

UMAC AGM 2011

Manuel Valadares Theatre National Natural History Museum Lisbon

Minutes

The President (HD) opened the meeting (2:10pm) by welcoming everyone, thanking the Board for their work, noted the documents prepared for the meeting, noted the agenda and requested that everyone complete the attendance sheet. The meeting accepted the agenda.

He then presented the activity report for the year, acknowledging the great work of previous UMAC leaders in setting up a strong basis for UMAC activities such as the mailing list, the newsletter and the website. He noted in particular the high amount of traffic on the UMAC website and how it is a powerful tool for our organisation.

He acknowledged the great work of the UMAC journal editors in publishing all the papers from the Berkeley meeting (2009) and the successful digitisation of all the papers from past UMAC meetings.

He then talked about the conference in Shanghai (2010) in partnership with Egyptology committee and the importance of developing more strategic activities with other ICOM committees through joint projects such as this. He then spoke briefly about future UMAC conferences, 2012 in Singapore, 2013 in Rio with ICOM triennial conference, and 2014 possibly in Manila. He then praised many of the regional initiatives and conferences many done without any resources. These included UMAC Mexico, Ukrainian university museums network, Armenian roundtable, Italian university museums portal, SE Asian network, Argentinian network and Universeum. He noted a small increase in membership covering 41 countries and that 20% were institutional members. He concluded by noting that it was important for the visibility of UMAC that many of these regional initiatives and activities continue.

He moved that the report be accepted, seconded Andrew Simpson - passed.

The Treasurer (PN) then presented his report noting that we "are not rich but we are wealthy" with 16K E in the account. Some strategic ideas for funding travel were briefly discussed and the Treasurer called for more ideas on how we could constructively expend funds.

He moved that the report be accepted, seconded Peter Stanbury – passed.

Christine Khor (and Li Jen?) then gave a great presentation on the forthcoming conference in Singapore. Planning is very well advanced in terms of conference themes (encountering the limits) and associated activities including some great cultural excursions. She also indicated that there would be plenty also for those who wanted experiences "beyond UMAC", the meeting was intrigued by this enigmatic suggestion. The dates are 10 to 13 October 2012. HD thanked the group for their work and encouraged people to submit papers.

This was followed by a series of brief reports from Chairs of Working Groups.

Peter Tyrrell – Strategic Planning. Spoke about the success of the group and the need to ask more questions and project into the future in terms of what UMAC would like to achieve. He noted that we are the first international subcommittee to have a strategic plan and that it aligns with the plans

of the parent organisation. There was also a discussion about the strategic value of the opportunity of the Rio conference in 2013 with the possibility of significant benefits for UMAC.

Cornelia Weber spoke about databases and directories and reported that the Board had decided to fund the expansion and improvement of content on the website. It was also noted that information could be entered by others. It was agreed that members and others need to be more aware of what a useful resource this is for the group.

Advocacy (HD) – it was noted that this group is important for sourcing information for the website and for promoting regional initiatives.

There was an extensive discussion about a proposal from Peter Stanbury for the establishment of an annual award (paper circulated prior to meeting) there were many varying opinions on aspects of the proposal and after the discussion it was agreed that the Board should pursue the idea further and formulate a more detailed proposal. HD called for those who are interested in this matter to express their views by email.

Publications (Nathalie Nyst) reported on the journal noting that there would be a selection process for the next (5th) issue. She noted that there were difficulties with authors complying with the journal rules and guidelines. There was also discussion of the possibility of developing thematic issues in conjunction with other committees. There was also extensive discussion on the possibility of introducing a picture on the journal cover (inside or outside) to reflect the host's contribution to conference meetings.

Research – (Andrew Simpson) reported that despite this Working Group being inactive for a number of years there was renewed interest in establishing some activities. Many PhD students attended the working group meeting and there were discussions of developing strategies for using collections more for research as well as research to inform advocacy. A number of useful proposals were discussed and the group agreed to continue discussions by email and report back to the Board on some viable proposals for activities.

The meeting concluded with a general discussion on the nature of UMAC meetings and whether this met the needs of UMAC members. A number of suggestions were made such as more face to face meetings, workshops and panel presentations and more prominence for posters.

The President thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting at 4:00pm.

Andrew Simpson