

## **SECIS Board Meeting Namur February 3/4 2017**

**Present:** Pierre Devos, Hermann Weber, Alois Kolbl, Roberta Canning  
Jean-Charles van Caloen for part of February 3.

**Apologies:** Patrick de Rond.

### **Membership of the Board:**

Patrick has been allotted different responsibilities by his Archbishop so the Luxembourg link will be Edith Weber-Sinner of LISEL.

Alois explained that he is not the most appropriate representative for Austria and that Astrid Schmid of the Salzburg AAI is willing to attend and to join the board if needed.

Marco Cattaneo remains the Swiss member and will maintain the website, but has resigned from the board.

Roberta agreed to remain on the Board.

### **Position of SECIS:**

Pierre has taken legal advice. SECIS is at present an association registered under Belgian law with statutes. Under the statutes board members must resign at 75 and there must be a Belgium member of the Board.

The lawyer advises that Pierre can continue till the General Assembly in Paris, 29 June – 1 July 2017.

The provision in the statutes for retirement at 75 was a decision of the members and can be changed by resolution of the assembly to remove the age restriction and so permit Pierre to continue as President for the time being.

After discussion the board agreed that the present structure does not fit the needs of SECIS; in reality SECIS is a loose alliance of members with a concern for international students, for scholarship and exchange programmes, sharing of experience and best practice and for being a voice for the international students' needs to dioceses and the relevant department at the Vatican.

There is only one full member of SECIS for each country and this is an unnecessary restriction on attendance at the annual assembly and members who can become board members.

Two options were identified and will be explored.

Option 1 – become an Association de Fait under Belgian Law. This would be a society with a treasurer.

Option 2 – become an international network with leadership rotating to the next host of the assembly and the funds held as a restricted fund within an established organisation such as KAAD or a diocese in Belgium.

The Board agreed

Jean- Charles van Caloen was co-opted to the board.

In June, the assembly will be asked to remove the age restriction on membership of the Board.

Pierre can be prolonged.

The board will recommend that SECIS vote to dissolve the present structure of SECIS and to transfer the funds to the account of the voluntary association or network. The Board will then appoint liquidators to ensure that all is completed in accordance with Belgian Law and with transparency.

Jean-Charles will check whether the Belgian Bishops' Conference can hold the funds of the new Association de Fait.

**Financial report:** the account held 49,590.92 euros on 31 December 2016. Assembly costs were limited to Pierre's attendance at the Congress.

**SECIS General Assembly: Paris 29 June – 1 July 2017-02-06**

The Jesuit hostel at Rue de Grenelles can accommodate the assembly.  
Pierre will confirm the booking.

Topic: Religion, Culture and the Campus: managing religious and cultural conflict in the universities and bringing students of different faiths together. Pierre will seek a speaker. Those coming to the assembly will be asked to bring examples of good practice. Perhaps members could be asked for these in their country reports.

Pierre will contact the existing network.

Where it seems useful, Roberta and Alois will encourage interest when they are in Barcelona.

The Austrian delegate will be Astrid Schmid [astrid.schmid@aai-salzburg.at](mailto:astrid.schmid@aai-salzburg.at)

Avin will be asked for suggestions from Netherlands.

Is it worth asking someone from the international student house in Florence?

Pierre will invite Robin.

**Guidelines for pastoral care of international students:** we agreed that these are a valuable basis for final guidelines and spent the rest of the meeting discussing our comments and suggestions which are summarised separately