eCAADe Administrative Council Meeting

Meeting held on
21 March 2014

KU Leuven - Faculty of Architecture
Sint-Lucas Ghent
Belgium

MINUTES

Attendance
Present were:
Aleksander Asanowicz (AA), Andre Brown (AB), Birgul Colakoglu (BC), Bob Martens (BM), Emine Thompson (EM) (Newcastle 2014), Henri Achten (HA), Joachim Kieferle (JK), Marc Muylle (MM), Nele De Meyere (NDM) (Secretariat), Rudi Stouffs (RS) (Delft 2013), Tom Maver (TM), Johan Verbeke (JV) (President), Tadeja Zupancic (TZ).

Invited: Aulikki Herneoja (AH).

Apologies for absence: Antje Kuntze (AK), Jose Duarte (JD), Wolfgang Dokonal (WD), Vassilis Bourdakis (VB), Martin Winchester (MW).

Agenda
(i) The meeting started with an elaborated discussion on the organization of the phd-workshop. The format we had in Delft was that we have 4 full grants (400€ + conference student access incl. dinner) and up to 2 places (only conference access incl. dinner) that can be assigned by the local hosts in their responsibility to local PHD-students. The general goals and rules – especially the ban for everyone with an accepted paper (even as co-author) or someone who already presented at eCAADe or received a grant – should be kept. There was some discussion whether the locals should run though the normal reviewing process or not. Some council members were in favor to apply the same rules (and thus reviewing) for anyone, and others thought it was a good idea to give some 'wild cards' to promote the local research in the field. Local students that are resident or studying in the conference area will of course receive no travel subsidy.

(ii) The deadline for application remains 01/06/2014, notification of acceptance: 01/07/2014. Coordination is done by WD.

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

Secretariat of eCAADe
(i) It was noted that NDM will be taking the Minutes of the meeting.

1. Minutes of the previous meetings
(i) The Minutes of the eCAADe Administrative Council Mid-Year Meeting, held at Technische Universiteit Delft on 17/09/2014, were circulated and checked. The minutes were agreed upon and will be published on the eCAADe website.
(ii) There were no comments on the minutes of the eCAADe Annual General Meeting, held at Technische Universiteit Delft on 20/09/2014. The minutes were agreed upon and will be published on the eCAADe website.

2. Administrative Council
(i) Composition and Roles: Because JV now is president, MM will take over role for signing financial documents.
(ii) Normally the future conference organizer (Vienna 2015) becomes part of the council. As BM is a long term member it is not a relevant issue to appoint a new member for the period from March 2014 to March 2016.
(iii) Council Member Future conference organizer (Oulu 2016): Aulikki Herneoja should be added to the council's list server.

(iv) JV will contact AK to check about her membership.

(v) There were no propositions for new honorary members.

3. eCAADe Conference 2014 Newcastle (UK)

(i) ET presented the state of affairs: overview of participating countries, topic counts, key note speakers, the workshop proposals, payment and registration, sponsorship and budget, poster sessions and digital exhibition, recording and streaming, after conference trip... All is up and running.

(ii) Abstract acceptance overview (number of accepted papers, parallel sessions, …). There were 240 abstract submissions of which 8 were withdrawn and 87 reviewers were appointed (comparison: 280 abstracts, 130 reviewers in Delft). Mainly 5 abstracts per reviewer were allocated. 4 reviewers are missing one or more reviews and 7 reviewers have not started at all at the date of the meeting. The proceedings will again be published in two volumes. NDM will send the ISBN numbers to ET.

There will be 9 parallel sessions with up to 162 presentations, of these 146 submissions have a score of 4.00 and above, 18 submissions have a score of 3.50 and above.

(iii) There will be a panel session on 'Design Computation in Contemporary Architectural Practice' introduced by the round table chairs (Tom Maver, Robert Aish). There will be 4 to 6 practitioners in the round table. Each participant would have 10 minutes to make a presentation, which might: describe their practice, the role of design computation within their practice, the type of conceptual knowledge or practical skills that are involved. Afterwards there will be a moderated discussion amongst the panel members and then moderated questions from the conference floor.

(iv) ET presented the schedule. It was said that 15 minutes for the break and 1.5 hour for the lunch is short. It was also suggested to start a little later on Friday morning. Before the conference the council meeting will be planned and also the meeting with the sister organizations. (ET needs details for this!). The after conference drink will be maintained and held after the AGM and the prize ceremony.

(v) It was decided not to accept the offer from MultiScience.

4. Future Conferences

(i) Link with practice:

    a. There was a discussion on how to attract people from practice in the conference. This could be a contribution in a more graphical way, presented via poster sessions. The system of Pictorials was presented. The idea to do something in the PechaKucha-manner was also launched. It was agreed that it is too short to set up something for this conference but that it might be considered for the next one. Following that, the digital compagnon for the printed proceedings was proposed. In Newcastle an option to have either digital or printed proceeding will be offered.

    b. ET said that the second day of the Newcastle conference has a stronger focus on practice and that people have asked to register only for that day. The council said that it is ok to charge a one day fee without contribution for the eCAADe association. Yet it has to be evaluated how successful this is in the next meeting. The importance on keynote speakers from practice was underlined.

    c. The council group working on the link with practice should try to grasp what value practioners get from their participation in the conference.

(i) 2015 Vienna: BM confirmed that the real preparations will start as from now and that an update will be presented during the next meeting.

(ii) 2016 Oulu: AH was informed that a draft of the flyer should be presented during the September meeting. AH said that the timing for the conference will differ a little from the usual (end of August) because the semester already starts early September.

(iii) 2017: expressions of interest were received from Roma, Nancy, Trieste, Chania, .. Target is to receive concrete proposals by the end of August.

(iv) The editing system developed by Gabriel Wurze is working so well that it could already be used by ET. HA tested the system during the meeting and will forward his remarks to Gabriel. It was said that a helpdesk should be installed. It was also questioned who will maintain the system on the long run.

5. eCAADe International Regional Workshop

(i) Porto 2013 – There was a delay in the payment because of VAT-issues. A specialist will be consulted to solve the VAT-problematics.

- (ii) Bialystok 2014 – AA presented the overview of arrangements. On 9 and 10 May, the BUT Faculty of Architecture will host the eCAADE International Workshop and Regional Conference 'HYBRID ENVIRONMENT FOR ARCHITECTURE'. The workshop and conference will be attended by over 40 representatives of science from Poland, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania, and Belarus, as well as by students and computer companies. 15 papers will be presented in the faculty journal. AA stressed the importance of a quick reimbursement of the eCAADe contribution.
- (iii) Future workshops: JV will issue a call to the submission of proposals for the organization of the 3rd workshop. The idea is that the activity strengthens CAD in the region but also that it might function as an exercising place for organizing the conference itself. eCAADe invests 2500 euro. Reporting on the initiative will be put on the AGM agenda.

6. Parallel Organisation Conferences
- (i) Reports from the 2013-2014 conference representatives
  ASCAAD: no news.
  CAADRIA

Current conference: http://www.caadria.org/cnf/2013.conf.html (RS)
Next one: http://www.caadria.org/cnf/2014.conf.html (BC)

  ACADIA

Current conference: http://acadia.org/events/N4QMJZ (WD)
Next one: http://2014.acadia.org/home.html (ET or HA or WD)

  SIGRADI (JK provided an extended feedback report per email

Lessons learned and that JK proposes for eCAADe: at the end of first day, each workshop is presented by the tutor (max 10 mins) to the larger audience. That gives a great overview over workshops and results.

Current conference: http://www.sigradi.org/index.php/congresos-mainmenu-29
Next one: http://www.sigradi2014.org/index.php/sigradi/2014 (JV, and JK and BM as replacant)

  CAADFUTURES: no news.
- (ii) Joint meeting between councils: it was suggested to organize an informal meeting on presidential's level every three a four years. Problem is funding. So it would be best to link it to a conference. It was asked whether a replacant can also take part? Especially for the first meeting, attendance from the presidents would be desirable. It was suggested to organize a meeting on Tuesday morning, otherwise on Saturday or to cut out one session. JV will send proposal.
- (iii) 2014 conferences: attendance see above.

7. Reviewing system
- (i)   Open Conf (Status) (MW, MS): there were not updates.

8. CUMINCAD Digital Library
- (i)   As mentioned during the previous meetings the engine behind CUMINCAD has not been further developed which may create a risk of the system collapsing. BM informed the council that the matter was now stable but that it should be discussed with the sibling organizations to check their positions on development, and also on opening up the access to the database. JV will make arrangements to set up this meeting.

9. Publications, Networks and contacts
- (i) Web site (MW)

BM asked to archive Prague and Delft materials on the website. HA and RS will provide it to MW. It was also said that organizers should use http://2015ecaade.org or http://2016ecaade.org as this a domain that belongs to us. Further remarks received: images might need an update, on the Google map overview of the conferences, Prague is missing, the listing in Web of Science should be mentioned on the eCAADe website. Also the Best Presentation Prizes 2013 should be added.

- (ii) Listserver

It was asked who should be able to send out messages via the Listserver and it was said that nothing should be changed unless there arise a problem of overload. It was planned to send out

a yearly reminder to the use the tool in an appropriate way and with a message that unscribing is possible.

(iii) International Journal of Architectural Computing: AB confirmed that all is lined up for the coming year (editing by respectively eCAADe, CAADRIA, Acadia and then Sigradi).

(iv) Social Media (Facebook/LinkedIn: status): HA explained that people subscribing to LinkedIn are requested to provide a short motivation. HA also said that contributions are welcomed.

(v) Other: Adding the eCAADe conference proceedings to the Thompson and Reuters listing: HA confirmed that the Prague proceedings are now listed. However it is not possible to add a series of proceedings so now positive reactions for the other ones is awaited. If positive, HA agrees to follow this up.

10. Presentation prices

(i) Online Voting system for presentation prices – It was confirmed that this worked very well.

(ii) The Bentley funding (500€) for the eCAADe presentation price was arranged through the conference organizer.

(iii) eCAADe poster competition: WD will take this up with MM.

11. Financial Situation

(i) Current Status of eCAADe finances: NDM presented the Statement of Accounts 2013 and Profit and Loss Account 2013. they show a loss of 7379,29 euro for 2013. The bank balance on December 2013 was 48002,46 euro. The loss is caused because the membership contribution from the Delft conference (9900 euro) was only charged in 2014. Again the question was raised whether there is not too much money on the account.

(ii) Possible Investments – ideas are welcomed.

(iii) It was said that an open membership would cause an average loss of income of 4000 euro (subscriptions by email).

12. Other issues

(i) VAT (JV): It was said that this is yet to be solved.

(ii) ET remarked that the limitation to 3 references does not make sense, as it is the idea to motivate having references. So this should be made possible in a technical way.

(iii) HA said that he will update the eCAADe page on Wikipedia.

(iv) AA said that de Warsaw Journal of Automation of Construction is listed in the Web of Science.

13. Next Council Meeting

(i) Arrangements for the meeting in Newcastle

(ii) The following timing was set: Tuesday 9/9/2014 at 4 PM at Northumbria University (Ellison building).

(iii) Items for the meeting are invited (to JV).

(iv) Meeting close - The Meeting was closed and JV was thanked for hosting the meeting.