

Academy of Accounting Historians
Minutes of the Meeting of the Officers and Trustees
European Accounting Association
Lisbon Conference Centre
April 27, 2007

Present: Salvador Carmona, John Richard Edwards, Esteban Hernandez-Esteve, Jonathan Glover, Hilmi Hayla, Yannick Lemarchand, Marta Macias, Stephen Walker (Chair).

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on March 24, 2006 in Dublin were approved without amendment.

Administrative Coordinator's Report: Tiffany Welch submitted a written report of her activities since taking over from Kathy Rice. It was agreed that the immediate goals which Tiffany had set for the immediate future were extremely important and should be pursued without delay. Namely, reformatting and updating the website, sending membership renewal reminders, the creation of a standard welcoming email for distribution to new and renewing members.

The membership report submitted by Tiffany Welch was discussed. The sources of the decline in membership were discussed. Marta Macias and her Membership Committee were thanked for their successful efforts to recruit new members in 2006. It was observed that there were currently few benefits of membership and concern was expressed that some of the European members who joined the Academy last year do not appear to have renewed. Difficulties in processing membership applications and subscriptions from outside the US were also reported. The importance of pursuing late renewals was emphasized.

Treasurer's Report: The financial statements to 31 March 2007 were discussed. The officers and trustees thanked Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle for her excellent report. It was noted that the budget included provision for an Academy research conference which is now planned for Spring 2008 as opposed to Fall 2007. The late collection of membership subscriptions, particularly institutional dues, was noted. The need for administrative vigilance in this respect and comprehensive subscription management was re-emphasized. There was some confusion over the current position of the Schoenfeld Fund.

President's Report: Stephen Walker gave an oral report of developments over the past few months:

- Alfred Roberts, Emeritus Professor, Georgia State University, died in early March. Professor Roberts was involved in the formation of the Academy, was its second President and served as its Secretary for many years. The Officers and Trustees expressed their deep regret at this sad event and offered condolences to family and colleagues of Professor Roberts.

- A joint research conference was being planned. This involved the Academy and the Public Interest section of the AAA. The conference was likely to take place in April 2008 In New York. Dan Jensen was thanked for his ongoing role in the organization of the event.
- A meeting had been held in Cardiff with Takehisa Hashimoto, Secretary of Accounting History Association, Japan. The Association is keen to develop stronger links with the Academy, particularly through communication, abstract exchanges in journals, website reporting and administrative collaboration.
- A meeting had been held in Cardiff with Hiroshi Okano, President-elect.
- Luca Zan, had been developing links between the Academy and accounting historians in China. It is expected that an accounting history conference will be held in Shanghai in October at which Professors Zan and Walker have made themselves available to speak about the Academy and accounting history research.
- Stephen Walker had visited Istanbul in March. He gave an address about the Academy to the Association of Accounting Academics. He also had discussions with Oktay Guvemli and other organizers of the World Congress, 2008, and visited the excellent congress venue, the Military Museum. At this point Hilmi Hayla reported on preparations for the World Congress in 2008 and on the success of other accounting conferences held in Istanbul.

Vangermeersch Award Committee: John R. Edwards reported that the award was made in 2006 to Suki Sian. Details of the award for 2007 had been widely distributed through journals and personal emails. Professor Edwards was thanked for his proactive approach to disseminating details of the award. The President urged those present to inform colleagues of the existence of the many Academy awards.

Report on International Initiatives: Esteban Hernandez-Esteve reported on his initiatives in South America. The 'International Conference on Accounting and Auditing-Accounting History' – was convened in Bogota 28 August - 1 September 2006. The Academy had been a sponsor of the event. There had been 400 attendees at the conference which sought to encourage research and teaching in accounting history and develop accounting history networks in Latin America and beyond. Professor Hernandez-Esteve played a leading part at the event and gave a number of seminar and lecture presentations at the organizing universities. Professor Hernandez-Esteve reported that Columbia had been established as a base from which initiatives involving other countries in the region could be pursued. Professor Hernandez-Esteve has maintained contact with Carlos Orlando Rico Bonilla of Universidad Nacional de Colombia who is developing a network of leading accounting historians in Latin America. This group are considering the possibility of suggesting that the World Congress of Accounting Historians be convened in Latin America in 2016. The officers and trustees expressed their considerable thanks to Professor Hernandez-Esteve for his efforts in developing the discipline in Latin America and networks with Academy.

Digitization Task Force: A report submitted by Gary Previts was discussed. The officers and trustees applauded the progress made in the digitization of *Accounting Historians Journal*. It was noted that while the resources at Ole Miss were well publicized on the Academy website, the task force might investigate building website links via other leading history and accounting associations around the world.

Strategic Review: Stephen Walker stated that he had been remitted at the meeting of officers and trustees in Dublin last year to perform a review of the Academy's administrative arrangements. This remit was extended by President Carmona to encompass a more wide-ranging strategic review of the Academy. Stephen Walker reported that to date the review had involved an examination of the history of the organization, its structure, objectives and membership; previous considerations of strategy; and reviewing the role of disciplinary associations in the global academic environment. In January 2007 individual members were invited to participate in the review. Members were asked to contribute 'observations, criticisms and suggestions' on the working of the Academy. A report analyzing the responses of members to this request was discussed. Stephen Walker reported that although the survey response rate was disappointing, many of the submissions were comprehensive, thoughtful and very helpful.

The long term decline in membership revealed the need to comprehensively address the future structure and functioning of the Academy. Stephen Walker stated that his intention was to complete the strategic review and distribute a report to members in advance of a general meeting of the Academy at the AAA in Chicago in August. Certain proposals for change would be put to the members. This approach was agreed. It was suggested that issues concerning the administration and constitution of the Academy were a priority.