

***General Meeting of the Nordic Association for English Studies, Oulu,  
June 12<sup>th</sup> 2010***

**Preliminaries**

Acting at the request of the President, the Vice-President initiated the proceedings by conveying the regrets of the President, Treasurer, Secretary, Swedish and Finnish representatives of the NAES that they could not be present. As there were only twelve NAES members at the General Meeting itself the question was then raised as to whether a meeting could take place at all. A discussion of protocol ensued in which it was agreed that:

- a) the present constitution was in urgent need of an overhaul;
- b) the absence of so many Board members was an unfortunate singularity resulting from an unexpected confluence of personal and economic factors in a time of transition;
- c) although the meeting was not technically quorate according to the old constitution, members from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland were nevertheless present who could represent the concerns of their countries (see enclosure 1);

And:

- d) rather than moving for a dissolution of the entire organization, those present at the General Meeting should respond to the outgoing president's call for renewal within the NAES and work constructively toward this goal.

Accordingly, the Vice-President, Anthony Johnson was proposed, seconded and elected as acting Chair, Leena Kuure was proposed, seconded and elected as acting Secretary, the agenda was approved and the meeting commenced.

**Agenda**

- 1. Approval of minutes of last general meeting
  - 2. Report from the President
  - 3. Report from the Treasurer
  - 4. Elections of President, Secretary, Treasurer and any other committee members for the period until the next NAES conference.
  - 5. NAES 2013
  - 6. Any other business
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- 1. The minutes of the last general meeting were circulated for discussion and it was agreed that these should be approved. They were sent to the new Board for ratification once it had been constituted.
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- 2 & 3. The reports of the President and Treasurer (attached) were presented to the

meeting. As neither officer was able to attend in person the reports were read on their behalf by the Vice-President.

The meeting thanked the President, Treasurer and former Board of the NAES for their extensive labours in keeping the organisation together over a long time period (sometimes against adverse conditions).

4. The nominees of FINSSE (John Stotesbury) and SWESSE (Karin Aijmer) will continue to represent their organisations on the Committee and Marie Nedregotten Sørbo was elected as the Norwegian representative.

The nominees for President were (in alphabetical order) Anthony Johnson and Ebbe Klitgård. After a lively discussion of the provenance and remit of the NAES as an international organisation (the main conclusions of which are stated §6 below), Ebbe Klitgård withdrew his candidacy for the position and:

Anthony Johnson (Finland) was elected as President

Ebbe Klitgård (Denmark) was elected as Vice-President

Jane Vinther (Denmark) was elected as Treasurer

Kristina Hildebrand (Sweden) was elected as Secretary

The new Board was welcomed by the assembled company.

5. It was agreed that although a key aspect of the Vice-President's role within the Society was to work (in close alliance with the Treasurer) on the promotion of the next Conference, this duty need not (hereafter) necessarily include the obligation that the Vice-President host the Conference itself. It was suggested that, by the laws of rotation, Sweden should probably be approached in the first instance as the host country for NAES 2013, and the incoming Vice-President resolved to look into the available alternatives at the first possible opportunity.
6. Over the course of their deliberations, the General Assembly strongly urged that the new Board immediately implement the following changes within the Society and its constitution:
  - a) All positions should be allocated for three-year periods and should not normally be held by any incumbent for more than two terms of office.
  - b) Presidency of the NAES should, as far as possible, be rotated between its member countries.
  - c) The office of President needs to be formally separated out from that of ESSE Board Member. (Although national organisations such as SWESSE and FINSSE negotiate their own relationship with ESSE on board membership, there is no reason why Norwegian or Danish

subcommittees should not continue to use the NAES as an avenue for membership, even after such a separation has been made.)

Other suggestions included: the arrangement of more frequent Board meetings of the NAES (perhaps by making more use of videoconferencing or international exchange connections to promote contacts in an economically sustainable way); and the idea that we should re-energise our contacts with Iceland at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting was opened at 16.06 and concluded at 17.20.

Oulu, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2010

Leena Kuure  
Anthony Johnson

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