

Minutes - NFU General Assembly 2008,
27 Nov. 2008, 18.00-19.00,
NTNU, Dragvoll

1) Constitute meeting and approve agenda

a. Election of General Assembly Chair and two Reporters

Chair: Axel Borchgrevink,

Reporters: Kristen Nordhaug, Anne Margrethe Sønneland

b. Approval of agenda

Agenda approved.

2) Annual report 2008

The meeting commented:

- The number of student members is very low
- Olav Stokke was thanked for 35 years in service as Editor of Forum for Development studies
- The necessity to appoint two new Editors in his place (Borchgrevink and Nustad) was noted.
- The new editors of Forum was encouraged to work in order to get Forum upgraded to a Level 2 publication.
- Disappointment that the NFU Prize and the NFU Master Thesis Competition had not been announced.
- Satisfaction that NFU had applied twice to NordForsk, but disappointment with no funds being allocated.

Annual report was approved.

3) Accounts 2008

The presented accounts for 2008, but not the Auditors report.

The general assembly approved of the account on the condition of the Auditors approval.

4) NFU conference 2009

a. Potential applicants for next years conference:

The Board had been in contact with SIK in Stavanger and the University of Agder.

The applicants were requested to consult with the Norwegian Research Council, also to seek to make the conference a mote Nordic event

The general assembly leaves the decision on theme and venue of the next NFR conference to the new board in consultation with NRC.

- b. Comments on this year's annual conference
 - i. The organizer this year summarized some of the challenges they have faced on this year's conference: The timing of the conference should be reconsidered in order to avoid exam periods. There has also been a huge loss of registered participants; 150 signed up for the conference, around 75 showed. Suggestion: Participants should have to pay in advance, and only participants who have paid should appear on the final list of participants. Discussions: should the conference be held only every second year? Against this suggestion was argued that NFU would be weakened and lose some of its momentum.
 - ii. Suggestions for next year: Cooperate with institutions in the Nordic countries in order to arrange Nordic conferences.

5) NFU membership fees 2009

The fees were approved to be maintained at level of last year's fees.

6) Work plan and Budget 2009.

It was noted that the Work plan and budget in the documents distributed to the meeting were not right. The correct work plan and the budget were presented to the general assembly at the meeting as follows:

- Work to arrange the NFU Annual Conference 2009
- Promote the Forum for Development Studies
- Participate in national initiatives to improve conditions for development research
- Announce the NFU prize and the NFU Master Thesis Competition 2008-09
- Work to improve the website and the flow of information on development research
- Work with the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) through the Norwegian Executive Committee member and at Directors meetings
- Follow-up on the Nordic co-operation initiative

The proposed budget had income of 75.100 and expenses 119.300.

Work plan and budget 2009 were approved

7) Election of NFU Board 2009

Chair: Håkon Fottland (re-election)

Board members

Anders Asphaug (prev. deputy)
Kathleen Jennings (new)
Hilde Kjøstvedt (new)
Knut Nustad (new)
Maren Aase (new)

Board members not on election

Kristen Nordhaug
Vibeke Wang
Poul Wisborg

Deputy Board members

It was approved that the incoming Board will request the previous deputies and the Auditor to continue their service in 2009. There is also need to replace one member of the Nomination committee.

Note:

Prof. Carl-Eric Schulz, Noragric was elected as member of the Board, but died in a tragic accident in Cape Town just 3 days after the General Assembly.

(end)