



31 March 2005

Minutes of the General Assembly, Ohrid, 31 March 2005

Sections present

Eindhoven
Fribourg
Heidelberg
Ljubljana

Marburg
Nijmegen
Pula
Skopje

Turku
Utrecht
Zagreb
Zürich

Opening

János Betkó (president) opens the GA.
Eelco Jansen is elected speaker
John Blake is appointed to take minutes

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes of Helsinki and Pula GA
2. State of Affairs
3. Financial situation
4. Carnival
5. Overview of the year
6. Plans for the future
7. Upcoming events
8. Standing orders
9. Elections

1. Minutes of Helsinki and Pula GA

Approved

2. State of Affairs

Eindhoven

- is still in the IB - may have a continuity problem

Heidelberg

- the ISHA sections is formally joining the Fachschaft as a commission
- will organise the autumn 2005 seminar

Fribourg

- organising summer seminar together with Zürich
- working on a homepage

Ljubljana

- will be publishing a newspaper
- the year will be dedicated to getting new members and organising an excursion for them

Marburg

- after organising the New Year-seminar held an excursion with Heidelberg in January

Nijmegen

- working on Schönes-Wochenende trip to Germany, attracting new people

Pula

- published the third edition of their local journal, all went well
- 2004 conference journal will be handed out to attendants at GA

Skopje

- have made contact with history students in Sarajevo and Sofia - enthusiastic
- organising this 2005 annual conference

Turku

- held a party together with Helsinki, 70 people attended
- planning 2006 conference

Utrecht

- is busy organising the 2006 conference
- as a new section, getting new people active is a priority

Zagreb

- a lot of work last year on the (Croatian language) magazine Students in History
- organising the upcoming regional seminar on Europe & Islam
- complains that they are ready to publish Carnival, but no one has sent content

Zürich

- organising summer seminar 2005. So far, so good

3. Finances

Current situation

Slow year. 2 transactions so far: money for printing the T-shirts and EUR 11.37 bank costs for new account

Difficulties with Postfinance (our bank in Zürich) now ironed out at last. The membership fee can now be paid by bank transfer.

Sponsoring

no success yet in contacting universities offering English language masters, they seem uninterested. Council members and other ISHA people are urged to actively look for potential sponsors.

Old ISHA money

ISHA still has a substantial sum of money on the old Belgian account. Withdrawal is not simple as the only person authorised to access the account is a Belgian former ISHA-Leuven member who requires extensive proof before transferring it to our new account. The IB is in touch with her.

Balance

As of the first of January we had EUR 664.70, currently it stands at EUR 652.97. We are expecting income from membership fees and expenses towards Carnival

4. Carnival

So far only 3 articles have been received. A double issue is suggested as a way to compensate for the delay caused by the lack of articles. The editor hopes to publish soon. Due to a very generous arrangement in Zagreb this will probably not cost ISHA anything.

The possibility of acquiring an ISSN/ISBN registration for the publication was raised. As little information was present, IB and editor will discuss this informally after meeting.

5. Overview

- finances: we now have a proper administration and a working account, but no luck in securing external financing sources
- new section info is present on the website
- the website itself has had a facelift and now has a forum
- internal communication is improved, particularly by means of the forum
- for continuity's sake instructions for IB and council members and for organising sections will be written

6. Future plans

- territorial expansion
- acquire sponsoring and contacts for finances
- work on the academic level of the forum
- an ISHA delegation will attend the UNESCO 9th Collective Consultation on Higher Education in Paris

7. Upcoming events

Summer 2005

Zürich and Fribourg are organising the summer seminar (already approved at last GA)

Autumn 2005

Heidelberg seminar (approved by acclamation)

Winter 2005/2006

At Marburg Turku had suggested they might organise something for New Year. The Turku delegation at Ohrid stated that that was impossible, Sophia would look at possibilities in Berlin, but not likely.

Spring 2006

Both Utrecht and Turku want to organise the annual conference. The Marburg State of Affairs meeting (where Turku was present) invited Utrecht to organise the conference, but it is the GA that formally approves activities. Neither Turku nor Utrecht declines, so the issue is put to a vote.

Utrecht's reasons for wanting to host the conference:

- not organised an ISHA event for 11 years
- after getting unanimous support at Marburg, they are already organising the conference
- there is a one-off possibility of heavy sponsoring from the university this spring. It will not be available for another time.

Turku's reasons

- although a seminar was held in 2000, no ISHA conference was ever held in Turku
- possible co-operation with Helsinki, Tampere and Stockholm
- accommodation is easy to arrange

Q&A to the sections

Q: Are the finances already covered?

Utrecht: the student association has already donated EUR 500, more to follow from university

Turku: possibilities to apply to ministry, university and foundations

Q: Are alternative times possible?

Turku: Maybe, cannot say.

Utrecht: No, one-off opportunity

Q: What communication took place between the sections after Marburg?

Turku: we have a different board, were not aware of Utrecht organising

Utrecht: received email from Turku asking if alternatives were possible. Sent reply: no. No further reply.

Result of vote

the GA approves Utrecht for the spring 2006 conference.

Turku will look into other possibilities.

Summer 2006

Pula

Autumn 2006

Ljubljana

8. Standing Orders

Experience has shown that minor corrections in standing orders are needed. Alterations to statutes are also needed, but that will be discussed in Heidelberg.

Standing order changes

Article 15

Article 16

Article 28

Article 31

Article 40

art. 15

Majorities

In the event of a vote, the proposal is considered accepted when the number of votes in favour of the proposal exceeds the number of votes against it. If votes are equally divided, the proposal is put to the vote again. If the votes are equally divided once more, the proposal is considered rejected.

art. 16b

Voting

Votes are counted by the Speaker and the Secretary, or somebody appointed by the GA if the Secretary is not present.

art. 28

Reporting to the GA

The TC should write a report for the GA about the finances and bookkeeping of the previous IB. This report should be sent to the members of the previous IB at least one month before the GA at which it will be discussed. The members of the old IB should react in writing on this report. The report of the TC should be sent along with the agenda together with the reaction of the previous IB in accordance with art. 10 d. of these Standing Orders.

art. 31

Fee payment deadline

The deadline for payment of membership fees is the start of the official year. Members paying their fees before the start of the year receive a 25 euro reduction in the amount to be paid.

art. 40

Distribution

At least one copy of each issue of Carnival should be sent to each member and Friend of ISHA. Observers should be sent no more than two copies, whereas members may receive significantly more, according to their specific needs.

All changes were accepted.

9. Elections

Candidates for the 2005/06 academic year

International Board

President - Alan Götz

Secretary - Christian Schlag

Treasurer - Marc Lutz

Carnival Editor

Maartje Vermeulen

Treasury Committee

- Astrid Buys
- Julia Neugebauer

Council

- Jeroen Merks
- Dominic Tegelbeckers
- Meike Pfefferkorn
- Iva Žutić
- Goran Miljan
- Jonas Ahlskog

As there are more candidates for the Council than available posts (5), each candidate is asked to present himself:

- *Jonas*: as a Finnish Swede intends to work towards territorial expansion into Scandinavian countries
- *Jeroen*: is busy in the Netherlands getting new sections, also wants to engage Belgium
- *Goran*: has contacts in Rijeka and Sarajevo, wants to get more involved in the ISHA organisation
- *Meike*: wants to focus on new member sections, is working on Dresden and Hamburg, plus the traditional Drang nach Osten
- *Dominic*: as current IB member wants to ensure continuity from within council, in particular to help with the website
- *Iva*: wants to expand with Goran

Questions

Q: Iva + Goran, you are both from Zagreb, does Zagreb need two seats?

A: Iva has contacts in Serbia, Goran in Sarajevo, different emphasis

Comment: Council is not only about expansion!

Voting procedure

After some discussion the following procedure is followed:

- all names to be written on the ballots
- vote for, against or abstention for each candidate
- a maximum of 5 'for' votes for Council candidates

Results

All candidates have more votes for than against or abstention. But we cannot elect 6 Council members. Two solutions are suggested:

- a second round of voting for Council members
- the 5 candidates with the most votes for are elected

For this occasion, the IB chooses the second method. Thus the results are:

International Board

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Carnival Editor

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- Jonas Ahlskog

Jeroen Merks received the confidence of the GA, but was not elected. The voting system was considered to blame for this strange result. Astrid Buys will come up with a proposal for a better system.

The IB thanks the organisers. Louise Hoevenaars hands out beer to all those who were still present at the end. The GA, organisers and IB thank her.

Closing