eCAADe Administrative Council Meeting

Meeting held on
25 September 2007

FH Frankfurt, Germany

MINUTES

Present: Henri Achten (HA) (President, in the Chair), Vassilis Bourdakis (VB), Andre Brown (AB), Nele De Meyere (NDM), Wolfgang Dokonal (WD), Jose Duarte (JD), Joachim Kieferle (JBK), Marc Muylle (MM), Bob Martens (BM), Johan Verbeke (JV), Tadeja Zupancic (TZ).

Invited: Gulen Cagdas, Birgul Colakuglu

Apologies for absence: Jonas af Klercker (JK), Alexander Asanowicz (AA), Thomas Kvan (TK), Jelena Petric (JP), Tom Maver (TM).

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1. Minutes of the previous meeting: mid year meeting at the Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, Department of Architecture in Brussels (23-24 March 2007)

(i) The Minutes of the mid year Council meeting were agreed.

(ii) There were no matters arising not already in the Agenda for this meeting.

(iii) The minutes of the AGM in Volos, already circulated, were agreed without comments.

(iv) There were no matters on AGM arising not already in the Agenda for this meeting.

2. eCAADe Conference 2007: Frankfurt

(i)   Overview of arrangements: Joachim Kieferle welcomed the eCAADe Council at the Fachhochschule and gave an overview of the arrangements. Around 160 registered for the conference. This high number of participants complicated the setting up of the sessions and the proceedings and is an issue to be taken into account by future conference organisers. JK suggested to develop guidelines/regulations on the use of references and key words. As for the use of Openconf, JK invited the council to discuss on this. The system worked very well for this conference. As CAADRIA and CAADFutures also use it, it was proposed to stick to this. The (dis)advantages will be discussed on during the conference. The question was raised whether eCAADe as an organization should provide the conference organizers with the system.

(ii) Other matters concerning the conference: IJAC cover competition announcement: It was said that this item would be dealt with later in the meeting.

(iii) Concerning the Ivan Petrovic Prize arrangements, the conference organizer was asked to provide a schedule indicating the young researchers. All council members were asked to inform WD which session of possible nominees they would attend.

(iv) JK was warmly thanked for the organization.

3. Secretariat of eCAADe

(i)   It was agreed that Nele De Meyere would be taking Minutes of the meeting.

(ii)   NDM presented the Statement of Accounts and Profit and Loss 2007 until this date. It was agreed that Silke Lang, Gilles Halin and Mike Knight would be asked to audit the accounts for 2006.

(iii)   The membership data analysis was discussed. It was agreed that WD and JD would do some preparatory work on how to get an overview of the expertise in the membership. It was suggested to use an existing online community system where people can virtually meet. At first a presentation of the council members will be provided as an example to the membership. More ideas for the analysis will be generated.

4. Composition and Roles of the Administrative Council

(i)   Composition: The council took notion of the resignation of Jonas af Klercker which is regretted. Yet the council wanted to thank Jonas af Klercker explicitly for the efforts for the association and wishes him the best for the future.

(ii)   The roles for the council were confirmed as follows: Vice Presidents (WD and JD); Treasurer (JV); Research (TM); Liaison (BM); Communications (AB and Martin Winchester); Secretariat (NDM). It was agreed to appoint five people as possible auditor: Silke Lang, Michael Mullins, Gilles Halin, Andrew Roberts and Mike Knight.

(iii)   Presidential election: During the AGM it will be announced that HA was re-elected unopposed and with unanimous support of the council as eCAADe president for another two year-term.

5. 2008/2009/2010 Conferences

i.   To discuss the proposal relating to maintenance of the Web review system Openconf: It was agreed to discuss this with JK during the conference.

ii.   Antwerp 2008: MM gave a review of recent arrangements: accommodation is almost finalized and flyers were sent to the sister organizations. Announcements on the keynote speakers and the architectural tours will be done during the next mid year meeting. Furthermore MM asked the council to bring him into contact with sponsors during the conference. Finally he made the following suggestions: 1. it may be of interest to aim for standardization of the conference website structure 2. it may be of use to put the policy on reduced fees on the eCAADe website.

iii.   Istanbul 2009: The conference will be jointly organized by Istanbul Technical University and Yildiz Technical University and hosted by Istanbul Technical University. The proposal was sent in advance to the eCAADe council. Birgul Colakoglu said that there were already preliminary contacts for accommodation and social activities. The conference organizers had questions on the conference fee. It was said that it is a policy to keep the conference fee relatively stable: 300 euro for an early registration and a substantial higher fee for late registration. To reach a breakeven point financially a minimum 75 à 80 subscriptions is necessary. On the other hand the number of papers accepted should be limited for practical reasons (session restrictions, proceedings,…). HA promised to send confirmation letters to both YTU and ITU.

iv.   Future proposals (2010 and onward): It was said that Zurich and Delft have reconfirmed their interest. For 2009 and 2010, respectively Istanbul and Zurich were confirmed earlier. Furthermore interest was expressed by France, Prague, Rome, Croatia, Scott Chase,… It was underlined that the group bidding, should have been visible during previous conferences. It was also said that it would be interesting for eCAADe to go to Eastern Europe. The question was raised whether there is no conflict between on the one hand the aim to extend and on the other hand the technical limitations (proceedings, organizational matters, sessions,..) the

organizers are facing. It was concluded that competition improves quality and is thus a good thing.

6. Parallel Organization Conferences: reports, links, planning for representation

1. ACADIA (Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1-7 October 2007): no one will attend.
2. SIGRADI (Mexico City, Mexico, 23-25 October 2007): TM will probably attend.
3. CAADRIA (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 9-12 April 2008): BM is planning to go there.
4. ASCAAD (Alexandria, Egypt, 26-28 November 2007): TM is invited as a keynote speaker.

7. Publications

(i)   Website: AB reported on the updates of the website. The following remarks were agreed upon:

- Last year's IP winners will be put on the website;

- Pictures of council members will be added;

- Guidelines for young researchers on how to write a good abstract will be written by HA and put online;

- Basic contents of previous conference websites will be gathered as they may be of interest for future conference organizers;

- Data on how many people are accessing the eCAADe website will be kept.

(ii)   International Journal of Architectural Computing – IJAC

- General matters: The poster for the IJAC cover competition was presented. It was agreed that a link for downloading the poster would be put on the eCAADe and IJAC website and that for further promotion the competition was to be announced at the AGM and the closing ceremony where copies of the poster will be handed out.

- Special issue following eCAADe conference: two senior editors have to be appointed for this issue. It was suggested that AB and JK and Karen Ehlers as conference organizers would do this. It was said that it would be checked with JK.

- Thomson Citation Index: It was said that Multiscience was pleased with the actions undertaken

(ii)   CUMINCAD

1. General matters: BM confirmed that all IJAC-papers are now also indexed in CUMINCAD. Also for the Frankfurt conference papers all full text sessions were included in the database in advance. A direct link from the conference schedule to the papers is provided.

2. Institutional membership: It was said that the institutional membership is a success for ACADIA in USA.

(iii)   Computer Graphics & Geometry

HA noted that following the eCAADe conference, he will with AA oversee a next special issue of CG&G. The last year it was before the actual eCAADe conference, which should be after the conference.

(iv)   Varia

-     It was said that there is no further contact with Automation in Construction, mainly because they have shifted focus more to engineering.

-     BM confirmed that the Automation in Construction special issue on CAADFutures 2005 was finally issued.

8. Any other Business

    (i)   Contact with SEFI: a meeting with SEFI was not organized yet but HA will continue this contact.

9. Next Council Meeting

    (i)   Arrangements for the mid year meeting in Brussels – The following dates were set: 28 and 29 March 2008.

    (ii)   Items for the meeting are invited (to HA).

    (iii)   The Meeting was closed and JK was thanked for hosting the meeting.