

European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR)

General Assembly

University of Bremen, 27 September 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of final agenda
2. Reports by the President and the General Secretary
3. Treasurers report
4. Proposals
5. Any other business

Minutes

The Assembly was chaired by Professor Giulia Gasparro, President of the EASR.

1. Adoption of final agenda

It was accepted that notice of the General Assembly had been given according to the Constitution of the EASR.ⁱ Notice of the General Assembly was given by electronic mail on 22 June 2007. The Assembly was deemed to be quorate according to the Constitution, with thirty-five members present seven of whom were committee members.ⁱⁱ The published agenda was adopted. The General Secretary had been sent no additional items for inclusion by the due date.

2. Reports by the President and the General Secretary

The President gave a report in which she warmly thanked the organizing committee for their hard work in ensuring a successful conference in Bremen and offered, on behalf of the Italian association to host the EASR conference in 2009. She expressed her thanks to members of the EASR Executive Committee for their work during recent years and welcomed new officers. Her report is available on the EASR website.

The General Secretary gave a report of the activities of the Association and the work of the Executive Committee in 2006-07, including reporting on the minutes on its meeting of 24 September 2007. Her report is available on the EASR website.

The General Secretary reported on the election of officers for the triennium 2008-end 2010. The following people had been elected unopposed:

President: Maya Burger

General Secretary: Kim Knott

Deputy Gen Secretary: James Cox

Treasurer: Marco Pasi

Deputy Treasurer: Wim Hofstee

Membership Secretary: Mar Marcos

Publications Officer: Eugen Ciurtin

Internet Officer: Katja Triplett.

Wanda Alberts was charged with exploring the possibility of establishing, with Tim Jensen, an EASR Working Group on Religious Studies and Education, and co-opted onto the Executive Committee. Following the nomination of two candidates by the EASR Nominations Committee (Veikko Anttonen and Hubert Seiwert) and a further nomination by the Czech association (Bretislav Horyna), a ballot would be held for the two posts of Vice-President.

Thanks were expressed to those who had served on the EASR Nominations Committee (Helena Helve, Giovanni Casadio, Gustavo Benavides, Graham Harvey).

The President's and General Secretary's reports were approved by the General Assembly.

The President of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) added to the report of the General Secretary by providing an update on current IAHR activities.

3. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented the annual financial overview and report of subscriptions by member associations. The accounts show a positive balance of €9,961.16. Up to €2,000 has been earmarked for costs arising from work on the EASR website in the coming year. A sum of €3,000 will be set aside for bursaries for next year's conference.

He spoke of the importance of timely payment of annual subscriptions, the exclusion of non-paying individual members, and the funding of this year's conference bursaries by EASR and the German Research Foundation (DFG). DFG were thanked for their generous support of eight conference participants.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the General Assembly.

4. Proposals

The General Secretary presented a proposal from the Executive Committee regarding a request for membership by the Portuguese Association for the Study of Religions (Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo das Religiões, APER, founded in Lisbon, March 2007). APER was unanimously accepted into membership by the General

Assembly.

5. Any other business

The President of the Czech Association for the Study of Religion (Ceska Spolecnost Pro Studium Nabozenstvi) informed the General Assembly of the theme of the eighth EASR Conference to be held in Brno in the Czech Republic, from 7-11 September 2008 (Time of Decline, Time of Hope: Scientific, Cultural and Political Commitment of the Study of Religion) . The call for papers will be announced shortly on both the EASR and conference websites (www.easr.de and <http://www.phil.muni.cz/relig/easr2008/>) .

The 2009 EASR conference would be held in Messina, Sicily, hosted by the Italian Association for the History of Religions.

In 2010, when the next IAHR Quinquennial Congress will be held in Toronto, no EASR conference will take place. The EASR General Assembly (and executive committee meeting) will be held during the Congress, as stated in the EASR constitution.

The General Assembly was then closed.

(Kim Knott, EASR General Secretary)

i) EASR Constitution, Article 5, iv, "Notice of a meeting of the General Assembly shall be given by the general secretary. When notice is given not less than 90 days in advance of the General Assembly a widely available form of communication such as a printed bulletin or an electronic medium is sufficient. If the period of notice is shorter, notice must be sent to all members individually in writing. The minimum period of notice is 30 days by postmark. Non-receipt of notice by one or more members shall not invalidate the decisions of the meeting."

ii) The EASR Constitution states that "the minimum number of members required for a meeting of the General Assembly (quorum) shall be twenty, of whom at least seven shall be members of the current committee" (Article 5, vi). Participation and voting rights depend on valid current membership, i.e. payment of the membership fee no later than May 31 2007 if no special arrangements have been made with the treasurer or the committee.