

Minutes of the General Assembly, 12th to 13th May 2007, in Riga

1. The president Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson welcomed all delegates and declared the G.A. open. A special welcome was presented to the representatives of the applicant countries; in particular to the Norwegian delegates as Norway is now a full member of CPLoL as of January 2007.

The president announced, in accordance with the French delegates who find that all the elements of the French motion will be dealt with under other items, that there would be nothing to discuss under item no. 12.

Germany announced an item to be dealt with under no. 15 Miscellaneous: Number of delegates.

1a Count of votes

The Secretary General made a formal vote of delegates with voting right, calling all member countries including Norway. In total, 39 voting delegates were present, representing 21 countries.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the extraordinary General Assembly in Athens 2006 were approved unanimously.

3. Activity reports

The President introduced the activity reports and added that assuming all delegates had read the reports she would not read them aloud, but ask for questions and/or comments. Pierre Dessailly asked about the "interesting discussions" in San Diego. The President answered that they mainly were about education and "common platform" (the quadrilateral Mutual Recognition agreement between ASHA, RCSLT, CASLPA and SPA [i.e. the associations in USA, UK, Canada, and Australia]). Further there was a meeting of presidents from all over the world, which had given her the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas with a number of colleagues. Finally, she mentioned the opportunity to present CPLoL as an international organisation.

4. Accounts 2005-2006

The Treasurer Joe Reynolds informed about the financial situation of CPLoL in general and about income and expenses, deficit and surplus in particular. He showed how the venues influence markedly on the costs, in particular the hotel costs. Also, the new members and a new EC will influence the costs.

Further, Joe Reynolds informed about an item that was not mentioned in the report in the newsletter: The CPLoL congress 2006 in Berlin meant a loss of 30,000 Euros. Partly because of extra costs that were not anticipated, partly because a number of participants did not pay the full fee (students). The total number of participants was just over 900, of these 775 paying full fee. The total budget was 250,000 Euros.

The treasurer then informed about what the EC has decided to do to reduce the costs of commission meetings. One option is to stay at a less expensive hotel. In October 2006 members of the EC visited an IBIS hotel in Paris to investigate the facilities. If it appears to be cheaper and still satisfactory, the EC has considered having even the next Spring meeting in Paris.

Joe Reynolds thanked all the people who had supported him in doing his job.

Bauke Leijenaar asked if the EC had discussed the deficit of the congress in Berlin with the DBL. Joe Reynolds answered that the situation had been thoroughly discussed and all elements of the accounts had been checked.

Jean-Marc Kremer commented on the budget and estimates concerning the congress. He mentioned that maybe we should look for another concept for the CPLoL congresses than using the same one as is generally used for the national associations' congresses. This point of view was supported by Raffaella Citro.

4 B. Auditors' report.

To begin with, Joe Reynolds told a story about a parcel and the UPS and the Reval hotel, thus explaining why the auditors had not had access to the documents of the accounts. One of the auditors, Wiebke Scharff, reported about the audit and the result of it, thus complimenting the Treasurer for the exquisitely fine job he had carried out.

The accounts 2005 and 2006 were approved unanimously.

5. New members

Bulgaria: Rositsa Yakimova, representative of the National Association of Logopedists in Bulgaria, presented the profession of SLT in Bulgaria, the working and employment conditions, and the association. Today the number of members is 96.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson stated that the application and various documents had been scrutinised by the EC, and she recommended that the Bulgarian association be admitted as a member association.

The G.A. applauded – thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

Iceland: Valdis Gudjonsdottir, representing the Icelandic association Félag Talkennare og Talmeinafræðinga, presented the Icelandic association and the general situation of SLT in Iceland. The association has 60 members. The education requirements are now no less than a Masters degree. The professional title "talmeinafræðinga" is protected by law. The

profession is working with the Ministry of education on a project about screening for illiteracy, and on various research projects.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson stated that the Icelandic application had been scrutinized, and the EC recommend that the Icelandic association be admitted as full member of CPLOL, according to the statutes' art. 7 A.

The G.A. applauded – thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

Malta: As no representative of ASLP was able to attend the G.A., the presentation was given by DVD. The association was founded 1985 and now has 34 members. The education level is BA/B.Sc. (4 years). A majority of the professionals work with children age 3 to 10. A small number is working in private practice.

The question was raised if it is possible to admit an association on the basis of a DVD presentation without any representative being present. The answer was yes, especially because the vote is based mainly on the application and on the scrutiny made by the E.C. On this basis the G.A. expressed the admission of the ASLP of Malta by unanimous applause.

Poland: The president of the Polish Logopedist Union, Michael Bitniok, presented the association. The association was founded in 1999 and now has about 1200 members. Only qualified speech therapists can be admitted as members. The association reviews educational programs.

The PLU is recognised by the government of Poland as a trade union which must be consulted in all relevant cases.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson stated that the EC has studied the application and documents of the PLU and found that they meet the criteria of CPLOL.

The G.A. applauded – thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

Slovakia: The presentation of the Slovak Association of Logopedists (SAL) was given by the president, Zuzanna Oravkinova. The SAL was founded in 1992 and now has 152 members, appr. 2/3 of all SLPs in Slovakia. 75% of SLPs work in the health care sector, and 25% in the education sector (mainly special schools).

The undergraduate education of SLPs is a 5 year university program. Postgraduate options are a PhD and a certificate of clinical competence based on a 3 years study.

According to the EC scrutiny, the statutes and the application of SAL meet the criteria for membership. The President Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson therefore recommended the GA to vote for admission.

The G.A. applauded – thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

6. Elections

The President referred to the list of nominations presented in the newsletter and mentioned, in particular, the candidate for vice-president for Education, Pirkko Rautakoski, who briefly presented herself. Likewise, the candidate for vice-president for Professional Practice, Maria Christopoulou, was mentioned and briefly presented herself.

No one requested a secret ballot. The election of all members of the E.C. was confirmed by unanimous applause.

Auditors: As auditors for the next term, Wiebke Scharff and Raffaella Citro were proposed. They both were elected by applause.

7. Plan of projects 2007-2009

In addition to the list of projects published in the newsletter, Aileen Patterson informed about projects concerning the work of the Education Commission.

| Project | Cf Statutes | Acting unit | Responsible |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Improve communication through further clarifications of SLT Terminology/concepts | Art 5,B | Education Commission | VP Ed |
| Clinical education standards | Art 5, B | Education Commission | VP Ed |
| Continuing Professional Development | Art 5, B | Education Commission | VP Ed |

| Project | Aim | Outcomes | method |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| SLT Terminology/concepts | Improve communication between members through further clarifications of SLT terms/ concepts | Position statement Update CPLoL document re terminology | Liaise with IGOT(F) Attend session in Copenhagen Obtain and Review 1991 document Agree aims and work plan in Paris, Oct.2007 |
| Clinical education standards | Comparison of systems and practice as they are now. To reach decision re best practice in clinical education | Position statement re standards and best practice | Gather data on existing models through survey Agree recommendations |
| Continuing Professional Development | Comparison of CPD in each country To reach decision re best practice in clinical education | Position statement with Recommendation | Update survey |

8. Congress 2009. Information

Vice-president of the Scientific Committee, Hanneke Kalf, informed about the plans for the next CPLoL congress. It will be arranged in cooperation with the Slovenian Association of

Logopedists as local organizer. The venue will be in the capital of Slovenia or in Portoroz on the seaside. Decision will be taken during the summer 2007.

Hanneke Kalf also informed about the theme of the congress and the main elements of the contents. A preliminary program will be available on the web site in June 2008.

There were no questions.

9. Minimum Standards. Adoption of a revised statement.

The vice-president for Education, Aileen Patterson, presented the revised version of the Minimum Standards, originally adopted in Naples 1998. All amendments / additions were shown, with the rationale for each explained one by one.

The revised document was adopted unanimously by 45 votes.

Special attention was drawn to the brief *preamble* to the document indicating the academic “**level of entry**” to the profession. An alternative text with explicit reference to Resolution had been proposed by some members of the Commission since the published version. Other members felt that the existing text was sufficient and was what their associations had agreed. Therefore two options for the introductory preamble were presented to be voted upon.

Vote: 30 votes for the version (a) including reference to Resolution 9, and 14 votes for the version (b) which did not include the reference to Resolution 9. The approved statement therefore now reads:

“In order to achieve the requisite knowledge, skills and competencies as outlined below it is CPLoL’s view that such studies must be undertaken at University or equivalent academic level, in accordance with the principles of the Bologna charter in realising the European Higher Education Area, *taking account of CPLoL Resolution 9 (GA, Malmo, Oct. 2003)*”.

The document will be published on the CPLoL web site as soon as possible in both English and French languages.

10. European Day of SLT. Vote on the project

Hanneke Kalf explained that this item had been put on the agenda because there has never been a vote on the European Day as a recurrent CPLoL event / project.

Hanneke Kalf then presented the proposal for the European Day on SLT as published in the newsletter.

The vote was unanimous FOR the project.

11. Vote on a proposal to revise the subscription structure and levels

Joe Reynolds presented the motion to raise the level of subscriptions paid by member associations. The raise was needed because costs are rising, there have been budget deficits

in some recent years, and CPLoL needs to rebuild and maintain a reasonable level of reserves. The proposal was notified to member associations in autumn 2006, and comments were invited; a small number were received. The proposal was based on separate rises in the fixed-fee charge, and in the per capita charge. The details of the changes were intended to avoid too high a burden falling on the countries with membership between 100 and 500, and to avoid too high a burden falling on the 4 largest member associations, which pay most of the budget.

Jean-Marc Kremer noted that the FNO had made proposals on this subject which were along the same lines as the motion. He felt that the fixed fee component of the subs should be raised more than was proposed, to reduce the burden on the largest associations. He also pointed out that the question of finances needed to be linked to the future structure and functioning of CPLoL, which would be reviewed during this mandate. He regretted that the two questions were being handled separately, when the FNO had raised both financial and structural aspects as needing to be reviewed together.

The subject of the new member countries was raised. They had agreed to apply for membership under the current financial arrangements, and were concerned that their members may have to bear an extra burden which they had not anticipated. Some comparisons were given about the very low levels of salaries and national association budgets in new member countries. The meeting agreed that new member countries admitted during this GA would have a two-year period of transition, during which they would pay the level of subscription applying before the GA 2007 vote.

Ana Mendes (APTF) said that the higher level of subscription would create difficulties for existing member associations from smaller countries, not just for new members. Joe Reynolds commented that no comments had been received on this point, though all members had been invited to comment.

The proposal including the clause for two year transition period for the newly admitted member countries was then put to the vote. It was passed by 39 votes for; 4 against.

12. Motions raised by member associations

At the beginning of the GA, the President Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson informed that the FNO found their proposals being dealt with under other items on the agenda, for which reason there was no contents left under this item.

13. National issues

DBL / Wiebke Scharff raised the question of number of delegates, arguing that more delegates than the two official ones influences the costs as well as the work in commissions and working groups.

The president thanked WS for the comments, reminded the GA that it had been decided to set up a working group on the functioning of CPLoL, and suggested that the question be discussed in this group over the next year.

14. Host association for the ordinary GA, autumn of 2009

FLI, Italy offered to host the GA in October 2009. The offer was accepted with applause. The city and venue are to be decided later.

15. Miscellaneous

The President expressed her thanks and gratitude to the local representative Baiba Trinīte and her colleague Gunta Ozolina for the excellent arrangements in Riga. The G.A. showed its full agreement by a long-lasting applause.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson thanked the delegates for their confidence in her by re-electing her – and then she closed the G.A. stating that it had been a historic one in that it was ended before the scheduled time.

Keepers of the minutes: Bent E. Kjær *and* Aileen Patterson