



VUA- General Meeting 2023

Minutes

1. Opening – meeting was opened by Andrzej Sechman from hosting University of Agriculture in Krakow. He welcomed all participants especially former rector of University of Agriculture in Krakow Prof. Zmija. He also appreciated the presence of representatives from Ukraine and expressed the hope for the war conflict to be finished soon. In his welcoming speech he underlined the need to address the issues faced by VUA which needs to be resolved.

Sylwester Tabor, the rector of University of Agriculture in Krakow also greeted and welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of V4 region and neighboring countries and importance of agricultural and international cooperation in this field especially under the global challenges and climate change.

Also, the secretary general of VUA, Vladislav Valach, from Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra thanked the hosting representatives of Krakow, and thanked all the participating members of VUA presented and highlighted the topics of leadership and membership which were to be addressed during the meeting. He also mentioned the sincere apology of Peter Bielik, president of VUA for his absence.

2. Approving agenda of program – program was introduced and representatives of presented members approved it.

Voting: everybody in favor

3. VUA Charter innovation – the secretary general explained the need to make amendments of Charter in order to maintain the full functioning and vitality of the association in following parts:

Preamble – addition in preamble letter e) *“the members of the VUA see in its dialogue an intercultural cooperation to promote within a civil society a peaceful global atmosphere between Economics, Ecology and Ethics. Members who do not accept this Charter can be suspended by a VUA General Meeting with a majority vote from further VUA membership and from its leadership structures.”*

- this should assure the peaceful cooperation (membership of Russian universities suspended)

Article 2 SEAT – *“The seat of the Association is the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra with the registered address Trieda Andreja Hlinku 2, 949 76, Nitra, Slovak Republic. The seat of the Association is also the seat of the Secretary General of the Association. The seat of the Association is also the seat of the Visegrad Journal on Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development.”*

- Secretary general introduced the idea and explained the reasons why the seat of association will be in Nitra, with secretary and journal, regardless the seat of president. It is desirable to root the seat of association regardless the seat of presidency which can float.

Article 8, 2b – *“...to pay an annual subscription of 600.- Euro which must be paid by the end of November in each year for the next year... to pay an annual subscription of 600.- Euro which must be paid by the end of August in each year for the next year.”*

- It was explained that since there are less members (because of suspended members) annual subscription was increased.

Article 18, point 4 – *“Duties of the President of the G.M. can be fulfilled by the Secretary General of the Association”*

Article 19 – *“The items for discussion in the G.M. are set out in the agenda. The agenda is drawn up by the Secretary General.”*

Article 22, 1b – *“A President of the E.C. is also a President of Visegrad University Association. The President of the E.C. and Visegrad University Association shall be elected from the members of the V4 countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland) based on the nominations of all VUA members. The President of Visegrad University Association must be a Rector/Vice-rector, President/Vice-president or equivalent of VUA member universities. A formal control of the nominations will be done the VUA Secretary General.”*

- Secretary general explained that the president must be elected from V4 countries based on nominations from VUA members, must be rector/vice rector, president/vice president or equivalent of such. It must be VUA full member

- He asked all participants to think about the nominees and suggested that the election will be probably held in May-June 2024 .

- **Suggestions for nominations are due by the October 31 2023.**

Article 25, 1 – *“The E.C. shall meet regularly once a year. The meeting can be organized as a part of the programme of the G.M. The E.C. may also convene for an extra-ordinary meeting when summoned by the President of the E.C. or following a written request for a meeting submitted by at least four (4) members of the E.C.”*

- Executive committee (EC) should meet once a year, EC can also be organized as a part of the programme of the GM.

Members will vote about the amendments per rollam. Meantime the actual charter is valid.

Discussion: István Szabó from Hungarian University of Agricultural Sciences suggested deadline for payment by the end of September due to summer break. Secretary general responded that invoice is usually send in May. Szabó also suggested to create some distinguished award for recognized members of VUA (like hall of fame).

Henrietta Nagy from Milton Friedman University asked if the university which will not pay can attend the GM and secretary general answered the payment is charges one year ahead.

4. Introduction of URK – Andrzej Sechman from University of Agriculture in Krakow briefly introduced hosting university and Krakow - URK.

5. Introduction of Milton Friedman University – Henrietta Nagy introduced the candidate university as very interesting and successful partner, proving by growing number of students. It is considered very innovative university, transformed from college to university of applied sciences in 2016. She also stated the reasons for applying for membership being strong personal and professional relations to build upon. She mentioned the online conference held 15th November 2023, ESG as the possibility to carry on the event of VUA Youth. The contributions from conference can be published as the special issue of Visegrad Journal on Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development. Conference will involve professors, lecturers, experts, PhD. Students.

Voting: everybody in favor .

Certificate of membership was issued and handed.

6. VUA Journal – Executive Editor, Tatiana Bullova from Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra introduced the Visegrad Journal on Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development. She presented current challenges and asked members for suggestions for additions to the editorial board for the members who are no longer active. To enhance the recognition of the journal it is necessary to build the geographically wide editorial board as well as team of expert reviewers.

Suggestions for both members of editorial board and reviewers (could be the same person) for each member are due by the October 31, 2023.

Discussion: Participants discussed and suggested the ways how to improve the recognition of journal and agreed on increasing the contributions to journal issues by members of VUA. Henrietta Nagy suggested to target the older researchers, professors rather than younger ones and PhD. students because they are required to publish in WoS and Scopus indexed journals and therefore VJBSD might be not their natural choice. Participants from Mendel University in Brno, Sumy National Agrarian University, University of Agriculture in Krakow joined the discussion.

7. Presentation of Malgorzata Pink from University of Agriculture in Krakow about Bioeconomy – introduced the current project focused on Bioeconomy in URK. She stressed the importance of bioeconomy and its recognition.

8. Presentation of Andrzej Sechman from University of Agriculture in Krakow – Digitalization in university administration management and research evaluation – explained why the digitalization of public sector and education is important; talked about digital

transformation of universities. He also introduced digital systems already functioning at URK and many others.

9. Closing – Secretary general thanked everybody for the participation and organizing university URK especially to Andrzej Sechman and Dominika Dankiewicz for great organization of GM. He expressed the hope for active future collaboration.