



BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 28 January 2014 at 9.00-12.00

Place: University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM), Olsztyn
Oczapowski str. 2, Rectorate building, room 102

Members:

Kari Hyppönen, President, Chairman

Yury Vaitukevich, Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno

~~Reesi Lepa, University of Tartu~~

~~Riitta Pyykkö, University of Turku~~

~~Andris Kangro, University of Latvia~~

~~Raimonda Markeviciene, Vilnius University~~

Alojzy Novak, University of Warsaw

Dmitry Vasilenko, St. Petersburg State University of Economics

Substitutes:

~~Grodno State Agrarian University~~

~~Estonian University of Life Sciences~~

~~University of Eastern Finland~~

~~Uldis Sukovskis, Riga Technical University~~

~~Sigitas Stanys, Kaunas University of Technology~~

Jerzy Jaroszewski, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn

~~Anna Zaychenko, Yaroslav the Wise Novgorod State University~~

Secretariat:

Agnieszka Matejko, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM)

Daria Czyżewska, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM)

~~Tatiana Solobaeva, St. Petersburg State University of Economics (FINEC)~~

Invited:

Ryszard Górecki, Rector of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM)

1. Opening of the meeting

Jerzy Jaroszewski, Vice-Rector of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Introduction of the members of the Steering Committee (SC)

The present Steering Committee and BSRUN secretarial office members introduced themselves.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda circulated to SC on 13 January 2014 was adopted.

Chairman of 2014 BSPC, Ryszard Górecki, Rector of the UWM in Olsztyn, discussed the role of BSRUN in the organization of the 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) in Olsztyn in August 2014 which will be providing a speaker in the field of 'university cooperation'. Rector Ryszard Górecki presented major topics and preliminary programme of the conference.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

SC took note of the minutes of the SC meeting organized in Riga on 12 September 2013. (*Annex 1*)

5. Announcements

BSRUN rules and regulations were circulated for information. (*Annex 2*)

Current composition of SC was circulated for information during the SC meeting. Three institutions have not yet appointed their representatives.

Chairman has also invited a Belarusian State University (BSU) representative to attend the meeting, since BSU was not yet member in March when the composition of the SC was decided.

BSU could not participate.

6. Chairman's information (meetings and visits)

- EMA2 and BSRUN joint event in St. Petersburg on 3 October 2013.
- Discussions at St. Petersburg State University on cooperation in PhD Programmes on 4 October 2013.
- BSRUN and CBSS joint event on University Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in Turku on 28 October.
- Discussions at the CBSS Secretariat in Stockholm about the strategic partnership

role of BSRUN on 8 October 2013.

- Discussions in Minsk about BSRUN activities in Belarus (partly in cooperation with CBSS) on 31 October and 9-10 December 2013 .
- Discussions at the University of Gdansk on BSRUN membership possibility on 27.02.2014.

7. Composition of Secretariat (Functions and Contacts)

Jerzy Jaroszewski (UWM) and Dmitry Vasilenko (UNECON) presented current management structure of secretariat and contact information. (*Annex 3*)

Preparation of new BSRUN brochure and use of Russian language on the web page and in marketing were discussed.

Question of President's contract/form of employment was touched upon.

8. Tasks and organisation of SC

Reference to SC 12 September 2013 meeting minutes item 7 and to BSRUN rules and regulations 6.2.2. and 6.3.

Plenary Meeting (PM) in Riga on 22 March decided to establish a new Steering Committee for 2014-2016 with only one member per country with his/her personal substitute. The idea was to upgrade the SC representation to vice-rector level, if the institutions agree, so that information would reach better the senior management of the institution in order to get the necessary feedback for the future.

❖ Current composition of the SC:

Kari Hyppönen, Chairman

MEMBERS:

Yury Vaitukevich, Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno

Reesi Lepa - University of Tartu

Riitta Pyykkö - University of Turku

Andris Kangro - University of Latvia

Raimonda Markeviciene - Vilnius University

Alojzy Novak - University of Warsaw

Dmitry Vasilenko, St. Petersburg State University of Economics

SUBSTITUTES:

No appointment - Grodno State Agrarian University

No appointment - Estonian University of Life Sciences

No appointment - University of Eastern Finland

Uldis Sukovsis - Riga Technical University

Sigitas Stanys - Kaunas University of Technology

Jerzy Jaroszewski - University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn

Anna Zaychenko - Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University

SC members are responsible for the planning of the activities in their countries and also for supporting the local organizers responsible for the implementation of activities.

SC decided not to establish an Executive Committee and/or Sub-committees to assist SC in the planning and implementation of activities for now.

SC appointed Dmitry Vasilenko as a new Vice-President to act as a deputy to the President from amongst its members.

SC was invited to discuss the organisation of the work of SC. Yury Vaitukevich suggested to organize virtual meetings (f.ex. via Skype) in case of any urgent matter or absence of considerable number of SC members during a regular SC meeting.

9. Membership situation and payment of 2014 membership fees

At the end of 2013 BSRUN had 30 fee-paying members with some adjustments expected in 2014. The payment of St. Petersburg State University is still being clarified.

Reference to SC 12 September 2013 meeting minutes item 6.

Secretariat informed about current membership situation:

- Grodno State Agrarian University, Estonian University of Life Sciences and University of Eastern Finland did not appoint their SC and administrative representatives yet.
- Joining of BSRUN by the North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (NWIM RANEPA).

NWIM RANEPA has expressed the wish to join. The letter of request dated 21 January 2014, signed by Director Vladimir Shamakhov, was circulated for the approval of present SC Members. (*Annex 4*)

SC recommended the application for approval and a letter by BSRUN President will be sent to the current members to seek their approval within two weeks.

- Rejoining of BSRUN by University of Gdańsk.

University of Gdańsk has expressed the wish to rejoin, now the President and Secretariat are waiting for a formal letter by Rector Bernard Lammek. The Rector should also inform BSRUN President and Secretariat of the person who will be the administrator contact for BSRUN at University of Gdańsk.

SC approved the process in advance. There is no need to ask for the approval from the current members since the university has gone through the process already once.

Secretariat informed about this year's payment procedure of membership fees. University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn will send Accounting Notes to each BSRUN member which should be paid within 30 days of its receipt. (*Annex 5*)

10. BSRUN budget for 2014

BSRUN rules and regulations para. 6.6.4. stipulate that SC approves annually the budget for next calendar year and the report of expenditures of the previous year.

The University of Latvia as the previous host of the secretariat has submitted the closing figures of the accounts for 2013. (*Annex 6*)

Chairman presents BSRUN's budget for 2014 and circulates it during SC meeting. (*Annex 7*)

SC approved the documents.

11. BSRUN events

- BSRUN planned meeting of the project on the Future of EuroFaculties at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM) will take place after SC meeting, on 28 January 2014. Programme of the Project Meeting will be available for all the members. (*Annex 8*)

Chairman has invited project staff from the University of Turku to attend the meeting to discuss this issue.

Information about the grant was circulated for information. (*Annex 9*)

- BSRUN Seminar on the Experiences of the EuroFaculties for the Future at Belarusian State University (BSU) in Minsk on 4 March 2014.
- BSRUN Seminar of Joint PhD Programs at St. Petersburg State University, April 2014

Reference to SC 12 September 2013 meeting minutes item 9. The prospective host institution has proposed to evaluate the situation in May-June.

- Annual BSRUN Forum 2014 at St.-Petersburg State University of Economics, 14-16 May 2014

Dmitry Vasilenko informed about the current state of planning. The invitation, programme, agenda and registration form were sent to the respective representatives of higher education institutions.

- BSRUN Contacts' Meeting linked up with the Annual BSRUN Forum. This year it will take place right before the Annual Forum on 14 May 2014 (most probably at 13.00). Circular to BSRUN members will be send to inform all contacts of their tasks and importance of their position.

- The role of BSRUN in the organization of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) in Olsztyn on 24-26 August 2014.

This issue was discussed at the beginning of the SC Meeting with Chairman of 2014 BSPC, Ryszard Górecki, Rector of the UWM in Olsztyn (see para. 3).

SC discussed few possibilities of future activities (Alojzy Novak, suggested organization of various types of seminars with a possibility of publishing research papers).

12. BSRUN strategy for the future

SC was invited to discuss drafting of BSRUN strategy for the future:

- Alojzy Novak suggested:
 - creating cooperation with network of research institutions and museums
 - building a research center (Rector Ryszard Górecki supported this idea implying that such center should carry a name: Research Center of the Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage)
 - changes of the functioning of the organization (BSRUN should be more concentrated on organizing scientific seminars, forums, conferences with the end of publishing papers)
- publishing BSRUN's own scientific journal (Dmitry Vasilenko supports this idea suggesting a title 'Baltic Sea Region Top Topics', in his opinion such journal should concentrate on social sciences)
 - creating list of 50-60 researchers/academic staff members who are experts in their field and will be willing to teach abroad (teaching staff mobility)
- Yury Vaitukevich (GRSU) advises:
 - to create a group of professionals who would represent all the member universities outside of BSRUN, their main objective would be connecting science with business sector
 - to prepare a questionnaire in order to clarify BSRUN's mission and vision for the future and circulate it to all the members (Dmitry Vasilenko volunteered to assist in the drafting of the questionnaire)

13. Date of the next meeting

Next SC meeting will be organized back to back with the Annual BSRUN Forum in St. Petersburg on 16 May 2014, at 15.00.

SC is invited to discuss the frequency of meetings taking into account what has been decided above under item 6.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 12 and thanked SC for their contribution.