

Minutes of GEECT General Assembly  
CILECT Congress - Chapman University, 14 October 2014

Day 1 – Tuesday October 14

Marc Nicolas opens the session with the agenda of the GA and goes through the topics that will be dealt with during the two days dedicated to the regional associations.

The first day will be dedicated to the reports, both activities and finances, and the presentation of the candidates for the new members of the board.

The second day will be dedicated to the elections, the speech of the outgoing executive and the new one, and the presentations of the conferences confirmed for 2015.

He then welcomes the new member schools and calls all the GEECT participants attending the congress for a list of the voters in each participating school.

1. Report of the activities from May 2012 to September 2014

a) Conferences

Because of the yearly conference of CILECT in Buenos Aires 2013, only three conferences took place over this period, one at NATFA in Sofia, one at La Fémis in Paris, and one at DDF in Copenhagen. Because of the changes at Newport, only one conference will take place in 2014 on Teaching Documentary in Cardiff.

All conferences were well attended with many members, from Europe and from the other regions as well. Reports are available on the CILECT website.

Two conferences have been confirmed for 2015, one at IADT in Dublin and one at Sam Spiegel in Jerusalem.

The conferences for 2016 will be decided by the new executive.

b) Student Meetings

This activity, which was successful but did not create a lot of demand from the members, should still continue to be considered as it would allow students from different schools to meet, share and learn.

c) Research papers

One research paper was launched on the financing of film schools. About 20 schools completed the survey, which was not enough for a proper comparative analysis of the topic. However it finally led to the creation of the CILECT profile, which will be filled in by the schools themselves and which information will be available on the CILECT website.

d) Initial training scheme

This programme did very well for 8 years, but it finally came to an end because of the changes within the European Commission, which decided to transfer this scheme from Media to Erasmus +. Not only this transfer was very drastic in its decision but it

did not inform all film schools of the necessity of obtaining the Erasmus Charter in order to apply. A lot of meetings and letters were produced so that the Commission would accept to change its decision or at least be more flexible but it was impossible to do so because the complicated procedure these kind of decisions go through between the Commission and the Parliament. So film schools will stay with Erasmus+ and they should definitely apply as it brings a lot of good opportunities and financial means to implement many activities.

Maybe a future GEECT conference should be dedicated to sharing knowledge and experience on working with Erasmus+.

However lobbying should continue with the European Commission so that they explain to the Erasmus representatives what film schools are, what they do, and what are the specificities of their studies and their students.

On this latter, Robin MacPherson suggests that GEECT could make an evaluation of the successful results of the previous programmes funded by MEDIA so this document could be given to the Erasmus + national agencies to show what has been done in the past and the way it was done in the film school educational environment. Marc fully agrees with Robin's proposal.

As for the Charter, some schools already have it because of their belonging to a bigger educational entity or a university.

In 2014, only four schools have applied for the 2015 Charter (Insas, LFS, Femis, DFFB). If they obtain the charter, which has not been confirmed yet, they should tell the others film schools how they applied.

The Baltic Film School, Lusofona and Napier are getting money from Erasmus+ for a common degree. It would also be interesting that they tell the other schools how they applied.

Bert Beyens thinks that all schools should apply for the Erasmus+ Charter so they are much stronger as a community.

Pavel Jech mentions that some schools are still continuing with MEDIA in Creative Europe after switching their programme from the initial scheme to the continuous one. And Elen Lotman adds that with the MEDIA programme in Creative Europe non European countries can also be eligible. Is this the case with Erasmus + ? Marc agrees that this point should be checked in the near future.

## 2. Report of Finances for January 2012 to December 2014

Bert Beyens, treasurer of the association takes over for the report of the finances. He starts with the budget of 2012-2014, explaining the figures of the income over these two years, and then the figures of the costs. Some of these figures are the actual ones, whereas some others are estimates.

Then he reports on the provisional budget for 2014-2016, again with the estimates of the income and the costs, although some of the expenses for the two conferences in 2015 have already been confirmed.

Bart Römer regrets that the financial document has not been sent to the members prior to the meeting. Marc agrees that it should have been the case and apologises for this inconvenience.

Both budgets, unanimously approved by the assembly, will be sent to the members with the minutes of the General Assembly for their consideration.

### 3. Presentation of the candidates

As agreed, the candidates are asked to do a short presentation of their profile and the reasons of their candidacy.

Manuel José Damasio explains that he would like to bring his knowledge and experience of the European funding opportunities, his links with both GEECT and CILECT countries, and his particular interest in film heritage.

Peter Hort describes their film department as a small entity in a very big organisation at the University of Westminster. Former producer and coproducer, he has been involved in teaching for the past 12 years. His involvement in GEECT has widened his contacts with other schools in other countries and improved his teaching. He would be very happy to give something back to the organisation after receiving so much, and happy to continue the great work done by the current executive.

« Jaya » Garrabost Jayalakshmi, who could not attend the congress, is presented by John Burgan. Jaya joined Newport recently and brought a lot to the school as a teacher and as a person. She knows little about GEECT and their activities but would bring her open minded attitude to the benefit of the association.

Elen Lotman reminds the members that she belongs to the board of Imago, the European Federation of Cinematographers. Humble compared to the other candidates, Elen admits that she is a new comer in teaching but a confirmed cinematographer which makes her feel confident that she can bring a lot to the organisation. And she wants to do so as an heir and successor of the late Jiri Sillart, her former teacher.

Bart Römer firmly believes that the issue of production and the issue of internationalisation are most important in film schools, which are more and more confronted to the changes and the challenges related to them. A film school can be very good on its own but much greater with many others as part of a community.

Jane Roscoe comes as a new member of this group after only two months at the head of LFS. She believes she should stand as an institution more than as an individual, as an international film school with many partnerships with other film schools. She would be very interested in supporting the lobbying activities of the organisation, a challenging role that she would be very keen to endorse.

Vinca Wiedmann is also a new comer. Humble towards this challenge, as she was appointed head of the school less than six months ago. She strongly believes that innovation is essential in this changing world and should be a key element of this organisation. Very important tools are needed to communicate and change, and she would be very interested in bringing in her involvement.

Bert Beyens tells the assembly that he will need their support if he wants to become their new chair and do the job properly. Being part of CILECT and GEECT has influenced very much his teaching. What is needed on the GEECT board : European affairs, artistic relevance, pedagogical experience, academic input. A place for an exchange of ideas and secrets...

Marc thanks all the new candidates for their presentations before they all meet again the following day for the elections.

## Day 2 – Wednesday October 15

### 1. Election of the new Executive

Marc explains the voting procedure which will start with the election of the President, followed by a first round for the election of one Member and a second round for the election of the other Member. This voting in two rounds allows the voters to decide for the second member depending on the choice of the first member.

Then the voting takes place with the following results :

- Voting for the President

Candidate : Bert Beyens

Voting schools (including 2 proxies) : 55

Yes : 54 votes

Against : 1 vote

**Bert Beyens is elected President of the GEECT Executive for a term of 4 years**

- Voting for Executive Member - 1st round

Voting schools (including 2 proxies) : 55

Manuel José Damasio : 12 votes

Peter Hort : 2 votes

Garrabost Jayalakshmi : 1 vote

Elen Lotman : 6 votes

Bart Römer : 4 votes

Jane Roscoe : 3 votes

Vinca Widemann : 27 votes

**Vinca Widemann is elected Member of the GEECT Executive for a term of 4 years**

- Voting for Executive Member - 2nd round

Voting schools (including 2 proxies) : 55

Manuel José Damasio : 28 votes

Peter Hort : 5 votes

Garrabost Jayalakshmi : 0 vote

Elen Lotman : 14 votes

Bart Römer : 2 votes

Jane Roscoe : 5 votes

Null : 1 vote

**Manuel José Damasio is elected Member of the GEECT Executive for a term of 4 years**

Marc congratulates the new President and the new members of the Executive and thanks the other candidates for their participation for a full support of the organisation.

## 2. Statement of the outgoing President and Executive

Before giving the floor to Bert, Marc reports on his achievements during his 8 year mandate, and in particular :

- an active GEECT with a lot of conferences for getting members to meet and share experience, knowledge, ideas.
  - a strong CILECT for making it into an organisation that is accessible to its members so they can trust and fully support their President and their Executive Council.
- Although the convincing took a lot of time and energy - especially in the years 2006-2010 when the whole CILECT board was very reluctant to any change - the improvements were finally confirmed in Barcelona : the statutes were changed for shorter terms and a smaller Council, a full time executive director was hired, and an annual conference was implemented for members to meet on a more regular basis.

The organisation is now much healthier and it works in a much smoother way.

The European association has fully recovered and is now doing very well. It is now time that the other regions get their act together and progress, despite their respective difficulties.

As a conclusion, Marc suggests that the next president of CILECT should be someone from GEECT. Members should give it a thought before the next CILECT elections in 2015.

He then thanks all the members of his executive, past and present, and all the member schools for their support !

Nik Powell thanks Marc and the work they have been doing together for the changes in CILECT, the improvements in GEECT, and for convincing Brussels to support film schools and film education, and all the members for their support.

Marc quickly informs the members of the increase of the fee that CILECT will propose to the members at the CILECT General Assembly. He personally strongly supports this increase and encourages all the members to seriously consider this proposal prior to the vote.

Marc then passes the floor to Bert who congratulates the outgoing members and the new ones.

## 3. General discussion conducted by the new President and Executive

Bert asks John Burgan to say a few words about the conference Newport will host on November 5-7 on Teaching Documentary. Because this topic has not been discussed for quite a while, it has attracted a lot of interest and many members have registered to attend. If there are any late comers, John suggests that they apply very soon.

Bert then asks Renen Schorr to present the best-kept secrets conference their school will do in Jerusalem in July 2015 on how schools build an alumni community. Sam Spiegel spends a lot of energy in this area and it would be interesting to share this experience with other film schools. It can be related to the Jerusalem Film Lab on

the development of first and second features, as part of the Jerusalem Film Festival. As a best-kept-secrets conference, it will not be a conference with keynote speakers, but focus on the opportunity for all the participating schools to present the way they handle their own alumni.

Donald Taylor Black talks about the conference they will host on production design in March 2015, with Alex McDowell as a key note speaker. Donald met Alex at a conference in Helsinki and was very impressed with his work and the innovative aspects of the way he dealt with production design. Jean-Christophe Puzos, head of the Production Design department at La Fémis will attend and speakers from every participating school should express their doubts and their achievements in this area, including schools which do not teach production design.

Renen proposes an idea for the student meeting scheme : in Cannes for producing students from different schools with an industry professional for a « life changing experience ».

Bert suggests that they continue with the GEECT conferences. Maybe one of the future conferences could be dedicated to teaching the teachers, on how they handle their first meeting with the students, do they « make it or blow it » ?

Thomas Stenderup refers to their course on training the trainers, which can be available to members interested in the topic.

Tommy Mard proposes a conference on reality television, not on fiction.

Elen Lotman proposes a conference on cinema in the city. Their second edition will be dedicated on architecture in films. It will take place in February 2015 if members are interested to attend.

Renen reminds that the conference in Amsterdam on best-kept technical secrets was very good as it gave the possibility to different members of film schools to meet. This type of conferences should definitely be kept in GEECT so that it is not only the heads of schools who meet but also heads of other departments.

Bert finishes with a few words on the work done by Christine Ghazarian during Marc 's mandate, who will not continue with GEECT and will return to her main Fémis activities. GEECT should consider to replace her for a better and smoother contact with the members on a regular basis.

End of the General Assembly at 11.45.