

21st EFPSA Congress



Turku, Finland 6th -13th May, 2007

GA Minutes

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1. Monday, 7th May 2007: 1st GA Meeting

Goals and achievements of the mandate 2006-2007

Firstly the goals and achievements were presented as a slide show. It also included the financial report which was approved by the auditors (Romania and Attila) secondly it was approved by the general assembly 17 votes for (while the quorum is 16). (Attach the index file – get from Markus)

The next slide show provided more information about the goal achievement with the evaluation. (Index 2 – another presentation)

Proposals

During the goal presentation there were mentioned the changes in EFPSA which came in a proposal form to be voted for in the GA.

Proposal Nr1. the structural change:

Reduction of the BM size

No Activities officer

Merge Treasurer and Coordinating Fundraiser → Head of Finances

Invite up to 3 more EB members to the BM meeting according to the current needs.

Comments

Andras: The merge of the fundraiser and the treasurer are conflicting positions, because one position is all about to gain money, and the treasurer to get the balance and save the money. It was tried in Hungary and the person has too much work to coordinate all the information that is provided.

Anja: It should work if there is a good person who knows everything about finances and know how to deal with that.

Edward: Similar organizations which are not massive in size only have one person responsible for all the finances in the organization. Also, the organizations that have a much bigger budget tend to have only one person as well.

Baran: He asked Andras, for how long did they had only one person in charge of all the tasks that are related to finances, and the answer was – for a year, and it was too much of work for one person.

Proposal Nr2. splitting the R-net:

Ess team

Journal team

This was just to let everybody know and answer to the question the reason why the two different projects are not connected—separating teams can concentrate on their own project.

Presentation of the BM candidacies

Simonas Audickas and Anja Bregar applied for the president position. Depending on the results they also applied for the vice-presidents position, additionally Anna Sagana applied for the vice-president's position.

Every person made their PowerPoint presentations to let everybody know, what were their priorities, goals, and more exact tasks for the next mandate.

Every applicant got questions regarding the application and the action plan. They included: the vision, administrative changes, time, what countries to invite to EFPSA.

It was expressed by Anna that the NR's are the most important people for EFPSA, which raised a lot of good emotions in the public.

For the Secretary Generals position there were three candidacies: Beatrice Batog, Anna Sagana, Simonas Audickas. As it followed Beatrice gave a speech of motivation, why did she want to run for the position, which was complemented by Andras that Beatrice was very devoted and took n responsibilities seriously.

Tiina Kalda applied for the position of The Head of Finances.

Kaylee-Ann applied for the position of Communication Officers position.

Aart Franken applied for the position of National Representative Coordinator.

The break was announced to get some thinking before the voting.

Voting results

BM structural changes – 14 for, 0 against, 4 abstaining.

R-net split – 18 for.

Presidents, vice presidents and Secretary General Positions were held with the secret vote, because of the request and few candidates.

The new BM - results

President: Anja Bregar – 17

Simonas Audickas – 0.

BM members:

Vice-president – Anna Sagana – 14 votes for out of 17

Secretary General - Beatrice Batog – 9 votes for out of 16

Head of finances - Tiina Kalda – 17 for

NRC - Aart Franken- 17 for

CO - Kaylee- Ann Sponou- 17 for

After the BM meeting the vacant positions of the Executive Board will be announced to be filled.

2. Saturday, 12th May 2007: 2nd GA Meeting

IFISO Presentation

Edward stated that IFISO stands for Informal Forum of International Students Organization. IFISO has one million European Student Members; EFPSA is one of the members. He also explained that if an organization wants to apply for the EU administrative grant, the organization must have at least one full-time paid worker; so it is more difficult for a student organization to ask for support from the EU. Lobbying and data sharing are done within IFISO.

Moreover, Edward suggested that the possible areas of future co-operation are: joint lectures/seminars, study abroad, EU youth fund, consider collaboration and disaster preparedness, refugees and human rights.

Team goals

Activities office: Iris

Members of activities office: Iris and Sarah. Their goal is to finish the congress manual by Monday, exchange monitoring, questionnaires for people who are prepared to exchange, congress monitoring in order to provide help, the Joint EB-NR meeting, EB-NR meeting manual and make a new template for congress application. Anja suggested that the application could be integrated in EFPSA website. They were also called for the application of congress 2009.

Summer School: Baran

Baran called for the European Summer School 2008. He asked everyone to use the SharePoint to find the form, local contact and budget, as well as promoting European Summer School 2007 which will be held in Estonia. Information will be at and reviewed on their website.

Research Network: Connie

Research Network will publish the Journal for European Psychology Students (JEPS) for the first time that hopes to publish articles, research and interviews that have been created and written by students for students. On Monday, the Research Network team would prepare the first issue online—publish several steps: gather papers from European website, help out to review, PhD, guidelines for the writing styles online and content of the first issue. Connie also asked the NRs to inform all universities in their own countries that they were calling for papers.

Connie also said that the topics will be broadened in the first issue and the guidelines would inform more information such as the length of the essay.

Travel Network: Lisa

Their goal is to increase numbers of hosts and they will concentrate on promotion by using different strategies and asking the NRs to be involved. TR will also launched special coordinator which is called “Monkeys” and is a local coordinator from each university. They would also need some NRs’ contacts. They explained that the TN website is not functioning very well and they suggest integrating with EFPSA but they did not know how to do it. Anja suggested that all students should contact each other and cooperate, as well as promote TN at national level.

Grant Team: Bojan and Beren

Their aims are to update the donor list, choose right donor for the right event, and fill application and post-application process. Their purpose is to raise money for EFPSA events. Their plans are to fulfill other EFPSA teams and events’ needs, contact possible potential donors, expand the present list, contact potential donors and follow up the application process. They would also coordinate with other EFPSA teams and other students’ organizations. Edward suggested to the Grant Team that when they contact donors, it would be a disadvantage if they tell the donors that their donations are especially for psychology students. However, it is better to inform donors how the Grant Team will spend, such as European Summer School.

Sponsorship Team: Argyro

Their goals are to cooperate with local universities in Estonia Summer School event. They would try to find sponsorships for journals and next summer schools. They might also merchandize products. They would put sponsorship function of EFPSA website for future sponsor. They would contact and cooperate with previous sponsors. Ersa asked the difference between Grant Team and Sponsorship Team. Argyro explained that donors who contact Grant Team support EFPSA and events and they are not companies; whereas sponsorships are more doing favour for EFPSA.

Anja claimed that sponsorship team might need extra junior coordinator.

Communication Office: Kayley-Lee

They cooperate with NRs and on Monday, NRs would hand in two reports which were about what they would do in their own countries: their promoting methods and what they had completed. They were making EFPSA posters and CD/ DVD which would be distributed in the next NR-EB meeting. Their budget will be given in joint meeting and they are preparing promotion meeting, EFPSA mailing lists to various countries and website materials. Anja reminded the NRs to distribute the flyers back to their own countries.

Web communication: Ruta

Ruta presented the EFPSA communication tools, SharePoint, mailing lists and mailing account. Now there are workspaces for ER Team and the communication tools had been improved. Also, all information for NRs is now on SharePoint. They were also improving the EFPSA website and they hope to manage it by June.

EFPSA Office: Beatrice

EFPSA Office has Beatrice, the Secretary General and Nathalie, the Secretary. Their goals are to receive the reports on time and distribute information to other teams. Edward also added that this team also checked the regulation status. Anja replied that they monitor not check.

Study Abroad Office:

They still need a Study Abroad Junior.

NRC-CC Team: Aart

Their goal is to active everyone. All NRs are working on their NR report and this team also works with Country Coach, Andreja. They are hoping to add three new countries as EFPSA members. The artistic team is working on the movie script and the website team is working on to give extra NRs information. They will also try to cooperate with ERASMUS. Besides, they make booklets

and hope more NRs involving in the discussion boards, in order to light up the NRs spirit. Finally, they would like to improve internal communication.

MAP Team

Serra found out that there were communication and connection problems between National Organization and EFPSA, so the MAP Team decided to make a promotion manual for NRs to promote EFPSA. Their strategy is to create questionnaire to get data for Promotion manual. Then, on Monday, they gathered and analyzed all NRs' data. Andreja claimed that they would use factor analysis to create potential network of 300 000 students all over Europe. Their promotion methods are to present in meetings in congress and seminars, mailing lists, EFPSA representatives from universities, distribute flyers etc. They are working on the hardest obstacle: lack of communication and all the manual can be downloaded on the Sharepoint.

Sharepoint

Ruta explained “Why and How?” to use Sharepoint, there are new level of communication and all information for NRs is one Sharepoint.

Membership fee proposal

Tiina presented that EFPSA would increase membership fee, for example, 130 euros for UK and it will then increase to 150 euros. She tried to set deadline to encourage the country to pay online. The first deadline was suggested to be 30th June 2007; the second deadline was suggested to be 31st August 2007 which organization needed to pay 20 euros more. If the organization pays later than 31st August 2007, they will then need to pay 50 euros more. Anja added that there are some exceptions, for example, in Turkey; they could not pay on time. Tiina said that all

information would be available online. Bojan asked Tiina why EFPSA increased the membership fees. Tinna explained that the fees had been the same since 2004, so it was reasonable to be increased. Ruta asked why the fees are not increased in percentage. Tinna said that this could be amended. Anja asked everyone that should EFPSA increase 5% or 25% of the original membership fees. Jakob claimed that this proposal should be more precise to list what projects and events would be held and that why EFPSA needed to increase the fees. Besides, Bojan suggested changing the second deadline to September instead of 31st August.

Budget presentation

It is expected to have money from Romania for EB meeting two years ago. Tiina also explained the sponsorship, services, admin expenses, obligation figures and other expenses. The total income in this year was 13421.20 Euros and the total expenses were 12071 euros. Jakob asked where is the extra money needed. Tiina replied that extra money is needed for next year and she would plan on next Monday. Argyro suggested that EFPSA should spend more than 2000 euros on the annual congress, so we can have a better congress. Edward also commented the budget presentation in next year should be clearer.

Joint Meeting presentation

Austria had offered EFPSA to hold the next Joint Meeting in Salzburg. It should be held between October and November, and it will not held when Slovenia are having their exchange program. They do not have much information, they would need to find out the obligation, the sponsorships etc. They would let everyone know the suggested date as soon as possible, at the latest in June. Also, they informed HLX Airlines to Austria.

Sum up of the Week

Travel Network's members were increased to 1200 members.

Journal of European Students (JEPS) will be published at the end of November 2007.

Study Abroad maintained and amended the work had been done at the previous mandate.

Activities Office monitored the next congress organizers and exchange overview.

Grant Team would have at least one successful application for grants.

Sponsorship Team would continue to raise money for European Summer School, Congress 2008 and EFPSA general activities.

Communication and Networks would work sufficiently towards general EFPSA promotion.

Web Team said the new website page would be available by the end of June and they improved Sharepoint page.

NR Team would like to recruit three new countries and increase NRs active participation with three new project teams. Aart also welcome other students to get more ERASMUS spirit, they would make a movie promotion, webpage, universities information and political team.

Approval of EB—more than three EB Members approval

Greece has four EB members and Turkey has five EB members—17 for.

Results of the voting

The quorum was composed by 17 NRs

1. Approval of the Greeks and Turkish EB

According to the status if there should not be more than three EB Members of one nationality. If there are more than three members, then it has been approved by the GA.

Greece has four EB members and Turkey has five EB members.

Voting results: 17 for

2. Croatia confirmation as EFPSA member

Confirmation of membership as Local Organization

It is connected with four universities and started to have a name, they will meet in the coming September. They also have AGM and first conference was held in last year. They need to wait till April to have local EB.

Voting results: 17 for

The quorum changed to 18 NRs

3. Application for New Memberships

Bulgaria

Bobby presented Association of Young Psychologists in Bulgaria which has over 300 young psychologists, students, PhD students and young specialists. Bulgaria applied for local level.

Voting results: 18 for

Cyprus

Nikos presented it instead of Maria, the Cyprus NR because she was away for her exams. Nikos presented Cyprus Psychologists Association, which students are, part of. The current legislation changed in 2004 that a qualified psychologist needs a Bachelors degree in Psychology and three years full time graduate studies (+ 1500 hours practical training). Their first conference will be

held in July 2007. Nikos also explained the political situation in Cyprus and they tried to collaborate with Turkish association. Baran asked when their conference will be held. Nikos said it will be on 5th July 2007, Baran then commented that it is the same conference date in Turkey. Cyprus applied for local level—

Voting results: 18 for

4. Luxemburg issue

Anja said now there are 25 member countries in EFPSA. The first Luxemburg issue is the absence of NR; secondly, it did not fulfill the financial obligation. The PP team proposed to exclude Luxemburg if the financial obligation is not fulfilled by EB-NR meeting. Edward suggested bringing this issue in BMM. Aart said NRs wanted to know the detail.

Voting results: 11 for, 5 abstain, 1 against.

Andras claimed EFPSA needed to contact the president. Anja said that they would check the situation, then work together and discuss it. Anna said Luxemburg's NR did not reply to EFPSA. In addition, Anja said that terminating Luxemburg's membership is not good for either party. Andras suggested their membership will be terminated if they are no longer interested to participate in EFPSA. Anja said, however, we should all listen to the other side of the story. Radu suggested spreading their debt. Attilee suggested EFPSA should terminate their membership if they lose credibility. Markus explained according to the status, Luxemburg should be excluded. Siri questioned that then why NRs should vote. Proposal is not excluded and therefore, Luxemburg's membership was terminated. Markus explained and everyone decided to vote again—agree: 8 abstain: 6 and against: 4. Finally, the decision was, Luxemburg's membership was terminated and the proposal was not accepted, so now EFPSA only has 24 members.

5. Budget plan

Tiina could not be there so Anja presented budget plan instead. Andras questioned the resources for unexpected expenses. Anja said unexpected expenses are for Travel Network and new project in the meantime.

Voting results: 18 for.

6. Membership fee proposal

Anna presented the proposal for the coming year. The first deadline is on 30th June 2007, the second deadline is on the EB meeting and countries will need to pay extra 20% of their original fees. If the countries pay later than second deadline, they will need to pay 40% extra of their original fee. Moreover, if they do not pay before the next congress, their memberships will be terminated. Edward questioned how does EFPSA decide when is the date that payment is paid. Anna replied EFPSA is not too strict on this, and suggest the payment date is the date of transfer. This proposal is accepted.

EFPSA decided to raise the membership fee 20% instead of 20 euros in three groups. Group one will pay from 130 euros to 156 euros. Group two will pay from 90 euros to 108 euros. Group three will pay from 60 euros to 72 euros. Andras questioned that had Tiina checked the GDP to place which countries belonging to which groups. Anja answered Tiina maybe had checked but she was not sure. Markus reminded the vote was not related to the grouping. The membership fees needed to be raised because of the inflation and for further EFPSA stability. Anja explained EFPSA needed more money for administration and security, for example, they did not have extra money for Summer School in this year. They hoped to have more money so EFPSA could be more stable. Siri asked why it is not 3% increase every year and 20% increase instead. Aart explained EFPSA increased 20% because EFPSA needed money and it would not increase the fees once EFPSA has enough money to run. Edward also added EFPSA needed extra money for the new resources. In addition, Nikos asked how EFPSA chooses which country in which group. Anja answered it was set by their own GPA but she did not know in detail. Nikos replied that

EFPSA should evaluate and Anja said that they would regroup them. Edward commented the regrouping should consider the number of Psychology students in each country.

Voting results: 17 for, abstain: 1, against: 0.

7. EFPSA Congress 2009

German Team applied for EFPSA Congress 2009 and they presented that EFPSA should choose Germany because firstly, EFPSA Congress has not been held in Germany; secondly, they have beautiful countryside and sights. They are also strong in Psychology and they often hold lectures, workshops and seminars between universities. Their plan for the EFPSA congress is to hold variety of lectures, workshops and seminars, is to have a well equipped location, social activities and beers. They suggest to have the EFPSA Congress in Bermuda Triangle (Trier, Landau and Mainz), which is easy to get there via Kolin or Bonn or Frankfurt airport. All NRs accepted Rhineland-Palatinate, therefore, the EFPSA Congress 2009 will be held in Germany.

Voting results: 18 for