

EADH Executive Committee Meeting, Mexico City - Monday, June 25, 2018

9:30 to 17:30

Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin

Attendance

Committee:

- Øyvind Eide (Chair) (ØE)
- Barbara Bordalejo (Secretary) (BB)
- Leif Isaksen (LI)
- Fabio Ciotti (FC)
- Maurizio Lana (ML)
- Charlotte Tupman (Treasurer) (CT)

Apologies:

- Edward Vanhoutte (DSH Editor-in-Chief) (EV)
- Claire Clivaz (CC)
- Aurélien Berra (AU)
- Corina Moldovan (CM)
- Inna Kizhner (IK)
- Elena Spadini (ES)

1. Attendance and agenda (special attention to action items)

(10:00 am) ES joins the meeting via Skype; CC joins the meeting via Skype between 2.30pm-4pm.

ØE opens the meeting officially at 10:00 am and requests comments to be taken into account for the agenda. There are no comments.

2. Minutes of the Cluj mid-term exec meeting and matters arising

ØE asks whether there are corrections to the minutes. EB motions to accept the minutes, ML seconds. All in favour.

3. Chair's report (Chair reports orally)

ØE will highlight what is not already in the agenda. There is an increase in numbers of EADH members through our AOs, especially those added in the last year, the Czech association.

There a problem with the transferring of money. This is connected to how international banking works for the purposes of getting money from international partners. This will be a recurrent problem so we will need to find solutions for the future.

LI has had recently had problems transferring money between the UK and Argentina. His institution is exploring Western Union as a solution.

EB would like to know how the Nordic Association can help.

ØE there will be outreach activities. ØE attended the Lagos conference and there will be a summer school in October (a grant from the VW Foundation was acquired to finance this). In February, he will attend a workshop in Tel Aviv (not officially representing EADH). In 2019, ØE will attend a workshop on cultural heritage in Iran. ØE's term will finish in 2019 and he feels,

after 10 years, his service is completed. This committee has a year to think of a new candidate to replace him in 2019. ØE thinks, as do other members of the community that EADH's governance should be revised. The situation with co-option should be revised in light of other changes in the world. This re-consideration of the organization might be welcome by our members. The chair and secretary have been regularly chosen from within the executive but this is strictly speaking not obligatory in the bylaws - maybe it should be. .

EB there is a good reason for that. A chair should really know how the association works.

ØE this should be formalized.

FC this should be ratified by the membership.

ØE explains that it would have to be approved within the AGM.

BB suggests that we should discuss this matter in the AO forums.

EB wonders whether we should start discussions right away.

LI considers that there might be a danger of losing continuity. Officers already have a significant workload so we should not be expecting them to manage it.

BB states this should not affect us because the terms are staggered.

ØE proposes to have a conference committee for EADH to take care of the conference matters.

FC, based on his experience as ADHO PC Chair, does not think that we should implement that because it creates a layer of bureaucracy that is unnecessary.

LI thinks that there is no great bureaucracy because we don't have such a large infrastructure.

FC states that, as long as this does not become too large and convoluted, it should not be a problem.

ØE states that the location of the conference makes it difficult for members to make it here. He asks to consider moving the AGM to the European conference. This could take effect from 2020.

There is no reason to make a decision now about this matter.

LI restates that there are two separate issues: the executive meeting and the AGM. By not having the AGM in Europe, we are excluding a large number of our members from participating.

ØE reminds us that we have not officially decided it will be a EADH 2020 and, if it will be, where it would take place.

BB points out that the dates for the AGM and the executive meeting are leftovers from other times, so we should reconsider.

[EB leaves the meeting for other commitments. She will return around 12:15.]

4. Organisational issues

a. ADHO Governance Reform, Process (Chair reports orally)

ØE reports that the governance reform has been going on for a long time. This was restarted last year. The final objective is to make ADHO a leaner organisation which are able to work with a much larger number of CO than in the original setup.

A committee of four people have proposed several ways forwards.

There were many comments and questions surrounding the process. The observations made at the ADHO SC level were important and must be taken into account. No decisions were taken. There were two discussions, one about financial matters and the other about representation in the governing body.

About financial matters: it was discussed whether members should pay a fee to ADHO. The tendency in the room was towards accepting this.

The third element of the discussion was about whether the same person should be in charge of the new streamlined membership and the COB.

All of this goes back to what is the function of ADHO. The two streams were whether ADHO represents organizations or members. Because no decisions were made, we are uncertain about how this will develop in the future.

BB requests guidance as to a unified EADH position that would lead the votes.

ØE suggests that we should avoid making any decisions tomorrow. Although we are in the ADHO SC as individuals we must vote and act to represent our constituency. We should involve the AOs in this discussion. After tomorrow, we might have some clearer questions about what the new structure will bring.

ML thinks that the most dangerous part of the governance document is the assimilation of AOs, COs and SIGs. AOs are formal associations.

EB would like clarification about why ML thinks this way.

ØE believes that the solution will be that representatives of all the COs and AOs and some SIG representation will be part of the board. This is less unfair compared to the alternatives. It might happen that the opposite development outside Europe, various already existing COs might get together at some point to become a CO.

LI completely agrees that the discussion about what ADHO burns a lot of time, but it is clear what ADHO is (an alliance of organizations).

ØE explains that, although the statement in writing is that ADHO is an alliance of associations, but it has sometimes acted almost as if it were a members association.

ØE points out that a major EADH task is to coordinate activities at a European level. This may be more important than in other parts of the globe, given the high level of European cooperation, for instance, in research funding. We do this because it makes sense to work together in Europe.

ØE explains that the person representing EADH in ADHO is representing everyone that doesn't have direct representation there, so we need this kind of representation.

LI if we go for that model, this will be contentious.

FC although we tried to export our model of representation but this didn't work for others. We are more similar to each other than other countries are. The Australasian Association does not represent Korea or Japan. There is no actual difference between a CO and AO, so if we get the support to go this way it will be fine. If it doesn't go this way, as the president of the Italian Association, I would apply to be a CO. This is also true of the Nordic Association. ADHO will no longer be seen as a North-American and European Association.

ØE expresses that we already discussed the possible changes of EADH. We should not refer to ADHO as they, this is us and we should take responsibility for it. Please make a few last comments before we close this discussion.

ML points out that although we have criteria to enter ADHO but not to continue to be part of ADHO. This gives advantage to a very reduced group of people. There should be rules to continue to be part of it.

LI would like agree with FC but has reservations. There is a danger of exploiting our position. What would be the benefit for others if we cling to this sort of power?

FC points out that there are many differences between the associations in Europe. There is not always agreements between them.

*** Chair breaks meeting for coffee at 14.30 and reconvenes at 15.04. ***

ØE concludes that, at this point, we need to discuss all aspects of the proposal with our AOs. Following this, we will try not to make final decisions tomorrow.

b. AO finances and forum (Elisabeth Burr)

EB reminds us about the long discussion about the disbursement of 2016 which had to be approved by this committee. This was solved at Cluj where it was decided that half of the money will stay with metadata and semantic classification. The AOs need to know the budget for this year.

ØE the new AOs get the disbursement. This is currently done as an investment. He suggests that we should bring forward the 6000 pounds from 2016. This will be discussed as part of the budgeting process.

Coffee break

5. Elections 2018

a. EADH exec election results (Maurizio Lana, Chair of the nominating committee)

ML reports that the elected members of the executive are:

- Mikko Tolonen and
- Silvie Cinková

The Nominations Committee should be renamed Elections Committee. Having a fixed deadline and the same date every year is enormously relevant for the electoral process, so people can work with this as a guide.

Victoria pruned duplicate addresses without saying anything. This is OUP taking up a role that in consequence interfere with the autonomy of EADH.

LI states OUP cannot send two voting tokens to the same email address.

ML informs the committee that the id is not the name but the email address. This was not clear before. The email address from OUP is not explicit enough for the members to take notice.

ØE explains that, although something might look easy from the outside, this might not be the case. We should consider whether this organization is too bureaucratic for our elections.

If no member had complained, ML explains, then we would not know about these problems.

BB suggests to use the new EADH list to help.

LI thinks that now that we have a manual we should reduce the chances of having the same problems in the future and improve the process over time.
The manual is very relevant for anyone that takes over this task.

b. Co-option of further EADH exec members

ØE from Saturday morning we are back to 9 members in this executive. He suggested the possibility of co-opting somebody from an area where we have few direct connections, such as Greece

CM agrees with the co-option of someone from Greece. Because she is involved in two COST actions, she might find someone

LI reminds everyone that co-option often leads to election and re-election. He worries that the breadth of the Exec is reduced if it is already pre-populated by people selected by its members

EB explains that the initial idea about co-option was to initiate people into how the association works, this is how she started.

CM attended a DARIAH Athens action and found out that Greece is very highly involved in DH and so they should be brought in.

ML states that co-option are not just taken lightly, we required a statement from possible candidates. Co-option is a way to expand the reach of EADH. We should try to think of someone from Spain, a country that is not currently represented.

CM points out that there was someone from Spain.

ØE states that, although it is true that anyone that is a member can become part of the executive, the association is traditionally center and western European (having started as a UK focused association).

IL points out that co-option is a mechanism for representation. We need clear evidence that someone is involved in a nascent digital humanities organization or has many connections.

ES reminds us that there was a Greek candidate that wanted to stand for election. She was ultimately rejected because she was not a member in good standing.

ML considers that there are difficulties about the co-option of people outside Europe. It might be difficult for them to travel or create other problems. With the new ADHO governance, we cannot be sure that it will be beneficial to do so.

ØE informs us that, for example, in the Middle East, scholars find it too premature to form associations. Our focus should be in parts of Europe that have not been traditionally represented. If anyone is able to identify candidates from a region that should be more visible, if they are working in an organization, or if they have links to other scholars, these names should be brought forward.

CM knows two people who might be good candidates who work in DARIAH.

ACTION: all think of possible candidates for co-option following the outlined criteria.

c. Possible change of platform for elections (Maurizio Lana, Chair of the nominating committee)

ØE states that anyone involved in the elections process should read the elections manual and become familiar with the process.

We will continue to use the same platform. The German Association has been testing a new membership management system. Others might follow.

FC wonders whether we should move to another membership system. Because members no longer buy the journal we can detach ourselves from OUP. Nothing will change from the financial point of view.

The Chair thanks ML and the members of the Nominations Committee for their work and efficiency. The process will be smoother in the future with the use of the extended manual.

*** Chair officially breaks the meeting at 11.04 until 11.30 ***

6. Treasurer's report (Charlotte Tupman)

ØE welcomes CT as our new treasurer and states that we should move to have a preliminary budget for the midterm meeting.

a. Projections 2018

CT informs us that we spent less last year than our income so we didn't spend any of our surplus. A large part of the budget had gone to grants and bursaries. This year our aim would be to aim to make a dent in our surplus because we don't need to have such a large one.

ØE suggests to examine each item and see whether there are questions.

LI asks why there are no domain charges for this year.

CT explains that this is covered in the website management category.

ØE informs us that there are some domains that are currently in use but that does not belong to EADH but to previous or current Exec members. We should try again to move those officially to EADH.

LI states we should not overlook that side of our budget.

ØE would like us to consider having two communication officers that overlap with each other.

CT explains that the Cluj meeting had higher claims than what we had budgeted.

LI would like to know whether we know why people could not attend this meeting. Was it due to lack of funds or other time commitments?

BB states that there were varied reasons, but people were generally committed to other things.

ØE hopes that this will not be a problem if we manage to move the meetings to be part of the European conference. For the midterm meeting we have a budget of 1300 for members of the executive, plus 300 for officers. For the conference meeting, we pay for the conference attendance for officers (registration, travel, and hotel).

LI thinks that this makes sense. If we move the EADH meetings to Europe then it should reduce the contribution to the travel of the officers.

ØE corrects that this looks like the budget is spending 30% when in reality is closer to 15% because a significant part of our activities happens at ADHO level.

ML suggests that improving on the connections for long distance attendance could contribute to lower the costs.

ES if the conference would be in Europe it would be easier and cheaper to attend; also having a budget would make it easier to attend the conference.

CT maintained the general expenses and contingencies, but was uncertain about the difference between the two.

ØE explains that general expenses were for mail and such matters.

CT maintains the budget for currency fluctuation.

LI considers that the country in which EADH is registered is a situation to be discussed at a later time.

ØE asks whether anyone is willing to look into national legislations to see whether it would make sense to move EADH to a different country. **ACTION:** all must investigate the local possibilities within Europe and how to set up local organizations

ACTION: BB this item must be part of the mid-term meeting agenda.

b. Expenditures 2017-18

CT there is a discrepancy between the budget and the expenses, with expenditure much lower than expected. We need to look as to the reasons behind this.

ØE would like us to consider what to do with our surplus. The conference is defined as an investment because the idea was to get the conference up and running. The annual spending cannot be larger than the income, but anything in the surplus can be used as investment. Some of the investments have been decided but there are some questions about disbursements for next year. The AOs should make decisions about this but they couldn't do it without a firm budget.

LI for the small grants committee there has been a problem for this year as many people have not completed the work that they were supposed to do. Unless the awardees have been in contact with the small grants committee with their finished work, the money was not awarded. We should not reduce our small grants expenditure, but we should find a way to stimulate the grant winners to complete their work.

CT suggests that we should have a check in process to follow up the grants.

LI agrees. There should be either reporting or tracking.

ØE the discussion about the 2017 expenditure should be about anything that is unclear. For 2018 we should go through the budget headings and make sure we are in agreement.

CT explains that for the 2017 budget EADH committee meetings and DH conference attendance are conflated because she still needs to go through part of the documentation.

LI wants clarification of what outreach means in the budget.

ØE explains that this is used to create new contacts with other bodies or to develop links with regions in which we have not been active before. Based on our use, we might want to keep that at 1500, as it was in 2017.

*** Chair breaks meeting for lunch at 12.30 and reconvenes at 13:00. ***

[EB joins the meeting again at 13:02]

[CM and ES join the meeting via Skype]

ØE announces that from this point onwards, we will concentrate on the investments sections of the budget.

IL was contacted about whether larger grants can be considered. We have a policy not to fund bursaries for individuals attending the conference. Likewise, we don't support publication of research. There bursaries are mostly for spending time at other institutions working with digital humanists.

ØE suggests that we can consider to do something similar to the ADHO bursaries, but instead, we could provide money for individuals who do not present. We might consider to offer that perhaps for individuals who could work a few hours for the conference, as was the case in the 2012 Hamburg conference.

EB thinks that the service could be rendered by contributing to dissemination through twitter, blog posts or other social media.

ØE suggests that we should consider whether we want to start a new round of small grants for 2019.

EB request clarification about the small grants.

IL explains that there were many applications and that, in the cases that the money was not spent, the reports had not been produced.

ØE requires an estimate for 2018 budget. We should not pay more than 5000 pounds. There is a question about whether we should start the process now or at the midterm. EASSH is a small amount and will not have much impact.

LI requests more information about the EASSH which seems to have doubled its budget line.

CT thinks that the midterm would be better because we would have more certainty. CT raises the question of Trustee Liability insurance.

ØE thinks that we had this discussion before and made a decision that we wanted this.

LI asks how are the Trustees appointed.

ØE explains that the trustees have not been kept up to date.

LI requires some level of transparency for the naming of trustees.

The trustees, explains ØE, are found on the website of the charity board. They don't have much power, they work more like guarantors.

ACTION: CT will look into the Trustee Liability insurance and inform this executive.

ACTION: CT will look into the Trustees and how they might be present in our bylaws.

ACTION: LI and CT will make an estimate of what is likely to be paid out in 2018 from small grants already awarded.

LI states that we may have to update the constitution about the matter of the trustees.

ØE requests that, in the future, financial reports are provided several days before the meeting (although these year there were particular circumstances that delay the process).

c. ADHO finances (brief overview)

7. Membership report ([in AGORA](#), Elena Spadini)

Lunch break

[CC joins the meeting via Skype at 14:00]

EB informs us about the new representatives. The Russian Association is represented by Andrei Volodin, the Czech by and AIUCD is represented by Tiziana Mancinelli.

EB would like to know the reason for keeping the disbursement at the same level as previous years.

ØE the numbers of members were similar in 2016 and 2017, for 2018 they will be the same.

ACTION: BB check on the settings of the new list Exec-forum.

7. Membership report ([in AGORA](#), Elena Spadini)

ES reports that the membership page has been made a top level page. Now it is explicit that members have to be up to date to participate in elections. Perhaps we should consider a new management system. At the moment, there is no way for members of the AOs to buy a subscription to DSH without paying twice the EADH membership fee (once when becoming member of the AO and once when buying the journal). For the German association this is not a problem, because there is the possibility to buy the journal while becoming a DHD member. A solution would be to have the possibility to buy the journal without becoming a member. This might lead to less clear links between the journal and the association, but there are other ways to solve this.

FC points out that this is a conversation that has happened with OUP and they refused.

ØE tells us that we should continue with this system for a while. Any changes should be discussed with the other ADHO COs. We should have another discussion about this at the midterm meeting.

ES would like to find a common solution that works for everyone.

ØE suggests that ES works with the Forum to look into possible solutions.

LI would like clarification of the number of honorary members.

FC that is due to a mistake that had occurred previously.

LI requests clarification about DH Russia that only has five members. We need to clarify a minimum number of members. Why is there a fall in 2017 and a rise in 2018?

ES explains that this is likely to be due to the conference. Most associations have their conferences at the beginning of the year and this has an impact on numbers.

ACTION: ES to work with the Forum to reach new solutions for the membership/ journal issues.

ACTION: BB to include in the midterm meeting agenda.

b. EASSH (President reports orally)

EB reminds us that EASSH is an alliance of organizations. EADH is one of the founder members of EASSH.

[16:30 Claire Clivaz left the meeting]

All position papers have been forwarded to the executive. All details are on their website.

EB took part on their meeting in November 2017. The next general assembly will take place in 2018. EADH has not been part of the governing board. We have been asked whether we would like to be a candidate for the board. Claire Clivas has been proposed for this role.

9. DH Conferences (2018 and 2019: brief updates, 2020) (PC members)

FC reports that the main changes were the double blind peer review and the suppression of the bidding process.

FC and Elena Pierazzo are going to keep this type of peer review for 2019. Perhaps the workshops should be worked out some other way. For 2019 the intention is to limit the panels. EB suggests that ConfTool should be set up earlier.

FC points out that the self-evaluation is not working and that should be streamlined. One of the keynotes has been already contacted. This person is an active politician which might create problems but the proposal was put to a vote and passed.

ML suggests that a unique identifier might allow to do translations in Google drive.

FC reports that there are problems in the programme committee that they participate actively in the discussion.

ØE thanks FC for the reports.

ES doesn't have anything to report for 2020.

10. DSH editor and publisher reports (in AGORA)

Taken as read.

ØE reports that the journal is in good shape.

ØE suggests a renewed discussion at the midterm meeting.

FC reminds everyone that some problems were reported and that these should have been discussed in the list.

LI suggests to use the contingency funds to make contacts in Iran.

11. EADH conference 2018 (Corina Moldovan)

ØE reports that both economically and organizationally are going well. Some things might not be perfect, but this is our first conference and hiccups are to be expected.

Discussion will continue on the list.

CT believes that we will not need to underwrite.

12. Communications

EADH website editor ([in AGORA](#), Francesca Giovannetti)

Report taken as read.

Outreach and communication

ØE thinks that the report is positive. We should clarify the role of the communications officers.

ML requested her help and it would be better to have an official address.

ACTION: BB make sure that there is a new address for the communication officer.

[ES left the meeting at 16:33]

13. Time and venue for Midterm meeting

ØE informs us that Galway has been proposed as a logical place. The suggested date is 6th of December.

ACTION: BB liaise with local organizers to find out about a room.

14. Any other business

How to improve quorum in the future

ØE we should have the strategic goal of having our meetings in Europe. We will have to sort out the ADHO meeting attendance, but that is a different matter.

Chair moves to close the meeting at 16:39, he extends thanks to all present, physically and virtually. Chair thanks the Secretary and Treasurer for their work.

LI moves to accept budget. EB seconds. Approved unanimously.

ADHO finances cannot be reported because the final figures are not ready because the conference is early this year.

ØE proposes that this is distributed and discussed online.