

# **13th EALTA Annual General Meeting Held on Saturday 7th May 2016, 15.00 at the Universitat Politècnica de València**

**Present:** Conference participants who are members of EALTA – European Association for Language Testing and Assessment.

## **AGENDA**

1. Approval of minutes from the 2015 AGM
2. Reports on EALTA activities since the last AGM including:
  - a. Events,
  - b. Membership,
  - c. Finances
3. Appointment of the auditor for 2016
4. Handover to the new EALTA President
5. Discussion of policy matters
6. 2017 Conference venue and date
7. Date of the next AGM
8. AOB

The meeting was called to order by Gudrun Erickson (GE), President of EALTA, who welcomed all participants. The members of the Executive Committee then introduced themselves. GE asked if there was any other business that people wanted to discuss. Carol Spoetl mentioned the EALTA Summer School in Innsbruck. No other suggestions for AOBs.

### **1. Approval of minutes from the 2015 AGM**

Since no changes were requested, the minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2015 were approved.

### **2. President's and Executive Committee's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2014 including events, membership, finances, and appointment of the auditor for 2015.**

GE commented on the 2016 conference and thanked Cristina Perez and her team for excellent preparation and hosting of the event, which had gathered 220 participants from 34 countries. She also expressed EALTA's gratitude to the sponsors for their support. Moreover, GE acknowledged the generous contributions of the pre-conference workshop leaders, the invited keynote speakers, and the SIG leaders.

### *Events*

GE drew the participants' attention to the updated EALTA info on the Resources website (<http://www.ealta.eu.org/resources.htm>) as well as on materials from previous EALTA Conference(s). Following events took place during the past year: 6th CBLA SIG symposium at the University of Cyprus, and EALTA SIG Seminar on Assessing Writing/EAP Assessment at the University of Warwick.

### *Membership*

GE reported that the EALTA membership numbers at the time of the conference had increased considerably, Individual members by 161 and Associate members by 12. Expert members had increased by 1. Decrease of 10 in the number of Institutional members is due to the cleaning up of the website and data base. The number now stands for the active members. At the time of the 2016 AGM, the EALTA membership numbers were the following:

**Individual members: 1 528 / 43 countries Associate members: 183 / 36 countries**  
**Institutional members: 51 / 21 countries Expert members: 24 / 11 countries**

- the top 10 countries in terms of individual membership numbers being UK, Turkey, Sweden, Spain, Germany, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Austria, Finland.

The Chair of the Membership Committee, Norman Verhelst (NV), reported that all the members of the Committee – Jayanti Banerjee, Monica Barni and Dina Tsagari, will continue. The activity during the year had not been much with only 2 applications for Institutional membership, all of which successful, and 1 for expert membership. There are 3 new institutional members: 1 genuine new, 1 merged organisation, and 1 new, which will be accepted in week 18.

### *Finances*

The Treasurer Jamie Dunlea (JD) presented the audited accounts for 2015. The accounts showed a very good, positive balance (audited balance sheet included in the AGM papers). The accounts were approved by the AGM. JD also reported that revenues from the Copenhagen conference, as well as expenses for 2016 workshops are not yet included in the accounts.

### **3. Appointment of the auditor for 2016**

GE thanked Karin Vogt for auditing the financial year 2015. Karin Vogt has also accepted to continue auditing for the year 2016. GE thanked KV for accepting the task.

### **4. Handover to the new EALTA President**

GE reminded participants of the election of the upcoming president Claudia Harsch last year in Copenhagen. GE congratulated CH and handed over the post to her. The new President was given a warm welcome by the AGM. GE also thanked Slobodanka Dimova stepping down for all her good work for EALTA.

The Executive Committee and the participants at the AGM Meeting expressed their warmest thanks to Gudrun Erickson for her strong commitment and excellent work as the fourth president of EALTA. Her long dedicated service to EALTA as a member of the Executive Committee started in 2006 when she was elected Secretary/Treasurer (until 2009); during 2009 -2012 she served as secretary. With the three-year presidency (2013-2016), her nine-

year contribution to the Executive Committee is unparalleled and has helped EALTA greatly in developing its modus operandi that has transformed EALTA into a highly appreciated international organization in the domain of language testing and assessment.

## **5. Discussion of policy matters**

### **5.1 Update of the Constitution**

As the introduction of the upcoming president has turned out to be a good procedure, GE suggested that this possibility should be added to the constitution. It will, however, not become a must. Carolyn Westbrook also supported this suggestion. The AGM supported GE and it was decided that the Constitution will be modified accordingly.

### **5.2 Activities – Webinars**

CH took up the proposal for running webinars, which was discussed in the previous AGM. The Executive Committee has decided to start with the webinars and propose Peter Holt for coordinating them. The members supported the proposition, and PH was appointed supplementary member of Executive Committee for a period of three years, in accordance with the Constitution paragraph 3 (e). CH added that possible topics for the webinars can be suggested via the list or via the contact form on the EALTA webpage.

### **5.3 Live streaming/Recording of events**

A discussion about live streaming/recording of the events followed. CH suggested that in the next EALTA conference, the possibilities of live streaming, for example for the SIG meetings, should be investigated. This year, there was not enough time to organise the recording so the Executive Committee decided first to ask the members' opinions on the matter.

- Dina Tzagari liked the idea, and suggested that the plenary presentations could be live streamed instead of the SIG meetings.
- Neus Figueras added that recording would give the participants of one SIG the possibility to also follow other SIG meetings.
- Peter Holt mentioned that he had already received requests from a number of lectures of BALEAP who could not participate in the SIG (academic purposes) and would therefore appreciate the recording of it.
- Barry O'Sullivan added that as live streaming can be very expensive, the costs should be investigated before deciding. Good quality recordings might be considerably cheaper.
- CH concluded that the Executive Committee would investigate the recording possibilities (including costs, facilities etc.) with next year's organisers.

### **5.4 Cooperation with the ECML**

GE reported that as EALTA is a member of the ECML Professional Network Forum, the EALTA members should decide on whether the cooperation with the ECML should continue. The members had no objections. CH will inform the members about future meetings.

## **5.5 Finances; financial support**

CH reported that three events have received EALTA support in 2016. Two of the events have not yet been held. Carolyn Westbrook reported on the workshop she had in Russia in March. In total 650 people were reached, which was far more than intended. The members were happy with the results and CH added that another call for financial support would be coming out in autumn.

## **5.6 Expert membership criteria and fees**

CH and JD reminded the members that the issue of expert membership criteria and fees had been brought up in Copenhagen. JD will follow up on it and report at next year's AGM.

## **6. 2017 Conference venue and dates; date of the next AGM**

The 2017 EALTA Conference will take place in Sèvres, France at the CIEP from Monday, 29 of May to Saturday, 3 of June, with pre-conference workshops and SIG meetings running before the conference as usual. The conference will be organised by Sébastien Georges and Vincent Folny, and colleagues. Further information about the conference will be given in due course via the EALTA website and electronic membership list.

The next AGM will be held during the 2017 EALTA conference in Sèvres on Friday 2 of June.

It was necessary to run the conference from Wednesday to Saturday, since CIEP are having another conference immediately afterwards and need the Sunday to reorganise the venue.

## **7. AOB**

- Carol Spoetl reminded the members of the 2016 Summer School, which will be held at the University of Innsbruck from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The theme will be assessment of productive skills. There are already 40 applications.

- CH informed the members of the upcoming election next year (2017), as Norman Verhelst will be leaving the chair position of the Membership Committee.

- Sonja Zimmermann asked about the EALTA logo policy and wanted to know whether institutional members could be allowed to use the EALTA logo on their web site. JD answered that the matter must be reviewed in the Executive Committee and can therefore not be decided on now. - John De Jong added that as institutional members pay for their membership, some procedure and criteria must be established for using the EALTA logo.

- Kathryn Brennan asked about the theme for next year's conference and CH replied that it is being discussed with the organisers and will be published soon.

## **Executive Committee**

Between the 2016 and 2017 AGMs, the EALTA Executive Committee will have the following members:

Claudia Harsch – *President*  
Marita Härmälä – *Secretary*  
Jamie Dunlea – *Treasurer*

Norman Verhelst – *Chair of the Membership Committee*  
Cristina Perez Guillot – *2016 Conference organiser,*  
Sébastien Georges and Vincent Folny – *2017 Conference organisers*  
Peter Holt – supplementary member, webinar coordinator