

Report of the Secretary, August 2007

This report covers the period from August 1, 2006

1. Personnel

The EEA office continues to be staffed only by Fiona Brown, a senior administrator in the Warwick Economics department, who works on EEA matters part-time. The EEA pays Warwick £20,000 (close to €30k) pa (plus VAT) for her time, the space, and expenses. Jim Saxton of Saxton IT Services continues to provide web design and support on a casual basis and he provides for the hosting of the EEA website on a commercial server at modest cost (approx €1100). In addition we use an independent accountant to prepare our accounts and arrange our affairs with the tax authorities (approx €1400).

The term of office for the current secretary will end in December 2007. I welcome the fact that the new secretariat be based within the euro-zone and that his appointment is in good time to ensure a problem-free handover. I plan to meet the incoming secretary at Budapest and arrange for a short visit to Warwick for him and, if possible, his administrative assistant.

2. Elections

The nominating committee for the 2006 election was comprised of:

Martin Hellwig (Chair), Andreu Mas Colell, Guido Tabellini, Ernst Fehr and three coopted council members, Francesca Cornelli, Eric Berglof, and Thomas Piketty.

Nick Stern was elected **Vice-President** for the Year **2007**. He will become President-Elect in 2008 and **President** of the EEA in 2009.

The newly elected members for the Council, for a term of office of five years starting 1 January 2008 are: Wendy Carlin, Armin Falk, Eliana la Ferrara and Enrica Perotti

Peter Neary chaired the Nominations Committee for 2007 and the voting website will go live soon after the conference.

3. Leaflet

The EEA leaflet has been updated for the Budapest conference

4. Websites

The EEA official site remains www.eeassoc.org and it is hosted at a secure commercial server in the . The content remains broadly similar to last year. In particular, it provides for on-line membership renewal and contains a secure members-only section. The handling of financial transfers is effected through a secure system provided by *PayPal* which is owned by *eBay*, the on-line auctioneer. This provides a credit card payment mechanism in multiple currencies at no cost to the member and with minimal transaction fees to the Association. An off-line facility remains for those who prefer not to use the on-line service.

The website hosts the facility for on-line voting which is live for the voting period (usually September).

The website now hosts the EEA jobmarket facility after its successful transfer from and I am grateful to Antonio Cabrales of UC3M for his support.

The JEEA website, www.jeea.org, provides for electronic submission of manuscripts by members and is currently managed by the JEEA office but the Secretariat has responsibility for its maintenance and development. Apart from having the facility for storing files associated with JEEA content (for example, datasets, etc), the content matches that of the MIT Press hosted site for JEEA – but in MIT livery rather than EEA. We have good communication with the JEEA office and are able to keep the website up-to-date.

The Congress website remains the responsibility of the local organisation and we have now provided better integration with the EEA site for the 2008 Conference in Budapest to facilitate joining members and paper submitters.

Please email me, via our website, if you have suggestions for improvements or additional functionality.

5. Email address

The default email address is eea@warwick.ac.uk and all earlier addresses remain operational.

6. Fellowship

The Secretariat continues to implement the decision of the executive committee to found a "Fellowship of the EEA" to honour economists who have made a significant contribution to the EEA and to economics research in Europe . All new EEA Council members are appointed to be Fellows of the EEA. The honour is also bestowed on the Association's officers, the editors of the association's journal, the Programme Chairs of its annual congresses, as well as the Marshall and Schumpeter Lecturers.

This is a lifetime fellowship aiming to foster a close relationship between the generations of economic researchers in Europe and to promote the development of economics research in Europe .

In January 2007 the newly elected council members became Fellows and the plenary speakers from Vienna John Moore and Raquel Fernandez, were already Fellows. One practical use of the Fellowship this year has been to provide the EU's new research evaluation system for FP7 with a ready-made list of experts to draw on for evaluation.

7. Membership and national associations

It is now possible to compare membership statistics with the last three years but comparisons with earlier years is problematic because membership is now for a period of 12 months from joining or renewing, while previously it was for the current calendar year. Comparisons are difficult because of the seasonality associated with the conference.

However, the last report of the previous Secretary declared that membership at the time of the Stockholm August 2003 conference was 1,774 plus 13 institutional members. The figure for June 2004 was approximately 10% lower at 1,604 plus 14 institutional members – partly due to the switch from EER to JEEA and partly from the move to making the process of joining the EEA an online only process. An on-line only membership, which gave rights only to electronic access to JEEA, was introduced for “students” in 2005. Membership was made a requirement for SUBMITTING a paper to the 2006 EA Conference in Amsterdam (matching the ES requirement for ESEM). The membership count 9th August 2006 was 2650 (plus 14 institutional members). The latest headcount, just prior to the 2007 conference is 2429 (+14) with more than half of regular members switching to on-line membership. Almost all student members are now online only.

Thus the latest figures available suggest that membership now stands at 2429. However, note that 47% of members have opted for online membership rather than print with some resulting loss of revenue. Membership income was €145,727 in 2004, €109,549 in 2005 and €183,669 in 2006 (figures taken from the end of year accounts, using the exchange rate at 31 Dec)

Finally, we have been attempting to implement the suggestion from last August that we have reciprocal discounts for members of European *national* associations. All Secretaries of European national associations that are listed as being paid-up members of the International Economic Association in Paris were emailed, twice – only six associations have responded so far. All said that they need approval and are at various stages of acquiring it. We are actively pursuing Spanish, Italian, French and Czech associations and other associations have recently been re-invited to participate.

8. Suggestions for the future

We have achieved the major objectives following the move of the Secretariat to Warwick . Electronic membership and voting has been provided.

In addition the FEEA has been established and slow progress is being made in establishing partnerships with national organisations.

Outstanding tasks are: to rationalise the statutes; secure the transfer of the long-term accounts of the EEA from to the new Treasurer; and cooperate with the new secretariat in the run up to the transfer in January 2008.

Further suggestions are welcome.

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University of Warwick , August 2007