.
- 5: Election of accountant
- 6: Proposals received
- 7: The board makes public the site of next years ordinary general assembly
- 8: Any other business
- 9: Adopting of the minutes

§9 Proposals for the ordinary general assembly

Proposals for the ordinary general assembly must be received by the board before May 1st in the year of the ordinary general assembly. Included are proposals for candidates to the board election (but not for substitutes).

§10 Extraordinary general assembly

Extraordinary general assemblies can be called by the board with a notice of one month, an agenda included. Calls for extraordinary assemblies must take place, when at least 50% of the members apply for it in writing to the board.

§11 Procedure of decision-making at general assemblies

Decisions are taken by majority vote among those present and entitled to vote.

§12 Year of accounts

The year of accounts is the year of the calendar.

§13 The role, composition and constitution of the board

The board is in charge of the day-to-day running of the association and of the initiatives taken in accordance with §3.

The board consists of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and three (3) ordinary members. In addition to this there are two (2) substitutes. In the first year of the existence of the board seven (7) members are elected. Subsequently three (3) new members are elected in even years and four (4) new members are elected in uneven years. Substitutes are elected every year.

The board constitutes itself.

If necessary, the board takes care to find a sufficient number of candidates for the board election.

§14 Meetings and decision-making process of the board.

Boardmeetings are held when the chairman (alternatively the deputy chairman) finds it necessary or when four (4) boardmembers are demanding it. There must be at least two face-to-face board-meetings per year. Regardless of the form of the meeting (internet, telephone, etc.) a report must be taken.

Decisions are taken by majority vote (the vote of the chairman weights in case of parity of votes).

Five (5) board members presence are needed for taking decisions.

The board can set up committees to take care of special tasks. The initiatives of a committee must be presented to and adopted by the board to be binding. Committees are cooperating with the board.

§15 Decision-making process for changing the statutes.

Decisions on changing the statutes need an 80% majority vote among those present and entitled to vote.

§16 Dissolution of the association

The association can be dissolved in accordance with the procedure in §14. However this can only take place on an extraordinary general assembly. In case there is money left at the dissolution, this money is granted to an association or institution with aims similar to the ACC in accordance with the decision of the board.

Thus decided at the first general assembly at Rødding Højskole on July 17th-19th, 1999.