

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE EDITORS

A company limited by guarantee – No. 4049507

MINUTES of the SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at La Residència, C/Hospital 64, Barcelona, Spain

At 9.00 am on Monday 14 May 2007

Present: Twenty members of the Association who all signed the attendance register
Thirteen proxies were received

Apologies: Seventeen apologies were received

The President of EASE, Ir. Arjan Polderman, took the chair.

1. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting held on 15 June 2006 in Kraków, Poland

There being no amendments to the Minutes, Joan Marsh proposed and Linus Svensson seconded the proposal that they be approved, which was unanimously carried. The President then signed them.

2. To receive the Report of the President for 2006-2007

The President's Report for 2006-2007 was tabled. The President said the new database was running well and membership was increasing steadily, with the prospect of reaching 500 very soon. He reported that EASE's application to the EU for funding in respect of EASE's 2009 conference would be submitted by 31 May 2007. This included six work packages: establishing a steering committee to manage and oversee the project, creating a database of European Science Editors, the organisation of the conference itself, updating the Science Editors' Handbook and publishing the proceedings. If successful at this stage, there would be negotiations of conditions in September/October with a final result by the end of the year. He went on to summarise the other main activities, decisions and proposals made by the Council/Directors during the year:

- the Ninth General Assembly and Conference on *The Culture of Science Editing* had been held in Kraków from 15-18 June 2006, in conjunction with two workshops on statistics for journal editors and on open access
- a drive to improve membership management and numbers had arrested its decline and as at 1 May 2007 there were 434 members, including 18 corporate members representing 167 individuals
- the sponsorship scheme had been re-activated with 14 members now sponsored
- the financial position had been secured with a new capital reserve account paying higher interest rates
- the website had been further developed with over 50% of members both old and new now using the online payment facility
- five chapters had been added to the Science Editors' Handbook which continued to sell to non-members
- four issues of *European Science Editing* had been published
- a steering committee led by Professor Rod Hunt had been formed to submit an application to the European Commission for EU funding in respect of the 2009 Conference
- a statement reflecting EASE's standpoint on the use of impact factors was being developed
- local meetings may now be billed as EASE meetings if the local organiser is a member of EASE
- the new EASE house style had been implemented and the new logo now appeared on stationery, the journal and the website
- two new membership categories had been introduced – a reduced fee for group membership for members of other editorial societies and for students

- Honorary Membership had been awarded to Marie-Louise Desbaretts-Schönbaum and Jennifer Gretton in recognition of their work for EASE over the years, which was greeted with great applause

3. To receive the Treasurer's statement on Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 December 2006, and the Report of the independent Financial Reviewer

The Treasurer, Rod Hunt, went through the Income and Expenditure Account which had been approved by Council on 13 May 2007. He reported that there had been a change in the way the Association's funds were now managed, including new banking arrangements which gave more flexibility and enabled him to operate accounts online. The overall loss of £9,015 for the year when compared with the loss of £17,521 for the previous year reflected an arrest of the decline in membership and consequent increase in subscription income. The main increase in expenditure related to payment of professional fees for the Secretary who had been asked particularly to address this issue. The position was now more favourable than it had been six months ago. Reserves now stood at £65,000 compared with £67,000 last year. He said that if EASE's application to the EU for funding of a large conference to be held in 2009 was successful, this would present an excellent opportunity to recruit a large number of new members. In the meantime, he stressed the need to recruit more members. In response to a question from Joan Marsh as to when he thought the Association might break even, he said if each current member recruited a new member now, it could in 2007.

The independent financial reviewer had stated that, in his opinion, the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2006 and recommended their acceptance.

4. To Re-appoint the independent Financial Reviewer

The Treasurer proposed the re-appointment of the current financial reviewer, Mr Geoffrey Howell, who, in his opinion, did a very satisfactory job. This was seconded Linus Svensson, and unanimously agreed.

5. Any Other Business

a) EuroScience Open Forum in 2008 (ESOF2008)

The President informed the meeting that EASE would be taking part in the EuroScience Open Forum to be held in Barcelona from 18-22 July 2008 by organising a seminar and holding a session on career opportunities in science editing and publishing, within the framework of the Forum. Reme Melero and Alison Clayson would co-ordinate these activities. Reme asked for suggestions for topics to be sent to her and Karen Shashok suggested new media in science communication as a possibility.

b) Raising the profile of EASE

Joan Marsh suggested that members could help raise the profile of EASE by taking EASE material, such as flyers (obtainable from the Secretary), to any meetings they attended and perhaps they could be encouraged to write a report afterwards for EASE's journal, *European Science Editing*.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00 am.

SIGNED:

DATE: