

MINUTES

UNICA General Assembly 2019

King's College London
28 November 2019, 09:00-13:00

Prof. Funmi OLONISAKIN, Vice-Principal International, King's College London welcomes the UNICA President, Members of the Steering Committee, and the representatives of UNICA Member Universities.

Opening of the General Assembly by Professor Luciano SASO, UNICA President

UNICA President Prof. Luciano SASO thanks King's College London for the hospitality, welcomes the participants, and briefly presents the programme of the General Assembly. He declares the UNICA General Assembly 2019 open.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda is adopted without any changes.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE UNICA GA 2018

The minutes of the administrative UNICA General Assembly 2018, hosted by Comenius University in Bratislava, 15 November 2018 are adopted without any changes.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - UNICA ACTIVITIES 2016-2019

UNICA President presents an overview of UNICA activities over the past four years (the presentation is available at http://www.unica-network.eu/sites/default/files/1._saso_unica_ga_2019_report_28-11-19.pdf) and highlights the following points:

- Seven new member universities which joined the UNICA network;
- The raised number of meetings for UNICA academic leaders (13 Rectors Seminars), which was one of the goals of his Presidency as well as the impressive achievements in terms of activities and initiatives carried out (55 UNICA meetings, 26 hosting universities, over 2200 participants, one Student Conference) and of average evaluation rate (4.5/5) by the participants;
- The increased activity of UNICA in the field of European research policy;
- The excellent results of UNICA working groups and the increased synergies that are being developed among them, also following the input from the two joint meetings of the Chairs of UNICA working Groups and the Members of the UNICA Steering Committee held in 2018 and 2019;
- The participation in EU-funded projects (UNICA participated in 13 European projects between 2016 and 2019, including 3 projects as coordinator).

IV. UNICA “GREEN YOUR UNIVERSITY” AWARD 2019

The President introduces a short video produced by a team of students of the *Université libre de Bruxelles* who won the “GREEN Your University” award, a competition open to students from UNICA member universities launched in 2018 by the winners of the UNICA Student Conference 2017 Action Plan contest. The award aimed to recognise innovative and replicable projects contributing to make campuses more sustainable.

V. UNICA FINANCIAL STATUS

Jacques LANARÈS (UNICA SC member, University of Lausanne) presents the UNICA 2018 accounts and balance and the Auditor’s Report 2018 (Annexes 2, 3, 4). He comments that the financial results of 2018 are in line with the budget and the report made by the auditor confirms the situation. As over the past few years, UNICA used a small amount (EUR 29.207,97) of the reserve to achieve balance as the funding from EU projects has decreased and the previous generous contribution of VUB to the salary of UNICA Secretary General could not be continued.

The General Assembly:

- approves unanimously the 2018 accounts and balance,
- takes note of the Auditor’s Report 2018,
- takes note of the 2019 financial situation (up to 15 October 2019).

Full discharge is granted to the President and Steering Committee members for the fulfilment of their mandate during the year 2019.

VI. UNICA PRESIDENT AND STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

UNICA President briefly presents the UNICA President and Steering Committee election procedure and statutory election rules and criteria in accordance to UNICA Statutes and Internal Rules.

One candidate in the UNICA President election presents his candidacy:

Luciano SASO, Vice-Rector for European University Networks, Sapienza University of Rome.

Six candidates in the UNICA Steering Committee election present their candidacies (in alphabetical order):

- Carmela CALÉS BOURDET, Vice-Rector International, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- Jolanta CHOIŃSKA-MIKA, Vice-Rector of Student Affairs and Quality of Teaching, University of Warsaw
- Sorin COSTREIE, Vice-Rector for International Relations, University of Bucharest
- Caroline PAUWELS, Rector, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Caroline Pauwels was unable to attend the UNICA General Assembly due to prior commitments. Her candidacy is presented by Yvon ENGLERT, Rector, Université libre de Bruxelles)
- Sibel SUZEN, Vice-Rector for International Relations and Projects, Ankara University
- Tomáš ZIMA, Rector, Charles University in Prague (Tomáš Zima was unable to attend the UNICA General Assembly due to prior commitments. His candidacy is presented by Lenka ROVNA, Vice-Rector for European Affairs, Charles University)

Questions & Answers: There are no questions to the candidates.

Voting:

Forty voting ballots are distributed (one ballot per Member University) and votes are cast.

Ballots are counted by:

- representatives of the UNICA Secretariat (Secretary General Kris DEJONCKHEERE),
- Guri VESTAD (University of Oslo),
- Christopher CRIPPS (Sorbonne University).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS:

UNICA President 2020-2023: the UNICA General Assembly elects Luciano SASO, Sapienza University of Rome – elected for the second term.

For the UNICA Steering Committee 2020-2021, the UNICA General Assembly elects:

- Carmela CALÉS BOURDET (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) - elected for 1st term
- Jolanta CHOIŃSKA-MIKA (University of Warsaw) - elected for 2nd term
- Sorin COSTREIE (University of Bucharest) - elected for 1st term
- Caroline PAUWELS (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) - elected for 1st term
- Sibel SUZEN (Ankara University) - elected for 1st term.

UNICA President express his sincere thanks to the General Assembly for the trust and congratulates the newly elected UNICA Steering Committee Members. He thanks all the candidates and the outgoing Members of the Steering Committee, Antonio RENDAS (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa), Tomáš ZIMA (Charles University), Jacques LANARÈS (University of Lausanne).

VII. UNICA MEMBERSHIP

Candidate for UNICA membership: Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

UNICA President and Members of the Steering Committee affirm that the candidate meets the UNICA criteria for membership, that the application was in accordance with the UNICA membership policy and give positive recommendations on the application.

Semmelweis University is a leading higher education institution in Hungary with a fully recognized international reputation, both in education and research. It embodies six Faculties: Medicine, Health and Public Services, Health Sciences, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and the Andras Peto (pedagogy at postgraduate level). As an educational institution, it provides the three-degree levels of the Bologna process in three faculties and refers to the use of the ECTS credit system. The teaching is in English, both for undergraduates and postgraduates, in thirteen programs. The number of students is slightly above 10,000 out of which around 30% are foreign. The current number of Ph.D. students is well above 400.

Semmelweis University participates in cutting-edge research at a national and European level, both as a leading institution or as an active partner and is a member of major European associations and networks, including the European University Association.

Although not fully comprehensive, the University's candidacy has the approval of the Steering Committee in view of its quality, its multidisciplinary and international commitments to higher education and research, social engagement, and of its excellent cooperation with the UNICA member located in Budapest (Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest), which fully supported the candidacy.

Vote: The candidacy of University of Semmelweis University is accepted unanimously.

Membership reapplication: Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, Paris, France

UNICA President presents the re-application of Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, which decided to withdraw in 2018 due to financial constraints. The university continues to meet the membership criteria and withdrew from the network only for the year 2019. Given the long-established and fruitful cooperation within the network and that the renewed membership will be an added value for the other two UNICA members based in Paris, the Steering Committee members express positive recommendations on the re-application.

Vote: The re-application of Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3 is accepted unanimously.

VIII. WORK PROGRAMME 2020

UNICA President presents UNICA's Work Plan (presentation available at http://www.unica-network.eu/sites/default/files/2._saso_unica_ga_work_programme_2020.pdf) and outlines the priorities for the year 2020:

- Further pursuing the mission of UNICA as a forum for academic leadership and strengthening the added value of being a network of leading universities located in capital cities;
- Fostering synergies, sharing of experiences & peer learning within and across UNICA Working Groups;
- Developing and strengthening UNICA EU Research policy;
- Encouraging the issuing of position papers and facilitating the participation of UNICA Member universities in European projects.

UNICA President gives an overview of the UNICA events already scheduled in 2020 and invites UNICA Member Universities to use the UNICA calendar, which lists all the upcoming UNICA activities together with their target audiences:

- UNICA Rectors Seminar "Development of multidisciplinary study programmes and its relevance to Higher Education", University of Ljubljana, 6-7 April 2020;
- UNICA Rectors Seminar in the framework of the EHEA Ministerial Conference, Rome, 23 - 25 June 2020;
- Rectors Seminar in the framework of the 30th UNICA General Assembly, Freie Universität Berlin & Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 18-20 November 2020
- 11th UNICA PhD Master Class, CAAS Centre in Dubrovnik, 30 August – 4 September
- UNICA Research Policy meeting (Nov 2020)
- 26th UNICA IRO meeting, University of Rome Tor Vergata, 21-23 April
- 9th UNICA PR & Communication Workshop, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, 8-9 October
- 10th UNICA GREEN Workshop, University of Zagreb, CAAS Centre in Dubrovnik, 1-3 April 2020
- Session of the UNICA University, Culture & the City Working Group at the 5th Transatlantic Dialogue Conference 2020 "Re-imagining the Tower of Babel. Language, Culture, Diplomacy & Peace", University of Luxembourg, 25-27 May 2020

UNICA President Luciano SASO also draws attention on the 10th UNICA Student Conference, which will be hosted by NOVA University Lisbon, 28 June – 1 July 2020, and on the General Assembly 2020, which will feature the 30th anniversary of the UNICA network and will be co-hosted by the two UNICA members located in Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

UNICA President lists the projects UNICA is currently involved in as partner and invites UNICA member universities to consider that UNICA can play an important role both in dissemination and in the search for partners.

IX. APPROVAL OF THE UNICA BUDGET 2020 & MEMBERSHIP FEE 2020

Jacques Lanarès (UNICA SC member, University of Lausanne) presents the UNICA budget 2020 (Annex 2) and explains that the proposal is largely based on previous years, including the amount allotted from the UNICA reserve. He reminds that the current EU project funding is less generous than before, this resulting in less income from projects and that the previous generous contribution of VUB to the salary of UNICA Secretary General could not be continued. Although UNICA finances are sound now, there is a need to look for ways to restore the UNICA Secretariat staff capacity to 3 full staff members to ensure stability and the management of all UNICA activities. The Rector of the *Université libre de Bruxelles* Yvon ENGLERT observes that over the past 3 years UNICA has used the reserve to achieve balance and that this issue should be addressed in the next future.

Vote: The UNICA budget 2020 is approved by the General Assembly with one abstention (Rector Yvon ENGLERT, *Université libre de Bruxelles*).

Membership fee 2020

The proposed **UNICA membership fee 2020 amounts to €6,000.**

The membership fee remains unchanged in 2020 but it is indexed every year according to Belgian law based on the average inflation rate.

Calculation: EUR 5.900 + (5.900*0,017 average inflation rate) = EUR 6.000,30 rounded up at EUR 6.000.

Vote: The membership fee 2020 is approved unanimously.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020 IN BERLIN

Hauke HEEKEREN (Vice President, Freie Universität Berlin) and Britta Baron (Head of International Department, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) give a joint presentation about the next UNICA General Assembly and warmly invite all UNICA members to attend the event in Berlin in November.

UNICA President closes the UNICA General Assembly 2019 and thanks everyone for their participation.

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Brussels, 3 December 2019

Luciano SASO
UNICA President

Laura Brossico,
UNICA Manager (minutes)