

DRAFT

ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL ECONOMICS INTERNATIONAL

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF July 8, 2006

Vienna, Austria

Mel Gray (President) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing members of the Executive Board. He thanked the Board and paid special tribute and thanks to Neil Alper (Executive Secretary-Treasurer) who, after many years of exceptionally generous and efficient service on behalf of the ACEI, plans to retire ahead of the next General Meeting.

Gray encouraged non-members present to join the ACEI and members to play an active role. He noted that Bruce Seaman, head of the Nominations Committee, would welcome nominations for the position of next President-Elect. The Committee (Goto, Fernandez-Blanco, Ulibarri, Snowball, Soh and Lazeretti) is also seeking to replace three members of the Executive Board and has nominated six candidates for these three positions: Roberto Zanola (Italy), Marilena Vecco (Italy), Steven Tepper (USA), Monika Mokre (Austria), Carlos Ulibarri (Mexico/USA) and Hazuko Goto (Japan). A postal (email) ballot will take place in Autumn.

Gray thanked members of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Cultural Economics (JCE): Rushton (JCE-incoming co-editor/outgoing book review editor), Schulze (JCE-co-editor), Schuster (JCE-outgoing co-editor), Snowball (JCE-incoming book review editor), Wetzels-Vandai (Springer).

Michael Rushton encouraged submissions to JCEC from delegates and members of the ACEI; indicated that electronic procedures have been introduced to speed up the processing of papers submitted to the journal; and expressed appreciation for the work carried out by referees.

Gray announced that Presidents' Prize for 2006 is awarded to Jonathan Beck (Germany) for his conference paper entitled *The sales effect of word of mouth: a model for creative goods and estimates for novels*. This paper will be considered for the JCEC and Beck will be awarded free admission to the next ACEI conference.

Gray thanked the Newsletter editor Byung-Hee Soh (South Korea) for his work. Soh reminded members that the Newsletter is published bi-annually and

disseminated electronically and he invited contributions in the form of country reports, book reports, notifications of forthcoming conferences etc.

Gray commended the excellent work of the Conference Organising team (Towse, Mokre, Stepan, Mayerhofer) on bringing together a great programme in a wonderful city. He noted that the conference had included a Young Researchers workshop for the first time and this initiative appeared to prove successful. He also noted that the ACEI conference has been enriched on this occasion through being organized in conjunction with the STP&A conference. Gray emphasized the debt of gratitude owed to Towse, Mokre and the rest of the organizers.

Ruth Towse (President-Elect) thanked FOKUS for hosting the conference and also paid special thanks to Monika Mokre, Paul Stepan and Elizabeth Mayerhofer. She thanked Xavier Castaner for work in organizing the Pre-Conference Workshop which she hopes will become established as a more regular feature in future conferences.

Towse announced that the 15th ACEI conference will be hosted by Haute Ecole de Commerce (HEC) in Montreal. Francois Colbert of HEC, who will lead on local arrangements, thanked the ACEI for choosing Montreal.

Under Any Other Business, one delegate suggested that it would be helpful at future GMs to have an Agenda and possibly an update on budgetary matters. There was general discussion about how best to organize the process of selection of papers at future conferences and, in particular, how to deal with those whose papers are accepted but who subsequently don't attend the conference. It was agreed that the incoming President-Elect be invited to consider procedures in this area.

Gray thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting to a close.

Gillian Doyle
Member of the Executive Board and Acting Minutes Secretary
August 2, 2006