

**NFU –
Minutes from the General Assembly 2005
Held at Noragric, June 20, 2005, at 17:30**

Present:

16 NFR-members: Omar Drammeh, Anne M. Sønneland, M. Nurul I. Shekh, Anne K. Haugestad, Einar Braathen, Olav Stokke, Darley Jose Kjosavik (board member), Morten Bøås (board member), Guro Aandahl (board member), Asuncion St. Clair (dep. board member), Jan M. Haakonsen, Tor Arve Benjaminsen (board member), Haakon Lein, Håkon Fottland (board leader), Desmond McNeill, Trond Vedeld.

Two observers: Torstein R. Berg and Vibeke Andersson from Aalborg University, Denmark.

1. Constitution of meeting and approval of agenda

The meeting was constituted and the agenda approved.

Haakon Lein was selected to lead the meeting, and Guro Aandahl and Einar Braathen were selected as reporters.

2. NFU Annual Report 2005

Håkon Fottland presented the Annual Report, which was accepted by the General Assembly.

3. NFU Audited Accounts

Tor Arve Benjaminsen presented the accounts for 2005. The financial situation is healthy. The accounts were accepted.

The audit reports for the last financial years (2004 and 2005) were also presented by T.A. Benjaminsen, and approved by the General Assembly.

4. Information: Accounts for NFU Annual Conference 2004

The accounts for the NFU Annual Conference 2004, held by Centre for Development Studies/GHERA at University of Bergen, were presented. This was for our information only. The deficit of NOK 11120,- was covered by the Centre for Development Studies, UoB.

5. NFU Annual Conference 2006

Asuncion St.Clair presented the theme for next year's NFU conference, proposed by Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo and University of Bergen in collaboration with CMI and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights.

The preliminary title of the conference is "Ethics, Human Rights, and Development", to be held in Oslo in September 2006.

The General Assembly approved of the proposal. There was a small discussion of whether the Annual Conferences should be held in September or June. The General Assembly decided that the timing of the conference is up to the organizers, but should be decided in agreement with the NFU Board.

6. New association articles of NFU

Håkon Fottland presented the revised and translated Articles of Association.

The General Assembly adopted the new Articles with the following revisions:

- The term "chairman" should be changed to "chair".
- The dates of establishment and revision of the Articles should be mentioned at the beginning of the document.

7. NFU Membership fees for 2006

The Board proposed to keep the same membership fees for next year: NOK 400 for full membership, and NOK 200 for student membership.

This was approved by the General Assembly.

8. Work Plan and Budget for 2006.

Håkon Fottland presented the proposal for work plan and budget for next year.

The work plan was approved by the General Assembly with the following revisions:

- First bullet point should read: “Work towards having a very good Annual Conference 2006”
- Fifth bullet point should read: “Seek to arrange local seminars. One is considered in Bergen”.
- The General Assembly encouraged the Board to follow up the level of funding for development research from the government after the election in September.
- Trond Vedeld advised the Board on how to improve the communications with EADI. The EADI Working Groups are excellent platforms for meeting some of the best institutions and researchers on the European arena, and also for getting funding from the EU.
- The General Assembly encouraged the Board to support Desmond McNeill’s candidacy for EADI President. This can be done by informing institutional and individual members of his candidacy, and encourage them to vote for him. Individual EADI members who are present at the Annual Meeting of EADI in Bonn in September can vote. Institutional members have 10 votes and can vote through proxy.

The budget was approved with the following change:

- The post for Forum for Development Studies was doubled from NOK 36,000 to NOK 72,000. This is because of the long work year, which makes it likely that we will receive two invoices from NUPI in the period.

9. Elections

Einar Braathen presented the proposal from the Election Committee.

The General Assembly approved of the proposal unanimously. The new board members for 2005-2006 are:

Chair: **Håkon Fottland**, SEMUT, University of Tromsø. (not for election this year)

Board members:

Tina Søreide, CMI, Bergen (not for election)

Guro Aandahl, SUM, University of Oslo (not for election)

Morten Bøås, Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies (not for election)

Tale Baadsvik, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim (not for election)

Ketil Fred Hansen, The North/South Coalition (Idégruppen Nord/Sør) (re-elected)

Darley Jose Kjosavik, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås (re-elected)

Elisabeth Sandersen, KVINNFORSK, University of Tromsø (re-elected)

Asunción Lera St.Clair, Department of Sociology, University of Bergen (new)

Deputy board members:

Atle Solberg, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen (re-elected)

Kjetil Tronvoll, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo (re-elected)

Siri Hellevik, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR), Oslo (new)

Poul Wisborg, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås (new)

Election Committee:

Siri Gloppen, CMI, Bergen (re-elected)

Ruth Haug, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås (re-elected)

Einar Braathen, NIBR, Oslo (re-elected)

Nomination for EADI-representative:

Trond Vedeld having asked not to be re-elected, the General Assembly asked the Board to nominate a Norwegian representative for the EADI Executive Committee. This should preferably be a board member, but may also be a person from outside if not possible. The EADI Executive Committee is elected at the EADI General Assembly, to be held in Bonn in September 2005.

Auditor:

Hans-Jørgen Oppi Christiansen, SUM, University of Oslo

Oslo, 29th of June, 2005

Guro Aandahl

Einar Braathen