

International MBA in Agri-Business Annual Board Meeting

August 29, 2007 in Freiburg

Draft Minutes



Present: Wim Heijman
Marian Jonker
Harry Bremmers
Edward Majewski
Nebojsa Novkovic
Wesna Rodic
Zorica Vasiljevic
Slobodan Ceranic
Tamara Pavnovic
Thordis Moeller
Josip Juracak
Bruce Ahrendsen
Ivana Ticha
David McKenzie
Laszlo Karpati
Andras Nabradi
Elena Kovtoun

Wageningen (NL)
Wageningen (NL)
Wageningen (NL)
Warsaw (PL)
Novisad (Serbia)
Novisad (Serbia)
Belgrade (Serbia)
Belgrade (Serbia)
Belgrade (Serbia)
Berlin (DE)
Zagreb (Croatia)
Arkansas (USA)
Prague (Czech)
Aberdeen (UK)
Debrecen (H)
Debrecen (H)
Kiev (Ukraine)

7. Research Papers Series (Apstract): Andras Nabradi, Debrecen
8. ICA issues: Quality Project, Wim Heijman
9. Report on Leonardo Project: a.o. Edward Majewski, Warsaw
10. Miscellaneous
11. Date and venue of the annual meeting 2008
12. Closing

Apologies from

Jim Booth Scotland (UK)
Jan Hron Prague (Czech)
Mark Cochran Arkansas (USA)
Garth Entwistle Scotland (UK)
Jasmina Havranek Zagreb (Croatia)
Herbert Strobel Weihenstephan (DE)
H.L. Goodwin Arkansas (USA)

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Minutes of the 2006 annual meeting (Fayetteville, Ark.)
3. Announcements
4. Board's issues
5. Reports on the MBA programmes in Warsaw, Prague, Debrecen, Kiev, Moscow, Zagreb and Belgrade
6. Constitution and bylaws of the associations: David McKenzie, Andras Nabradi

1. Opening

The chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Board Meeting.

2. Minutes of the 2006 annual meeting (Fayetteville, Ark.)

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Announcements

No announcements.

4. Board's issues

Three nominations for new boardmembers:

- Bruce Ahrendsen from Arkansas (USA), lecturer in the MBA program, important for connections with the USA.
- Harry Bremmers from Wageningen (NL), already involved in the MBA program for Finance and Accounting.
- Sergey Melnichuk (Ukraine), Vice Rector of the Agricultural University of Kiev. Strengthening the links with Kiev is important.

All nominations are accepted as Board Members.

5. Reports on the MBA programmes

Warsaw report

Edward Majewski presented the report for the Warsaw programme 2006/07:

- only 12 students attend the course. 15 students is the break even point. For the next course some extra promotion should be made.
- studyresults are in average.
- teacher's evaluation is good.
- celebration 10th anniversary of MBA course
- Managerial methods and techniques are very successful.

Leonardo project:

October 2004–March 2007. Nine partners involved. All materials (handbooks, materials for distance learning, etc.) are on the website. Edward Majewski will open this website for all members of the MBA network. Wim Heijman will provide a list of all members.

Prague report

Ivana Ticha presented the report:

- last year some changes in personnel
- 21 students
- evaluation teachers is good
- finances: self sustaining
- study week next year will be organised by Prague.
- Ivana Ticha invites all other MBA courses for the studyweek.

Kiev report

- Elena Kovtoun presented the report.
- For the modules starting in November 2007, May and September 2008 international teachers will be asked for giving lectures in the MBA course. A module takes two weeks, part of it should be given by an international lecturer.
- The level of English language is not clear yet, especially for the part time students it will be difficult.
- Dr Kovtoun will get in contact with Wim Heijman about the international teachers.
- In 2008 re-accreditation has to take place.

Debrecen report

- 20 students
- for the final exam the boardmembers are invited
- last year no new MBA course started because of the break even point.
- Probably this year a new course will start with enough students.
- For this course international lecturers are needed. Laszlo Karpati suggests also the use of video conferencing.

Moscow report

There are no representatives from Moscow. Because Moscow has not responded for two years, Moscow will be skipped from the list.

Zagreb report

- The MBA course started in the framework of the TEMPUS project AHEAD. The final examination will be on December 10th and 11th in Zagreb. Until now the studyresults are good. A committee of this meeting is invited to attend the exams.
- The MBA will be fully recognized by the authorities and the University of Zagreb. Probably the post study will be accredited before December this year. Now the International MBA Network is asked for an international accreditation of the MBA course in Zagreb.
- The next generation of the MBA course will start early 2008, without TEMPUS. Then the students have to pay tuition fee.

Belgrade report

- The MBA started in spring this year under TEMPUS. The Serbian MBA started with the module General Economics, which already has been completed. 30 Students attend the course, the level of English is good. The website of the MBA in Serbia is: mba_tempus.polj.ns.ac.yu
- The experiences around accreditation in Zagreb will be very important for Serbia.

6. Constitutions and bylaws of the association

For the network it is important to be recognized as a legal body. A formal agreement however means a lot of bureaucracy and is very costly. It is important to be independent of the universities. But it is also possible to let the universities sign a kind of memorandum. Then the universities should be in the board.

David McKenzie will send a proposal by e-mail to all boardmembers, with a request for reactions. Edward Majewski will try to find out if a kind of foundation in Poland is possible. Next year a decision will be made by the board.

8. ICA issues: Quality Project

The ICA will start an accrediting agency. The accreditation will be very costly, around 20.000 Euros to 30.000 Euros. Maybe it can go down to 15.000 Euros, but still it is too expensive for our MBA.

The proposal will be discussed in the boardmeeting of the ICA. Wim Heijman doesn't think that there will be conclusions by now. It will take a few years.

Decided is to continue in our own way and see how everything develops.

9. Report on the Leonardo Project

See also point 5 of these minutes.

It is important that the website with the materials of the Leonardo project is also open for the members of this board. Also the websites of Kiev and Belgrade should be linked. Kiev and Belgrade will send their details of the website to Edward Majewski.

7. Research Papers Series (APSTRACT)

First of all there is a lot of appreciation for the first APSTRACT.

The price of the first Apstract including CD is around 6000 Euros. The first edition was subsidized by Wim Heijman. For the next edition it is important that libraries should subscribe and pay for it. All members of this board will ask their libraries to subscribe. Andras Nabradi will make calculations and send them around.

Furthermore is decided that:

- everybody will advertise with Apstract
- all MBA students will get the Apstract
- when members write articles, please make citations of Apstract
- the second edition will be ready beginning next year
- at this moment it is free to download Apstract from the website. Maybe later a payment should be asked for
- there is a need for good articles. Wim Heijman and Laszlo Karpati will review the articles. Also photos are welcome. Boardmembers will send their interim MBA report to Andras Nabradi, he will make a summary of it for the next edition. The best MBA thesis should also be sent to Andras Nabradi. Prague will make an introduction for the second edition; Warsaw will follow with the third edition.

- All materials should be sent before the end of October to Andras Nabradi.
- Wim Heijman will be the editor in chief of Apstract.

11. Date and venue of the annual meeting 2008

Because the AHEAD project of TEMPUS has its final meeting in Dubrovnik next year, it is decided to have the annual meeting on Wednesday, August 27 2008 in Dubrovnik. Also all members of the board are invited for the closing meeting of the AHEAD project.

10. Miscellaneous

Accreditation issues

Zagreb has to be accredited for the first time, Kiev and Warsaw have to be reaccredited.

A commission of the board is appointed to do this job:

- Wim Heijman
- David McKenzie
- Ivana Ticha

Board

- Wim Heijman will resign as chairman but will stay in the Executive Committee. He will be succeeded by Ivana Ticha (Prague).
- There is a need for more structure in the network. A mission statement should be made. Also there should be a discussion about the strategy to extend the network. A meeting to discuss the future of the network should be organized.

Studyweek

Prague will organize this week, probably at the end of May 2008.

