

**16th EALTA Annual General Meeting**  
**Friday, 31 May 2019, 16:00 – 17.30**  
**University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**

Present: Conference participants, incl. members of EALTA as well as observers.

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## **AGENDA**

1. Approval of agenda and minutes from the 2018 AGM (Appendix A)
2. Reports on EALTA activities since the last AGM including:
  - a. Activities and events
  - b. SIGs
  - c. Membership
  - d. Finances (Appendix B)
  - e. Registration as charity in the UK
3. Communications strategy
  - a. Searchable Database
  - b. Copyright issues re EALTA resources pages and webinars (videos, slideshows)
4. Constitution (Appendix C)
  - a. Present changes that were approved at the last AGM (3. e, f, i; 4.5); these changes are highlighted in green
  - b. Proposed changes re the introduction of a Member at Large that are to be approved at this AGM (3. E, f); these proposed changes are highlighted in yellow (font colour red)
  - c. Present the definition of joint events (as mentioned in the constitution 4.5, and in our logo policy – text to go on webpage re logo policy) (Appendix D)
5. Appointment of the auditor for 2020
6. Ratify the appointment of Zoltán Lukácsi as Secretary, and of a Member at Large (according to EALTA Constitution clause 3.k)
7. Election of Chair of Committee for Conference Organization
8. 2019 Summer School venue and date
9. 2020 Conference venue and date
10. 2021 Conference venue
11. Date of the next AGM
12. Norman Verhelst's revised script for statistical profile analysis
13. Thoughts on an online journal
14. AOB

The meeting was called to order by Claudia Harsch, President of EALTA, who welcomed all participants.

## **1. Approval of agenda and minutes from the 2018 AGM (Appendix A)**

Since no changes were requested, the agenda and minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2018 were approved.

## **2. Reports on EALTA activities since the 2018 AGM**

### ***2.a. Activities and events***

Claudia Harsch reports on past EALTA activities, including 3 webinars, 2 funded workshops and 1 that is scheduled for November 2019.

EALTA received an invitation to collaborate in COST Action proposal meeting, where Jamie Dunlea participated. Claudia Harsch gives a brief overview (goal: develop a common methodological and data collection framework across disciplines) and says EALTA should be involved. Jamie is going to stay in touch with the COST people and keep EALTA posted.

### ***2.b. SIGs***

EALTA has 7 special interest groups. Five of these had a meeting before the conference.

The Classroom-based language assessment SIG is publishing an edited volume.

The Translation and interpretation SIG is non-responsive. Claudia Harsch asks if anybody wants to take over as the convenor, and then proposes that the new President should send a message to the list asking for volunteers. If no one takes over, the SIG will be closed down. Everyone accepts the proposal.

### ***2.c. Membership***

Slobodanka Dimova, Chair of the Membership Committee, reports on the current membership. At the time of the AGM, EALTA had 847 individual members, 25 expert members, 121 associate members, and 63 institutional members.

### ***2.d. Finances (Appendix B)***

Jamie Dunlea, Treasurer, reports on the finances and updates on the registration process. The report was sent around prior to the meeting, there is one minor change, i.e. the auditor now signed the finance report. Jamie explains the balance, two accounts, main operation in Lloyds (GBP) and another one with Lloyds (EUR). This is similar to previous years. The accounts were approved by the AGM.

### ***2.e. Registration as charity in the UK***

EALTA is an unincorporated charity, but we are not registered as such. Charity House in London is the easiest route to register as an unincorporated charity, but it might fire back in retrospect on past activities. A more complex route: incorporated charitable organization. A

report on the charity status has been commissioned and completed by KPMG. Jamie Dunlea will have a face-to-face meeting with the people on 20 June 2019.

Barry O’Sullivan expresses concern over not investing EALTA resources and keeping the money idle in the bank.

### **3. Communications strategy**

Claudia Harsch informs on progress on communications strategy, and thanks Mina Patel on her thoughts what a communications strategy should entail. Claudia Harsch then refers to the results of the membership survey and the discussion of these results at the 2018 AGM: The survey showed that the membership is satisfied with the internal communication, there seems to be no demand for Facebook or Twitter. Members asked for more engagement with teachers and other associations. To clarify that EALTA has already taken action with regard to these demands, Claudia Harsch refers to the introduction of the new membership category of an affiliate sister organization, as well as the invitation of speakers from other associations/networks to EALTA invited symposia. Regarding engagement with teachers, she pointed out that a lot of individual members are teachers, the funded workshops are often aiming at enhancing teachers’ Assessment Literacy, and that SIGs, Webinars and the EALTA resources are available for everybody. But to be visible to the public and to make sure that our resources can be found, the EALTA websites needs to be updated more regularly, we would need more server space for the streaming of conference videos and webinar recordings. But this also raises the problem of copyright issues (see 3.a.). EALTA could improve with regard to public discussions: Claudia Harsch suggests the active participation in the Conference of INGOs, and to get more actively involved with the CoE Language Policy Division.

#### ***3.a. Searchable Database***

Peter Lenz, Upcoming President, presents options for an improved website search for EALTA resources. Options: (a) embed external search, e.g. Google, (b) custom website search. (a) is free, and it already exists, but it’s hidden. Option (b) was investigated. We could define and use search fields and filters, but it costs money and needs maintenance (content). (a) is free but there’s no privacy, so this is not an option because of copyright issues that apply to some of our existing resources. So, in the future, we will be either left without a website search or have to pay for one. A rate of 5,000 EURs was quoted for initial programming and content upload into the database, but maintenance is not included.

In the discussion, the AGM talked about whether copyright is an issue and if so, who is responsible. The membership also expressed a wish to learn more about maintenance costs

and any additional expenses, and also who would be in charge of the database. Jamie suggests that Stephanie Strong's job description might be altered so it covers this new task. Further, the design of the database calls for expertise on the part of EALTA, and we don't know about legal issues in relation to the resources as yet.

There is general disagreement as to who would be legally responsible: speakers, EALTA, Secretary, Treasurer. Therefore, Jamie Dunlea suggests that as a first step we should move everything except the open-source material into a members' area regardless of legal advice, then seek legal advice.

**AGM approval to move PowerPoint presentations and videos into a password protected area.**

**Abstain: 0**

**No: 0**

**Yes: 63**

<b>EALTA will move slideshows and videos into a members only area.</b>
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**AGM postpones the decision on the search engine until we know what our resources are.**

***3.b. Copyright issues re EALTA resources pages and webinars (videos, slideshows)***

Sonja Zimmermann, 2018 Conference Organiser, reports that a lot of material like conference presentations, video recordings of webinars etc. do not conform to current copyright legislation. EALTA (i.e. the Executive Committee) is taking the risk of being held responsible.

EALTA (i.e. the Executive Committee) is legally responsible for materials uploaded and accessed on their website. To solve the problem, several steps are to be taken: first, move material with copyright issues to a protected membership area, recordings of conference presentations could be edited, and EALTA should only upload material where copyright is not an issue from now on. But it remains unclear, if EALTA could still be held responsible for the material, even if it's hidden in a password protected area.

*Discussion:* Norman Verhelst expresses concerns that moving everything into a restricted area will limit availability of material meant for a broader public. Sonja Zimmermann states that non-copyrighted material could stay. Claudia Harsch says we should encourage people to become members. As members they would have access to all resources. Norman Verhelst

says it's contradictory to urge people to become members and hiding material from people who are not members. Universities have legal departments providing free legal advice. Claudia Harsch says her university doesn't do that. Barry O'Sullivan says universities can throw out advice, but they are still not responsible.

Karin Vogt: We need expertise on it. The AGM is asked to approve that we get paid legal advice.

**AGM to approve getting legal advice:**

**Abstain: 0**

**No: 0**

**Yes: 63**

<b>EALTA will ask for legal advice on copyright issues.</b>
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Sonja Zimmermann then talks about where to upload video material from conferences for streaming. Options: free Youtube, Lancaster inhouse server, but Executive Committee needs to get clarification of access and maintenance first. We will inform the membership about the decision regarding video storage via the list.

*Discussion:* Glyn Jones says Vimeo is not restricted in the same way as YouTube, but Sonja Zimmermann says it's not free or unlimited.

**4. Constitution (Appendix C)**

With respect to the issues raised above, the EALTA Exec came to the conclusion not to introduce a communications officer, but a Member at Large. Claudia Harsch proposes that the Constitution be modified to add a Member at Large as a constitutional member to the Executive Committee.

**4.a. Present changes that were approved at the last AGM (3. e, f, i; 4.5); these changes are highlighted in green**

Note from Secretary: the proposed changes were included in the AGM materials sent to all members prior to the AGM. They are also included in the updated constitution online.

**AGM to vote on Member at Large as a permanent member of the Executive Committee.**

**Abstain: 0**

**No: 0**

**Yes: 63**

**AGM approves the proposed text.**

For the next AGM, we will have nominations for a Member at Large and the AGM will vote on the person.

To sort out the abovementioned issues, the Exec appoints a supplementary member (see constitution, 3.e). For the following year we would like to appoint Martina Hulesova as a supplementary member.

*4.b. Proposed changes re the Chair of the Committee for Conference Organisation that are to be approved at this AGM (3. E, f); these proposed changes are highlighted in yellow (font colour red)*

**AGM approves the proposed text.**

**AGM to ratify Martina as an additional member.**

**Abstain: 0**

**No: 0**

**Yes: 63**

**AGM ratifies that Martina Hulesova will be an additional member of the Executive Committee for a duration of one year.**

*4.c. Present the definition of joint events (as mentioned in the constitution 4.5, and in our logo policy – text to go on webpage re logo policy)*

**Joint events [text]. Vote on text:**

**Abstain: 0**

**No: 0**

**Yes: 63**

**AGM approves the proposed text.**

## **5. Appointment of the auditor for 2020**

Claudia Harsch thanks Barbara Blair (auditor for 2019), who retired. Gudrun Erickson accepted to be the auditor for 2020.

## **6. Elections**

### **6.1 Ratify the appointment of Zoltán Lukácsi as Secretary.**

**AGM to approve Zoltan Lukacsi as Secretary instead of Acting Secretary till 2021.**

**Abstain: 0**

**No: 0**

**Yes: 63**

<b>AGM ratifies the appointment of Zoltán Lukácsi as Secretary till 2021.</b>
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### **6.2 Election of Chair of Committee for Conference Organization**

**AGM votes on Sonja Zimmermann for Chair of the Committee of Conference Organization**, nominated by Benjamin Kremmel and seconded by Luke Harding.

**Abstain: 1**

**No: 0**

**Yes: 62**

<b>AGM elects Sonja Zimmermann as Chair of the Committee of Conference Organization till 2022.</b>
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## **8. 2019 Summer School venue and date**

Jamie Dunlea announces that the summer school this year goes to CIEP in Sevres, 15-19 July. Focus is on standard setting, esp. across languages. There is an open colloquium on the last day.

More information about the Summer School: <http://www.ciep.fr/en/ealta2019>

## **9. 2020 Conference venue and date**

Kristóf Hegedűs presents next year's conference venue and date: Budapest, 2-7 June, 2020.

## **10. 2021 Conference venue**

In two years' time: Helsinki, 26-30 May, 2021.

## **11. Date of the next AGM**

Next AGM: 6 June, 2020.

## **12. Norman Verhelst's revised script for statistical profile analysis**

(Originally scheduled to be 2.f.)

Norman's introduction was moved to the end of the AGM.

Norman Verhelst presents the latest version of Profile-G, now extended to include the 2 and 3 parameter logistic models.

## **13. Thoughts on an online journal**

(Originally scheduled to be 3.c.)

Barry O'Sullivan on open-access journals for EALTA: Four rival options: (a) traditional approach: free to publish, pay to read; (b) hybrid approach: pay for open access; (c) gold approach: pay to publish and free to read; (d) EALTA supported approach.

Barry had a look at the directory of open access journals, comments on publication costs and how long it takes to get published. Barry O'Sullivan was asked to compile a draft and then this should be posted on the EALTA discussion lists to collect thoughts of the membership on this issue.

## **14. AOB**

Thank you to leaving President Claudia Harsch.