

GEECT Regional Association Meeting, October 22, 17.00-19.00

At the China Communication University, meeting room V02

42 schools were present with 30 proxies.

Minutes

1. Presentation and approval of the Activity Report 2023-2024

Damasio presented the slides summarizing the report. Within the slides there was the composition of task forces that were discussed at the Rome conference last year. The activity report was unanimously approved so that schools present voted first and after that the proxies.

2. Presentation of the New Statutes

Patrick Geeraerts presented the slides summarizing the new statutes.

In the discussion Stanislav Semerdjiev asked about Article 7: Process of admission, second sentence (“Once admitted, the new member is invited to subscribe to values behaviours and implementation principles of GEECT”). What happens if the school does not subscribe to values, behaviours and implementation principles of GEECT? Damasio replied that then the school is not admitted. Jeremy Bubb suggested that this could be rephrased as “On admittance”. The sentence will be changed as Bubb suggested.

Vincent Lochmann pointed out that Article 14, first part of point 6 should be corrected according to Article 2, ie. Chamber of Commerce should be replaced by Préfecture de Paris.

4. Presentation of the New Fee Structure

Guido Lukoschek presented the structure and explained the available options. Either the fee will be raised to compensate the Euro zone inflation of almost 25 % (from 250 to 312 euros) or a new scheme for fees will be adopted. The indicators, to which the new proposed model is based on, were presented. The central idea is to move into the more weighted fee model, considering two factors: 1) the GDP of the country and 2) the number of students. Schools have been asked to provide the latter information. Practically, there are no schools with more than 1500 students

The consultation started at the Rome congress when GEECT introduced task forces for statutes and fees. It was acknowledged that a different fee structure is needed to serve membership better. Until now GEECT has lived on reserve with the savings from the pandemic and cannot maintain the level of activities if the level of income is not increased.

The association needs to increase the income to make it more professional and sustainable from the operational point of view. This includes support to necessary networking at symposia, conferences and networking events. Supporting the work of admin & comms coordinator is part of professionalization of GEECT. If the model is not accepted the the admin does not continue.

This model would allow small schools and poor countries to pay less and rich countries with extensive number of students to pay more. Other associations have similar systems that have decreased the level of inequality.

In the discussion Andreas Treske from Bilkent University asked is the financial situation of schools has been taken into account. The model does not include this.

Jeremy Bubb from NAHEMI pointed out that his organization represents 58 schools and some are members of GEECT. He asked if there is a specific rate for associated institutions. The answer is no, and NAHEMI will be considered as a special and single case.

5. Voting

The meeting voted first on **the report**. The schools present voted first and proxy votes (30) were counted after. The report was unanimously accepted.

Then the meeting voted **on the Statutes**. The statutes were unanimously accepted.

After the vote the meeting heard the song Hrafnkell Stefánsson had created with AI tool. Mistry noted that Stefánsson as a member of the statutes task force built an AI tool which helped the work.

Vote on the change of the fee structure of the schools present: 31 schools in favour, 2 abstentions and 2 against.

Vote on the fee structure of the schools by proxies: 22 schools in favour, 6 abstentions and 2 against.

6. Volunteers for Cilect committees on Sustainability (CCS) and Developing Technologies

GEECT needs a proper representations in the Cilect standing committees of SCEDI (The Standing Committee for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), Sustainability and Emerging Technologies. Sibylle Stuermer from Macromedia University of Applied Sciences, Germany, has already announced her candidature to SCEDI. Damasio asked participants to inform the executive director by e-mail about their willingness to join. Frode Søbstad from Kristiania University College (KUC) Norway has expressed his interest on Sustainability committee and sent the e-mail.

10. Volunteers to count votes at the Regional Association meeting on October 23, at 17.00 Elena Diesbach, Julie Tingaud, Mieke Bernink, Jean Rice and Sandra Rocha volunteered to count the votes.

7. Any other business
There were none.

8. The meeting ended at 18.30.