

MINUTES OF THE ALPS ADRIATIC RECTORS' CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

26 MAY 2007

The General Assembly of the Rectors' Conference was held in the Meeting Hall of the University of Pécs (Pécs, Ifjúság u. 6.). The meeting lasted from 09:00 to 13:30.

Present

Dr. László Lénárd	University of Pécs
Dr. László Komlósi	University of Pécs
Dr. László Kozma	University of Pécs
Gyöngyi Pozsgai	University of Pécs
Eszter Sándorfi	University of Pécs
Gábor Czéh	University of Pécs
Péter Radics	University of Pécs
Lili Ballagó	University of Pécs
Dr. Antonio Sciacovelli	Berzsényi Dániel College Szombathely
Dr. Ágota Fóris	Berzsényi Dániel College Szombathely
Dr. Rezső Schmidt	University of West-Hungary
Dr. Heinrich C. Mayr	Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt
Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer	Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt
Andrea Wernig	Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt
Stephanie Adenberger	Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt
Judith Michael	Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt
Horst Kandutsch	Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt
Dr. Harald Heppner	University of Graz
Dietlinde Kastelliz	University of Graz
Olivera Stevanović	University of Music and Dramatic Arts Graz
Dr. Aleksa Bjeliš	University of Zagreb
Dr. Drago Zagar	J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek
Lidija Getto	J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek
Dr. Danica Škara	University of Zadar
Dr. Pier Paolo Parnigotto	University of Padova
Dr. Fabio Ruzzier	University of Trieste
Dr. Paolo Ferloni	University of Pavia

Dr. Maurizio Manzin	University of Trento
Dr. Domenico Patassini	University IUAV of Venice
Dr. Godehard Ruppert	University of Bamberg
Dr. Sebastian Kempgen	University of Bamberg
Dr. Kerstin Seidenath	University of Bamberg
Dr. Željko Knez	University of Maribor
Dr. Marijana Knez	University of Maribor
Tomaž Klojčnik	University of Maribor
Alen Vidonja	University of Maribor
Dr. Julijana Kristl	University of Ljubljana
Dr. Lucija Čok	University of Primorska
Leon Horvatic	University of Primorska
Tatjana Mikelič Goja	University of Primorska
Ana Krulec	University of Primorska

Dr. László Komlósi, vice-rector of the University of Pécs, greets all rectors and rectors' delegates present on the Alps Adriatic Rectors' Conference and gives the floor to the host rector., Dr. László Lénárd.

Dr. László Lénárd, rector of the University of Pécs, warmly welcomes the Rectors' Conference, acknowledges the great number of rectors and their representatives present, and underlines the genuine interest of AARC members in a new phase in the life of the international organization. He expresses his conviction that the AARC is facing up to the challenges created by new circumstances in the EHEA and the EU extension process. He wishes a successful meeting, progressive and fruitful discussions and a pleasant stay for all participants in Pécs and vicinity.

Dr. László Komlósi reads the items of the Agenda as follows:

1. *Approval of the minutes of the Alps Adriatic Rectors' Conference in Zadar 27 May 2006*
2. *New member presentation – University of Primorska*
3. *Survey of membership: results of the questionnaire (Pécs)*
4. *ELISA – demonstration (Maribor)*
5. *BAYHOST – ELISA Link: research data-base (Maribor – Bamberg)*
6. *Past and Possible Future of AARC - presentation (Trento)*
7. *AARC Network Extension - presentation (Klagenfurt)*
8. *Scholarships*
9. *Doctoral studies, joint-degree programs (Bamberg – Pécs – Graz – Venice)*

10. Summer Schools

11. University Networks

12. Student Activities

13. New Preamble – Statute Revision Process (Trento – Udine – Klagenfurt)

14. Next Presidency - Establishing the date of the Rectors' Conference of the Alps Adriatic Universities in Klagenfurt for 2008

15. AOB – any other business

Dr. Maurizio Manzin: proposes the combined discussion of items 6 and 13.

Agenda agreed to with above proposal.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Alps Adriatic Rectors' Conference in Zadar 27 May 2006

The minutes of the last Rectors' Conference meeting held in Zadar are adopted unanimously.

2. Introductory presentation of the University of Primorska as new AARC member

Dr. Lucija Čok, rector of the University of Primorska gives a presentation of the new member university.

3. Survey of membership: results of the questionnaire (Pécs)

Dr. László Komlósi: gives a report including information on all answers and responses received from rectors to our questionnaire concerning future membership in the AARC. He opens the discussion about membership.

All present confirm the positive response of their respective rectors. A new list is drawn up on the basis of the declarations of individual universities whether they wish to maintain membership or they decide to withdraw membership. The principles of membership retention and the list of valid memberships are discussed. It is agreed by the RC that the list presented and discussed should be part of the minutes as a proper attachment.

Dr. Godehard Ruppert: reminds the RC that Bavaria is no longer member of AAWC, however some Bavarian universities have decided to be represented in the AARC by rector Ruppert. He confirms further that the University of Bamberg and the University of Regensburg are the two full and active members of the AARC from among Bavarian universities.

Dr. László Komlósi: reminds the RC that AARC has long become a university network organization independent of AAWC. He mentions as an example that the University of Bamberg plays a key role in the consortium of the AA Joint Degree program, and the University of Regensburg has established a strong TANDEM programme with the University of Pécs.

Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer: Klagenfurt confirms active memberships.

Dr. Harald Heppner: Two universities in Graz confirm active membership.

Dr. László Komlósi: It is only natural that representation in the RC by rectors and representatives of respective universities is in itself a guarantee for the respective university's active membership in the AARC.

Dr. Domenico Patassini: He realizes that Ca' Foscari of Venice is an active member. He announces that IUAV of Venice also wishes to become a member of the AARC.

Dr. László Komlósi: asserts that there is a formal process of becoming a member. University of Primorska, for example, has just gone through the process and became a new member.

Dr. Paolo Ferloni: calls attention to the fact that the universities in Milano seem to have problems with their international relations. Bocconi has no international interest. He provides a list of contact info to others in Milano.

Dr. László Komlósi: reports that the Advisory Committee has discuss the basic principles of membership, and surveyed the list of non-members. He also gives account of the efforts to recruit partner universities from among universities that are perhaps interested in AARC activities.

Dr. Domenico Patassini and Dr. Paolo Ferloni: put forward the similar proposal for recruiting interested parties.

Dr. Godehard Ruppert: mentions that in Bavaria the situation is somewhat specific. Bavarian universities can be individual members in an organization or they can be represented in an organization as a member of the Union of Bavarian Universities.

Dr. László Komlósi: encourages active members to inform other universities about the mission and activities of the AARC.

Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer: emphasizes that the running office should be helped by all AARC members in compiling a list of potential partner universities. He makes a point that an organization like ours always faces new challenges and regular surveys are important. He recommends that the results of the last survey with individual feedbacks concerning willingness to be members (with three types of answers) should be sent to all rectors. His proposal was agreed to by RC.

4. ELISA – demonstration (Maribor)

Presentation by Tomaz Klojcnik.

Mr. Tomaz Klojcnik demonstrates and explains how we can put information on the web. We can get the domain name, username and password from Maribor by sending an e-mail to elisa@uni-mb.si.

Dr. László Komlósi: requests that members and affiliated members should clearly be distinguished on the ELISA webpage.

Mr. Tomaz Klojcnik: informs the RC that in Maribor they are working on creating an easy link between the DRC homepage and the AARC homepage, which will facilitate a better flow of information among potential partner universities.

Dr. László Komlósi: confirms that scholarships should also be posted on the web. Further, all members should be able to use the website, so they should get their passwords by contacting ELISA directly. At the same time, each member university should appoint someone to the position of web-administrator so that each university could put their own materials on the webpage.

Tomaz Klojcnik: emphasizes that they been trying to achieve such a situation for four years. Practically no new information has been put up on the webpage by members since our last meeting in Zadar.

Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer: inquires whether a Student Corner or a Chat Corner could be established on the website?

Mr. Tomaz Klojcnik: confirms that a link to FORUM is possible. Thus, Forum could provide for an appropriate link. The Rectors' Conference commissions administration to make such a link possible.

5. BAYHOST – ELISA Link: research data-base (Maribor – Bamberg)

Presentation by Sebastian Kempgen

Dr. László Komlósi: proposes that each member should collect their research database and put them on ELISA. Do we need to pursue this question further or we can leave it open?

Dr. Harald Heppner: underlines that only common topics should be posted on the database. It is difficult to agree on specific research topics, as universities themselves are so different.

Dr. Sebastian Kempgen: reminds RC that a unified database is too complicated.

Dr. László Komlósi: the Bayhost link to grants is important and sufficient as well.

Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer: Once we have a link, we can search and select by ourselves!

Dr. László Komlósi: As a conclusion, we seem to agree that a separate and unified research database is not required.

He proposes that Agenda item 7 be discussed before the joint discussion of items 6 and 13 as the views of the RC on AARC network extension may greatly influence views on the future of AARC.

7. AARC Network Extension - presentation (Klagenfurt)

Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer presents his thoughts concerning network extension which is followed by a discussion.

Dr. Karl Stuhlfarrer: he reminds RC that issues of geographical extension were discussed earlier. AARC represents the main network in the Region, however, we should not become servants of the network. It makes no sense to recruit and pull together a great number of universities just for the sake of the network. It is better to have a realistic and optimal number of active members from the traditional Alps-Adriatic region. In addition, he proposes that AARC should invite ex-Yugoslav members, and members from Albania and Greece.

Dr. Sebastian Kempgen and Dr. Karl Stuhlfarrer: We have two categories: full or affiliated members. We should send out invitations, and if we get answers we can make our decisions.

Dr. László Komlósi: Those who are interested should become full members. We expect one or two universities to apply. He reports to the RC the result of a vote by the Advisory Board according to which the majority of the board members want a reasonably extension:

for ex-Yugoslavia: all members for, except Ruppert and Kempgen against

for Albania: all members for, except Knez against

for Greece: all members for, except Heppner abstention

Proposal to the RC: the AARC network extension should be initiated by inviting universities for membership from ex-Yugoslav countries, Albania and Greece.

It is commonly agreed that the proposal for AARC network extension is a clear indication that the new AA Region is ready to collaborate with other regions neighbouring the AA Region.

Dr. László Komlósi: opens the floor for further discussion.

Dr. Julijana Kristl: What is exactly the objection against Greece?

Dr. Sebastian Kempgen: Not against all Greece, only the Eastern Coast.

Dr. Paolo Ferloni: we should identify the Northern Region of Greece, and not the whole country. We had an example in Italy: Emilia participated in AARC which proved not to be very useful for them so they withdrew. Therefore, we do not need to think in terms of all Greece, we should invite Greek regions step by step.

Dr. Fabio Ruzzier: Enlargement is a good idea. However, the main characteristic features of the AA will then be lost!

Dr. Domenico Patassini: we should be able to come up with a better identification and definition of “regions”. What counts as the AA region today? Cultural dimensions? What is the institutional network based upon? We have an important political perspective here: inter-institutional relations. We should provide for the AARC’s multifaceted presence, its maintenance and strength as a network.

Dr. László Komlósi: These questions are inevitably in connection with the future of AARC. More concretely, with our task concerning the New Statute as Agenda items 6 and 13.

Dr. Aleksa Bjeliš: AA has always meant regions in the first place. Now we see a common problem: we need to rethink the idea of what the AA region could and should mean. Zagreb declined as a geographical spot within the network of the DRC. I suggest that we think about the future in different terms, not only in geographical terms. I have the view that those who are ready and willing to take part in our network, are welcome to join.

Dr. László Komlósi: concludes on the basis of the discussion that the AARC should invite universities from Ex-Yugoslavia first. This proposal is unanimously accepted.

Before the coffee-break, **Dr. László Lénárd, rector of the University of Pécs** takes the opportunity to officially hand over the Presidency to **Dr. Heinrich C. Mayr, rector of the Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt.**

6. Past and Possible Future of AARC - presentation (Trento)

13. New Preamble – Statute Revision Process (Trento – Udine – Klagenfurt)

Two members of the **Revision and Draft Committee, Dr. Maurizio Manzin and Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer** gave a presentation of the results of their Committee.

Dr. Maurizio Manzin: informs RC that the three of them (Stuhlpfarrer, Guzman and Manzin) have been commissioned to prepare a Preamble and to prepare a discussion material about future of AARC. Hereby, they are presenting the results of their commission.

Dr. Maurizio Manzin: puts forward a working schedule in three stages (see attachment to the Minutes).

1st step: Discussion and Approval of Preamble (26 May, 2007)

2nd step: Statutory Conditions for approving a New Text of the AARC original Convention (version 1997). *See # 5.1 Conv.* (26 May, 2007)

3rd step: Establishing modalities for a New Text (17 November, 2007)

Dr. Maurizio Manzin: presents the Preamble to the RC.

Dr. Pier Paolo Parnigotto: we need to have a clean definition of the AA Region.

Dr. László Komlósi: There are several perspectives. The term used in the Preamble refers to the geographical perspective.

Dr. Pier Paolo Parnigotto: Simply geographical is not clear enough. Maybe territories - from the Danube to the Balkans? And how about Romania and Bulgaria?

Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer: Let us delete Danube, the Balkans, just insert Alps Adriatic.

Dr. Lucija Čok: the text is fine. The interest is important.

Dr. Aleksa Bjeliš: the Alps Adriatic Region is clear from the Alps to the Adriatic. What about those regions that are outside, though neighbouring ones?

Dr. Fabio Ruzzier: I suggest that we delete the Danube and the Balkans.

Dr. Maurizio Manzin: I agree to the deletion.

VOTE: everybody is for the deletion.

Dr. Domenico Patassini: cultural exchanges.....

Dr. Aleksa Bjeliš: No didactics, only culture.....

Dr. Lucija Čok: and the arts....

Dr. Aleksa Bjeliš: teachers, scientists and students

Ms. Dietlinde Kastelliz: protector → promoter.....

Dr. László Komlósi: it seems, many people stick to Protector.

Dr. Karl Struhlfarrer: educational research, arts and cultural exchange

Dr. László Komlósi: summarizes the proposed textual changes. He proposes the Preamble with the appropriate and agreed upon changes to be voted for.

VOTE: the Preamble is unanimously accepted (see attachment to the Minutes).

Dr. Maurizio Manzin: initiates the discussion of Step 2.

Dr. László Komlósi: By now we have a list of members. Soon we should have an updated list of new members too. Of course, we need a definition for “active members”. In practice, on every occasion the AA president sends out a call and it is the responsibility of the members to send a response to it. If there is no answer from some member, it may cause exclusion.

He asks the RC to vote on a new commission to prepare a new version of the text of the Convention.

VOTE: unanimous decision concerning a proposal is to be written by K. Stuhlfarrer and M. Manzin. The proposed text is to be presented to the Scientific Meeting to be held in Klagenfurt in November, 2007.

8. Scholarships

Dr. László Komlósi: asks all RC representatives to give information on scholarships related to their home institutions.

Dr. Željko Knez: Maribor has promised two scholarship (one from city, one from university), each for one semester covering tuition and living expenses.

Dr. Julijana Kristl: in Ljubljana a special (industry-based) foundation was established that offers 30 scholarships with 500 EUR/month under the name “Slovene-international”.

Dr. László Komlósi: Would it be possible to name one of these scholarships “Alps-Adriatic Scholarship”?

Dr. Julijana Kristl: I will inquire and propose this possibility in Ljubljana.

Dr. Drago Žagar: Currently no scholarships offered.

Dr. László Komlósi: Two scholarships are offered by Pécs: one University-City, one University-Baranya County. Each one is meant for a study of five months at the University of Pécs with 1.000 euro under the name “Alps-Adria-Pécs” and “Alps-Adria-Baranya”, planned for the summer semester 2007/2008.

Dr. Pier Paolo Parnigotto: open possibility on our website

Andrea Wernig: Klagenfurt is offering a research grant to be used at the Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt in the amount of 4950 euro for 6 months. Split among a few students is possible. Proposal is to appear in June 2007. AARC members will receive notification.

Dr. Harald Heppner and Ms. Dietlinde Kastelliz: Karl-Franzens Universität Graz is offering two or three scholarships. Research fellowships 2007/08 for research at one of the five universities in Styria (8700 euro/10 months) are also available.

Dr. Sebastian Kempgen: Bamberg offers one study grant, maybe Regensburg can do the same.

Dr. Lucija Čok: not yet authorized, but probably one scholarship in Mathematics will be offered.

Dr. László Komlósi in the way of a general conclusion: detailed information and instructions should be provided by the IROs of the respective universities to ELISA in order to be made available on ELISA. Scholarship information should also be sent to all new members.

9. Doctoral studies, joint-degree programs (Bamberg – Pécs – Graz – Venice)

Dr. László Komlósi: reminds committee members that detailed information about doctoral programs in Trento has been provided by Dr. Maurizio Manzin in writing, to be found in the folders.

Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer: No decision has been made in the EU concerning the doctoral level. As for now, the accommodation of international students can be managed on a personal level by individual professors. The practice is that one enrolls in a program under personal arrangement and then step by step official support is sought and found. Student initiatives are very important.

Dr. Sebastian Kempgen: It will be legally possible to accommodate foreign students in doctoral programs in the future.

Dr. Drago Žagar: Local and personal initiative is very important.

Dr. László Komlósi: asks members to give information on their Joint Degree programs.

Dr. Harald Heppner: Universities of Graz – Ljubljana - Cluj have a Joint Degree in History in South-East-Europe. Universities Graz – Bamberg – Venice – Pécs – London – New York have a Joint Degree in English and American Studies. **Ms. Dietlinde Kastelliz** gives a detailed presentation about some more JDs that are coordinated by Graz.

Dr. Karl Stuhlfarrer: reports on profile preferences among the member universities. University of Klagenfurt has a Joint Degree in Austrian Literature in English with Udine and a student exchange programme on the doctoral level with Koper.

Dr. Sebastian Kempgen: University of Bamberg has signed JD agreements with University of Sarajevo and University of Tirana, in addition to the one mentioned by Graz.

Dr. Julijana Kristl: University of Ljubljana has three accredited JDs: 1. History in South-East-Europe, 2. European Studies with University of Trento, 3. Management and Administration with the University of Belgrade, starting in October 2007.

Dr. László Komlósi: since rules and conditions for doctoral programs have not been established by the EU, we concentrate on JDs in the near future.

10. Summer Schools

Ms. Andrea Wernig: gives information on summer school in Bovec: *Sommerkolleg – poletna šola – Corsi universitari estivi BOVEC, 16. 08 – 30. 08. 2007*

Dr. Lucija Čok: University of Koper also promotes a summer university, information in the folder: *2nd Summer School META Humanities (Mediterranean Summer School of Theoretical and Applied Humanities) in Koper, 22. 06 - 06. 07. 2007*

Dr. Harald Heppner: distributes information brochure.

Dr. László Komlósi: University of Pécs offers two summer schools: one in international law, one in Central-European Cultures and Hungary, information in folder: *Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University in Pécs, 29. 07. – 26. 08. 2007*

Dr. Sebastian Kempgen: BAYHOST – summer university in Würzburg with the title “*Young Teachers of German Language*”.

Dr. Aleksa Bjeliš: a Summer School of Croatian Language in Zagreb

Dr. Maurizio Manzin: Trento Summer Schools are to be found in folder.

11. University Networks

Ms. Gyöngyi Pozsgai: gives information on a new network UNEECC: University Network of European Capitals of Culture (www.uneecc.org)

Dr. Julijana Kristl: gives notice of the existence of UniAdrion, a virtual organisation.

Dr. Željko Knez: we used to be members, but decided to discontinue membership.

Dr. Domenico Patassini: calls attention to a vast array of possibilities for cooperation, such as FP7, INTERREG IV 2007-2013, trans-national cooperation Italy-Slovenia, Italy-Hungary, technological co-operations 2008-2010, etc.

12. Student Activities

Mr. Péter Radics: he introduces the outlines of a Student Conference during which students would earn credits. Plans are for the summer 2008 to be realized in Klagenfurt and depend greatly on the outcomes of negotiations with the Student Union in Klagenfurt.

14. Next Presidency - Establishing the date of the Rectors' Conference of the Alps Adriatic Universities in Klagenfurt for 2008

Dates recommended: AARC Advisory Committee Meeting – 8-9 November 2008
AARC 9-10 May 2008

15. AOB

Ms. Olivera Stevanovič: informs RC about a proposal of the Music Academy of Graz for AARC cooperation. Details will be sent to administration for distribution.

Pécs, 21 February, 2008

Signed by:

Karl Stuhlpfarrer

Eszter Sándorfi

László I. Komlósi