

## Minutes from NERA Board meeting 20-21.8 2019, Turku

Place: Meeting room 341, Assistentinkatu 5, Educarium, Turku, Finland

### Attendees:

John Benedicto Krejsler (Denmark), Satu Perälä-Littunen (Finland), Monica Londen (Finland), Christian Ydesen (Denmark), Ketil Knutsen (Norway), Gry Paulgaard (Norway), Michael Dal (Iceland), Robert Thornberg (Sweden), Eva Hultin (Sweden), Maike Luimes (treasurer)

## AGENDA

### *August 20, 4 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.*

#### 1. Opening

The meeting started 16.15. John Benedicto Krejsler opened the meeting. It was decided to do the meeting in English.

#### 2. Election of secretary

Christian Ydesen was elected as secretary

#### 3. Election of two controllers

Controllers are Eva Hultin and Monica Londen.

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

The agenda was accepted.

#### 5. Minutes from the Board meetings

a. Minutes from Board Meeting March 5, 2019

b. Minutes from the Board Meeting March 8 **REPORTS FOUND**

The minutes were accepted with minor changes. Two comments were made about NERAs language policy and future fundraising.

#### 6. Minutes from the General Assembly 2019 checked and published on the web site.

a. Follow-up: Board's plan. **REPORT FOUND**

The minutes were accepted. The revised text of byelaws is available on the NERA web page.

## 7. Uppsala conference 2019

### a. Evaluation report **REPORT FOUND**

The board discussed the critical points raised by conference participants.

A special concern was raised about standardization of the conference app across NERA conferences. The app should offer search options for networks, presenters, time, and key words. *The board decided to avoid standardizing apps, but rather to specify app requirements to local organising committees.*

The price and quality of the conference dinner was an issue. *The board decided to raise this issue with future conference organisers.*

There was a call for a stricter peer-review process. The rejection rate is generally low in the networks. NERA has always been a mixture between rigorous academic research, education development, PhD students work-in-progress papers, and practitioners' interests. NERA needs to expand the member base. *The board decided:*

- 1) *to communicate to network convenors the possibility to differentiate between full papers, work-in-progress papers (short papers), roundtables, and posters. Draw network convenors' attentions to the definitions of different formats available on the NERA webpage ([http://www.nfpf.net/?page\\_id=72](http://www.nfpf.net/?page_id=72))*
- 2) *to have a discussion about rejection rates with network convenors*
- 3) *to delete the phrasing about references "if you have any"*

### b. Report from network meeting in Uppsala (Gry) **REPORT FOUND (Gry)**

The network meeting needs to be organised in a way that maximize convenor presence and does not collide with other meetings/events and at a more attractive time during the conference. See 7.a. for issues to be discussed with convenors. Improving communication with the network convenors was discussed. Some networks have Facebook pages, and some do not. The activity level across networks is very uneven.

## 8. Economy (Maike)

### a. Budget situation, Half Year Balance Regnskap

Maike Luimes presented the half year balance. The incoming balance is 145,079 NOK and the outgoing balance is estimated at 74,411 NOK.

### b. Economical report from Uppsala congress 2019

The board has not received the report from Uppsala. John sends out a reminder.

### c. Membership fee – conference fee

The GA needs to make a final decision about the change to byelaws at the Turku conference.

### d. Brønnøysund register, update **REPORTS (Maike)**

Maike Luimes takes care of the application and update in the Brønnøysund register.

### 9. Website: new payment link and other (Michael) **REPORT (Michael)**

Michael Dal presented the issue. Generally, the website is in need of update. The payment link from the membership fee to the conference registration page can easily be established. For the 2020 Turku conference an agreement has been reached that there should be at least 125 Euro difference between member and non-member fee for conference registration. Members registering at the Turku conference should receive some benefits (a reduction of the fee for the ECER conference).

In the near future it will be necessary to create a new website because the current website is very old in terms of set-up and coding.

### 10. Network issues

#### a. Network reports and other network issues (Gry) **REPORT FOUND (Gry)**

Gry Paulgaard presented the issue. We have received reports from 9 out of 25 networks. Gry has sent out reminders to convenors. The reports are very important in terms communicating network activities and participants.

Network 1 has reported a wish to close down the network due to lack of commitment. The network currently has no convenor. Gry has had a dialogue with the last known convenor.

*The board decided to close down the network. Gry will inform the last known convenor.*

Generally, there is a need to stimulate more activity with the convenors. The network descriptions need to be updated on the webpage. The board recognizes that the networks are the backbone of NERA.

NERA has received an application for a new network "Educational measurement and assessment". *The board decided to approve the application.* The website has to be updated accordingly.

#### b. Economical support to networks

##### i. Network reports from grants used

The board notes that the pre-conference activities have a high academic level and make a vital contribution to NERA life. The reports were approved.

#### c. NERA representation at AERA (John)

##### i. AERA 2019, NERA network 5, The Curriculum Research Network represented NERA at AERA 2019 "Re-theorizing Comparative Curriculum Leadership Research – Bildung centered non-affirmative education theory and discursive institutionalism." **REPORT FOUND(John)**

John presented the issue. Michael Uljens has sent a report. The report was approved.

##### ii. AERA 2020 **REPORT FOUND(John)**

A new application for the AERA slot from network 15 has been received. The application was approved.

### 11. International collaborations (Eva) **REPORT (Eva)**

## a. EERA

Eva Hultin presented the issue. ECER 2020 will take place in Glasgow and in Geneva in 2021. The venue of the 2022 conference might be Cyprus or Armenia.

The 2020 summer school will take place in Jyväskylä.

Luxembourg and Latvia have successfully applied for membership of EERA. Georgia is also applying.

## b. Other issues?

The Irish and Scottish educational research associations have a special interest in NERA. Eva continues the contact with them established by John.

SERA has offered NERA two persons can attend their conference for free. Michael and Gry might go. *The board decides to offer two free seats at the Turku conference to SERA.*

**August 21, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

12. NERA: New economic model & economic situation: (John, Michael & Maike) **IDEAS TO MODEL (John, Michael & Maike)**

Michael Dal presented the issue based on the background paper written by the subgroup. The main points are:

- 1) Changing the journal from paper to Open Access makes it necessary to make a new economic model.
- 2) The decreasing numbers of members needs to be dealt with.
- 3) The handling of the NOS-HS support must be changed.

The board continued its discussions about:

- 1) advantages and disadvantages with the models associated with *Universitetsforlaget* versus *Cappelen*
- 2) the handling of membership (the role of the treasurer and the board members; it should be possible to have membership with or without conference participation)
- 3) the price level of future conferences (possible handles to turn is the lunch and/or sponsors)
- 4) the role of APC (Article Processing Cost) for publishing in NSE (2020 is exempt because of articles in pipeline)
- 5) income sources (membership fees, conference profits, NOS-support, fundraising activities)
- 6) how to market NERA and create visibility of the benefits, roles and potentials of NERA in general and membership in particular
- 7) the attractiveness of hosting conferences (economy, visibility, staff resources)
- 8) the budget for 2020 which seems to be turning a deficit

- 9) the accessibility of future conference venues (some additional points are to raise local/national participation and make sure that the conference language is English (unless otherwise specified in the conference program))

*The board decides that*

- *the working group can go ahead with the model proposed in the background paper*
- *there is no APC until 2022 (31/12/2021) if we can break even at 550 members (final decision will be made per capsulam)*
- *the issue about lunch should be taken up with Odense for the 2021 conference (lunch optional)*
- *Universitetsforlaget is asked to document the return of NOP-support money*

13. Nordic Studies in Education - Cappelen) (John, Michael, Herner & Maike) **CONTRACT DRAFT AND SUMMARY OF ISSUES (John)**

John presented the issue based on the work of the subgroup and the background documents comparing the economic situations associated with the different solution models of the two publishing houses.

A clear picture can be drawn that APC is not an option. Authors will withdraw their submissions if met by an APC demand.

The following points were discussed:

1. The contract draft from Cappelen
2. Pros and cons of different license types. Cappelen recommends CC BY
3. 2020 will be a particularly critical year for NERA's economy: (1) we are changing to Cappelen and no subscription fees; (2) NERA 2020 conference has no mandatory membership; (3) NSE already has so many articles in pipeline that we expect that we can charge no APC per article in 2020. The non-APC model allows us a publication fee that is 10 000 NOK lower, i.e. 244 000 NOK (instead of 254 000 NOK). According to Cappelen, Norway will most probably abolish VAT this year for publication fees.
4. From 2021 onwards we will have to decide upon (later) whether we want an APC-model or whether we calculate that additional fees from NERA conferences will be able to cover a non-APC model. This should be possible and is connected to the decisions upon NERA's future economic model.
5. §8: Cappelen has agreed to a model concerning the publishing fee,
  - a. where they abstain from the possibility of making individual NERA board members financially responsible, and
  - b. where a deficit can be paid over a maximum of three years with no accumulated interest costs (NERA must be able to document that a deficit is not payable)

According to Herner, the Cappelen contract model appears well conceived as far as technical and publication issues are concerned. Cappelen has an online editor's system

that seems workable, which is necessary as we will no longer have an editor's assistant under the new model. Herner explained the model.

*Pending a clarification of the term "remix" and the issue whether individual authors can request different licenses, the board decides to go for the CC BY license. The license will be reviewed regularly. John will ask Cappelen.*

*It is decided that the board will take a more active role in supporting NSE in terms of reviewers and finding other reviewers within our respective fields of research expertise. Herner will gather information about board members' research expertise.*

*A working group dealing with increasing the visibility of NSE was established. The group consists of Herner, Eva and Michael.*

*The board emphasizes the importance of registering the journal with Web of Science, Scopus etc. (search engines and indexing) and that the publisher needs to include checking for plagiarism.*

*The Cappelen contract draft contains a contradiction about interests (§7,2 ↔ §6,8). It needs to be aligned.*

*With these comments, the board approves the contract draft.*

*Transition of previous issues of NSE, including metadata, from UF to Cappelen is needed.*

*John will make contact with the publishing houses and inform them about the board's decision.*

#### 14. The Board plans for 2019

##### a. Development of the board panel (Working group: John, Gry, Eva, Herner)

The working group continues. It was remarked that Open Access and the future of NERA could be a topic for a board panel.

##### b. NERA in Facebook? (Christian and Eva)

Eva presented the issue about FB. The working group proposes a closed group where people can apply to the administrator for membership. Eva offers to serve as administrator but would like to have co-administrators in each country. The idea is to have a FB page as a test and the initiative will be evaluated at the next board meeting.

A discussion about the purpose and aim of the FB page took place.

*The board decided to launch the initiative as proposed by the working group. Ketil, Michael, and Satu serve as co-administrators.*

##### c. NERA in Twitter (Christian & Maike)

The working group suggests that a separate account is created for each NERA Congress on Twitter for which the conference organizer is responsible. In such an account, you can post information about everything about the conference, for example, deadlines for submitting abstract, etc., you can also post a lot during the conference. The working group does not find it feasible with a NERA Twitter account for NERA since it requires too much time and work.

*The board supports the suggestion of the working group.*

d. Other issues?

Nothing to report.

15. NERA Conferences

a. Turku Conference 2020. Meeting with conveners and presentation of venue

A discussion took place about the Friday programme being too thin creating a risk that people not come at all, if they cannot reach Turku on time on the Wednesday.

*The board decided to ask the conference organizers to move network session 5 to the Friday and move the network convenor meeting to the Thursday. The finishing time will be 02:30 pm. John will write to the organizers.*

b. Coming conferences

i. Odense 2021

If lunch is not included in the conference fee, there is a need to clarify the access to buying lunches. *John will write to the organizers.*

ii. Iceland 2022

The University of Iceland is ready to host the NERA conference in 2022.

iii. Norway 2023

OsloMet and Stavanger might be good options. Gry and Ketil will take the matter further.

16. Other issues

There was a discussion about the Helsinki-initiative

(<https://www.helsinki-initiative.org>)

Satu will distribute material and present the matter at the next board meeting.

17. Next meeting

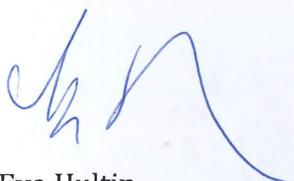
*Turku: March 3, 09:00-18:00; March 4, 08:00-10:30; and March 6.*

18. Closing of the meeting

*The meeting was closed at 16:30.*

Controllers:

  
Monica Londen

  
Eva Hultin