

AEARU 44th Board of Directors Meeting

April 24, 2019

University of Tsukuba

(videoconference)

PRESENT

Kyosuke NAGATA, Chairperson; President, University of Tsukuba

J. Chris LIN, Vice Chairperson; Deputy Vice President for International Affairs, National Taiwan University
(On behalf of President Chung-Ming KUAN)

Se-Jung OH, Immediate Past Chairperson; President, Seoul National University

Jiangfeng DU, Board Member; Vice President for International Cooperation, University of Science and Technology of China
(On behalf of President Xinhe BAO)

Sabrina Man Yee LIN, Board Member; Vice President for Institutional Advancement, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
(On behalf of President Wei Shyy)

Jun-ichi TAKADA, Board Member; Vice President for International Affairs, Tokyo Institute of Technology
(On behalf of President Kazuya MASU)

TIAN Gang, Board Member; Vice President, Peking University
(On behalf of President HAO Ping)

SECRETARIAT

Caroline BENTON, Vice President and Executive Director for Global Affairs, University of Tsukuba

Yukari KOBAYASHI, Secretary & Treasurer: Officer, Office of Global Initiatives, University of Tsukuba

AEARU 44th Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

April 24, 2019

10:00-11:30

University of Tsukuba

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Professor Caroline BENTON (Vice President, University of Tsukuba) thanked the attendees for joining the 44th Board Meeting and informed everyone that this videoconference will be recorded. She explained the ground rules of the videoconference. She asked everyone to turn on their microphone when they speak, state their name every time they speak, and mute their microphone after speaking. She introduced Chairperson Kyosuke NAGATA (President, University of Tsukuba) who opened the meeting.

1. Welcome Remark by Chairperson Kyosuke NAGATA

Chair NAGATA welcomed everyone to the 44th BOD Meeting and stated that they were conducting the meeting by videoconference for the first time in the history of AEARU, and expressed his wish to continue videoconferencing for future BOD meetings. He announced that Professor Benton will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for today's meeting.

2. Announcement of Recent Changes in the Presidency of Board member universities.

Professor BENTON informed the BOD of the changes in presidencies of the following BOD member universities. Each representative from the universities introduced their new president.

- National Taiwan University (NTU): Interim President Tei-Wei KUO to President Chung-Ming KUAN from January 2019.
Deputy Vice President J. Chris LIN (NTU) mentioned that President KUAN's research field is Economics and that he obtained a Master's degree from UC Davis and a Ph.D. from UC San Diego. President KUAN was a tenured professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign.
- Seoul National University (SNU): Acting President Chan-Wook PARK to President Se-Jung OH from February 2019.
President OH received a Ph.D. in Physics from Stanford University. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the meeting.
- Peking University (PKU): President LIN Jianhua to President HAO Ping from October 2018.
Vice President TIAN Gang (PKU) explained President HAO Ping's domestic and international experience. President HAO Ping was formerly the Vice Minister of Education of China. He has also served on many international committees, including UNESCO as its president.

II. CHANGE IN AEARU SECRETARY/TREASURER

1. Appointment of Secretary by Chair NAGATA

Professor BENTON introduced Ms. Yukari KOBAYASHI (University of Tsukuba) as the new AEARU secretary appointed by Chair NAGATA.

2. Appointment of Treasurer by the Board

Professor BENTON recommended Ms. KOBAYASHI for the position of AEARU Treasurer. The BOD gave their approval.

III. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Professor BENTON explained that a few minutes will be allotted, as electronic copies have been sent in advance, to review the previous meeting minutes, and that final versions of the minutes will be available on the AEARU website (aearu.com).

1. Minutes of the 43rd BOD Meeting; November 14, 2018; National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Vice President Sabrina LIN (HKUST) commented that there were topics deferred from the previous meeting, such as membership numbers, differentiation as well as financial sustainability. She suggested that a working group for the topics be organized to make some progress on the issues in the future. Professor BENTON thanked Vice President Sabrina LIN. There were no other comments from the BOD.

2. Minutes of the 24th AGM, November 14, 2018; National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Professor BENTON asked everyone to review the minutes of the 24th AGM. Vice President Sabrina LIN asked if a digital version of AEARU brochure is available on its website, as there was a discussion on eliminating printed copies. Professor BENTON explained that there is a membership list and links to each of the members' profiles on the website, and that the brochure itself was merely a compilation of member profiles. Since there were no further questions or comments, Chair NAGATA noted that the 24th AGM Minutes was confirmed by the BOD, and will be reported at the 25th AGM in October.

IV. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

1. AEARU Constitution Clause [3.8] Membership Obligations and Clause [3.9] Revocation of Membership

Current Clause [3.8] states that “... *All current members must hold at least one of the activities listed below every three years.*

· *Annual General Meeting*

· *Board of Directors Meeting*

(*Board of Directors members only*)

· *Other activities*”

Professor BENTON proposed changing this requirement to requiring members hold an event every 6 years, rather than every 3 years. Several universities have not been able to commit to an event every three years. Practically speaking, countries with more university members will have significantly more events in their countries if each

university is required to conduct an event every three years. This would result in a lot of events in a few countries and less in others.

Clause [3.9] Revocation of Membership states that “*Member institutions which fail to fulfill membership obligations specified in clause [3.8] must be identified by the Secretariat and automatically presented for assessment by the Board of Directors. Following appropriate deliberation, the Board members will vote on whether the institution’s membership should be considered for revocation at the Annual General Meeting.*”

Professor BENTON proposed to include an alternative possibility to the consideration of membership revocation. She suggested that the BOD could also choose to request that the member conduct an activity as soon as possible. This addition will allow for a more reasonable requirement of universities that have not conducted an activity over the last three years.

Professor BENTON, after some positive discussion among participants, noted that the proposed changes to Clause [3.8] and [3.9] have been approved, and that these will be presented to the AGM in October 2019 for voting.

2. AEARU Constitution Clause [5.2]: BOD Structure

Professor BENTON reminded the group that the issue of board composition was brought up at the previous BOD meeting, along with four different proposals. Given the direction of the prior discussion, the Secretariat proposed the following changes to Clause [5.2].

- Eliminating the Past Chair position while maintaining a total of seven members
- Instituting a term limit of two years except for the current Vice Chair
- Allowing for members to rejoin the Board after a two years’ absence if reelected.

Chair NAGATA noted that we no longer need the position of Past Chair as a means of retaining experience, as AEARU has accumulated much experience since its original foundation. Furthermore, the Past Chair position forced some members to be on the BOD for an excessive period of time. He also noted the general agreement on maintaining an odd number of BOD members. Given there were no comments or questions, Chair NAGATA acknowledged approval of the proposed changes to Clause [5.2], which will be presented to the AGM in October 2019 for vote.

Professor BENTON noted that procedurally, assuming these changes to the constitution are approved by the AGM this October, AEARU will have a completely new Board, except for the Vice Chair, who will become President of AEARU on January 1st, 2020.

3. Proposed Guidelines for Approval and Funding of Activities

Professor BENTON proposed a change to the funding guidelines, which would allow an event to take place with tentative funding approval. Actual funding would be disbursed after an event has taken place and a report submitted. This proposed change is in response to prior incidents, where funding was approved for an event, but the event required much less funding. Currently, we approve and disburse funding before an event has taken place, which causes problems if the event is cancelled.

Vice President Sabrina LIN concurred that the current system of funding was complex, in that it required a university to refund unspent money. She expressed, however, concern that each university would need to check to see if there were any accounting concerns with this arrangement, though she did not foresee any problems.

Professor BENTON noted that this change will be reported to the AGM at its next meeting.

V. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. The 45th BOD & 25th AGM Meetings; October 29-31, 2019, Yonsei University
Professor BENTON reconfirmed this meeting, with new dates as per Yonsei University's recent request. She asked for the BOD's consideration and approval of the new dates.

Professor Jun-ichi TAKADA (Tokyo Institute of Technology) noted that he can attend the meetings on these dates, but that the President of Tokyo Tech is not available to attend.

Professor BENTON asked if there were any other concerns regarding the new meeting dates and none were expressed.

2. The 46th BOD Meeting, Spring 2020; video conference to be hosted by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (possibly subject to change with the proposed change in Board of Director structure).

Professor BENTON announced the Spring 2020 BOD, which The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology previously agreed to host using videoconferencing.

Vice President Sabrina LIN noted, however, that with the proposed changes to Board membership, none of current members, except the Vice Chair, will remain as Board members. Therefore, she asked whether HKUST should host the 46th BOD.

Professor BENTON acknowledged that a member of the Board at the time of the meeting should be the host.

3. The 47th BOD meeting & 26th AGM 2020; **Tokyo Institute of Technology (Confirmed)**

Professor BENTON reconfirmed the 47th BOD meeting and the 26th AGM to be hosted in the Fall of 2020 by Tokyo Tech.

Professor Jun-ichi TAKADA observed that Tokyo Tech plans to finalize the schedule by the next BOD meeting. However, given the uncertainty due to the proposed changes in Board structure, he is not certain whether Tokyo Tech should host the meetings.

Professor BENTON pointed out that past AGM meetings have been hosted by non-BOD members. These hosts of the AGM have provided the venue for the BOD meeting, but did not attend the BOD meeting.

Professor Jun-ichi TAKADA acknowledged this and affirmed that Tokyo Institute of Technology would host the two meetings.

4. The 48th BOD Meeting, Spring 2021; (host undecided)

Professor BENTON suggested that selection of the date and host could be discussed once a decision has been made on the next Board structure and membership.

5. The 49th BOD & 27th AGM Meetings, Fall 2021; (host undecided)

Chair NAGATA proposed that a university in mainland China should be the host, as there has not been an AGM in this region during the previous 6 years. He stated that he hopes these universities will discuss among themselves, and report back at the next BOD meeting and AGM.

Vice President TIAN Gang (PKU) said that the mainland Chinese universities will discuss the matter among themselves, although they might not have a decision by the next BOD meeting and AGM.

Chair NAGATA thanked Peking University for its leadership and asked him to report back to the Secretary.

6. The 50th BOD Meeting, Spring 2022; (host undecided)

Professor BENTON suggested that selection of the date and host for the 50th BOD meeting could be discussed once a decision has been made on the next Board structure and membership.

VI. TREASURY REPORT

1. Income and expenditure Statement/Balance Sheet

Treasurer Yukari KOBAYASHI reported that during the first quarter ending March 31st 2019, the treasury received \$22,000 in membership fees from 11 universities. Disbursements were \$10,000 in January 2019 for funding of Yonsei University's Winter Abroad program. This left a balance of \$54,199.95 for the first quarter.

For second quarter ending June 2019, AEARU should receive a total of \$16,000 from 8 universities. Planned disbursements are funding for two summer camps in July: \$10,000 to the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and \$10,000 to Tohoku University. This will leave a balance of \$50,199.95 for second quarter 2019.

2. Status Report of AEARU Sponsored Programs

Treasurer KOBAYASHI noted that if all three activities that will be proposed later in the meeting each receive their expected \$10,000 in funding, this will leave a balance of approximately \$20,000 to be brought forward for the 2020 fiscal year.

Chair NAGATA thanked Treasurer KOBAYASHI for her report.

VII. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FROM OCTOBER 2018

1. Participation in the Meeting of the Global Council of Research Intensive Universities Networks (GCRIUN); December 9-12, 2018, UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Professor BENTON reported on AEARU's participation in this meeting. GCRIUN is a council of global research university networks. The purpose of the council is to discuss changes in university education and research throughout the world. Chair NAGATA presented on AEARU activities.

Chair NAGATA stated that this meeting was very useful because it allowed for greater understanding of what LERU and other networks are planning, in terms of new collaborative education, research, and international research grants. He suggested that the next Chair of AEARU attend the upcoming December 2019 or January 2020 meeting, and provide an update on GCRIUN's activities.

Professor BENTON noted that the expense for participation in this year's meeting were covered by the University of Tsukuba.

2. Winter Abroad Program 2018; December 27, 2018-January 17, 2019 (Session2); YONSEI UNIVERSITY

Professor BENTON, on behalf of Yonsei University, reported that the Winter Program was sponsored by Yonsei University, and is comprised of two separate 3-week programs. Students chose from two sessions: December 27 to January 17, or January 21 to February 13. Approximately 500 students participated, including 7 students from AEARU universities. Professor BENTON thanked Yonsei University for hosting AEARU students.

VIII. SCHEDULED AEARU ACTIVITIES FROM APRIL 2019

1. The AEARU Summer Institute for Extended Flipped Education; July 15-19, 2019; THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY and TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Professor BENTON asked to hear from the universities sponsoring this event.

Vice President Sabrina LIN provided an update on this upcoming event. To date, 13 participants have registered for the program, including 9 students from AEARU universities (1 student each from the University of Science and Technology of China, National Chiao Tung University from Taiwan, and Kyoto University, and 2 each from University of Tsukuba, Nanjing University and National Taiwan University).

Vice President Sabrina also mentioned that registration for the event is still open and that she encourages AEARU members to highlight this opportunity for their students. She also added that some of the registered students are already working on their pre-summer course work.

Chair NAGATA thanked Vice President Sabrina LIN and asked if Tokyo Institute of Technology had anything to add.

Professor Jun-ichi TAKADA mentioned that one of the courses will be taught by

Professor Stewart of Tokyo Tech.

2. APRU-AEARU Multi-Hazards Summer School; July 22-25, 2019; TOHOKU UNIVERSITY

Professor BENTON, on behalf of Tohoku University, provided an update on this event and referred everyone to page 81. The program is a four-day session, which focuses on supporting the interface between science and policy for decision-making and disaster risk reduction. Students and faculty members are welcome to attend. The first day includes an opening session, and a talk on disaster risk management. On the second day, attendees will study cases involving various stakeholders and participate in group activities. An excursion is planned for the third day, and discussions and group activities for the fourth day. Registration is open until May 10.

IX. PROPOSED AEARU ACTIVITIES FROM APRIL 2019

1. Student Physical Competition (Rowing); August 22-25, 2019; POHANG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (POSTECH)

Professor BENTON, on behalf of POSTECH, presented this rowing event, and mentioned that POSTECH has a strong rowing team. POSTECH is asking for AEARU funding of \$10,000 to host this event (total cost of the event is expected to be \$13,000).

Chair NAGATA asked for questions or comments. There were none and the event was approved by the board.

It was noted that funding will be disbursed prior to the event as per current guidelines, and that the new guidelines will come into effect at the next AGM.

2. Winter Program; December 29, 2019-January 4, 2020 (tentative); NATIONAL CHIAO TUNG UNIVERSITY (co-hosted by NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY) (pp. 87-89)

Professor BENTON asked NTU to introduce the proposed event.

NTU representative J. Chris LIN stated that details are still being finalized, but the event will include sessions on business management, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainability, as well as cultural activities. One highlight will be a visit to high-tech corporations at Hsinchu Science Park, the science hub of Taiwan.

Professor BENTON asked if there were any comments.

Chair NAGATA noted that the event is scheduled to take place from December 29 to January 4, 2020, and that approval for tentative funding can be given now. Actual disbursement of funds will follow the new guidelines for funding activities.

Vice Chair J. Chris LIN noted that further details will be provided before the AGM.

Chair NAGATA confirmed that funding will be following the new guidelines.

No other comments were given and tentative funding was approved.

3. AEARU Student Winter-Ski Camp; Late January 2020 (tentative); SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Professor BENTON asked the host university to explain the proposed activity.

Past Chair Se-Jung OH noted that the ski camp will take place at Phoenix Hotels and Resort in January, with dates to be confirmed later this year. The camp will be four-day recreational program consisting of morning sessions with ski instructors, and free time in the afternoon, with separate level-based classes. SNU requested funding of \$10,000 to support student participation, local transportation, and accommodations for three nights. Costs for meals, accommodation for 2 nights (arrival and departure day) and other miscellaneous expenses will be covered by SNU.

Professor BENTON asked how many students are expected to attend the event. Past Chair Se-Jung OH said 19, one from each member institution.

Professor BENTON acknowledged this number and asked for comments and questions. There were no questions or objections. She concluded by stating that the funding amount will be tentative and based on new funding guidelines.

Professor BENTON noted this was the final agenda item, and asked if there were any other items to discuss.

Vice President Sabrina LIN asked for clarification regarding agenda item 4 on the date and venues for future meetings. Given the proposed changes to Constitution Clause [5.2], she wanted to confirm once again that HKUST will not host the 46th Board of Directors Meeting in Spring 2020.

Professor BENTON stated that given the proposed changes to BOD structure, this issue will be discussed at the next AGM meeting after voting on the proposed change to Constitution Clause [5.2]. However, the host of the BOD for spring 2020 will have to be a university on the BOD at that time.

Vice President Sabrina LIN asked that this issue be included in the BOD minutes.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair NAGATA adjourned the meeting by noting that the videoconferencing went successfully, although at times there was confusion. If deemed useful by BOD members, use of videoconferencing for future meetings may be convenient. He asked that if the current BOD agrees, he will inform the next Chair about the videoconference experience. He wished everyone good luck and offered his appreciation. Vice President TIAN Gang and Professor BENTON offered their appreciation as well.