

**Concepta Advisory Board Meeting
Copenhagen, 26 April 2008**

Present:

Henrik Stenius
Nere Basabe
Alexandre Escudier
Helge Jordheim
Jussi Kurunmäki
Jörn Leonhard
Jeppé Nevers
Evgeny Roschin
Sami Syrjämäki
Sinai Rusinek was present when items 7-11 were discussed.

Secretary:

Sanna Joutsijoki

Absent:

Sandro Chignola
Norbert Götz
Peter Hallberg
Suvi Soininen
Vasileios Syros
Balázs Trensçenyi

MINUTES

1. The board elected Henrik Stenius as chairperson and Sanna Joutsijoki as secretary.
2. The board approved the agenda for the day.
3. The advisory board decided to reformulate and make a few amendments to the rules of the organisation on the website (<http://www.concepta-net.org/organization>). Regarding the age of the advisory board members an amendment from "young scholars" to "predominantly young scholars" was made. As to the number of the advisory board members the board adhered to increase the number from 15 to 16 members.

The board deemed important to have as many board members as possible present at the research training seminars and other events organised by Concepta as their presence is valued by the participants. The ordinary advisory board meetings should therefore be organised at the end of the research training seminars.

It was acknowledged that the "*Introduction to Conceptual History*" course organised in co-operation with the Helsinki Summer School and other partner institutions is an established brand. For this reason the advisory board thought that the basic structure of the course should be preserved. The advisory board noticed that the introductory course functions as a

channel of recruitment for new people into its activities. Of the participants of the Odense research training seminar a substantial number of the doctoral students had taken part to the introductory course organised in Helsinki.

The advisory board agreed that the first research training seminar “*Transcending Concepts: The History of Experiences, Argumentation and Interpretations*” had been a success. The event attracted 20 doctoral students from different parts of Europe. When discussing the ideal amount of time reserved for each work-in-progress paper, the advisory board stated that 40 minutes is needed for the presentation and the discussion. The advisory board thought that the distribution of the work-in-progress papers to all participants before the research training seminar will help to achieve this goal. Guidelines for writing and giving a paper will need to be outlined.

A need to offer travel grants to the participants was raised and the board will take this into consideration when organising future events.

4. The advisory board acknowledged with great satisfaction that the home page has been received well by the public. The number of visitors from different parts of the world to the website is growing continuously. The members are advised to update the information and contact details of their personal pages as well to send news reports of conceptual history related events to the news section.
5. The advisory board discussed various funding alternatives of the future activities ending up in advocating a decentralised model, according to which the conveners for each research training course take the responsibility for the funding of the course. Infrastructural money for running the organisation on the other hand is scarcer. It was suggested that the financial executive should be discontinued which was endorsed.
6. The advisory board discussed the need to renew the composition of the advisory board. The board decided to ask Vasileios Syros who had not actively taken part to the work of the advisory board whether he would like to take part in the future work of Concepta or consider stepping down. Peter Hallberg had before the meeting asked for deliverance from the advisory board membership. The board adhered to invite Sinai Rusinek (Jerusalem), Irène Herrman (Fribourg) and Margit Pernau (Berlin) to join the board. The chairperson and the secretary will inform the appointed persons. It is hoped they will accept the position and that the composition of the new board can be presented at the HPSCG meeting in Seoul in September to receive their approval for the composition.
7. Concepta’s second research training seminar “*Beyond Classical Key Concepts: Applied Conceptual Analysis*” will be organised in San Millán de la Cogolla, La Rioja, Spain on 3-5 December 2008. The conveners gave an account on the planning of the event. It was agreed that one parallel session in Spanish will be organised but otherwise the group of participants should stay together the rest of the time. The board was informed that the conveners (including the Nordic conveners) will invite a key note speaker for each session.

The planning of the third research training seminar on “*Constitution and Constitutionalism*” is underway. It will be organised in autumn 2009. The conveners have not yet decided on the location.

The conveners of the fourth research training seminar on “*Historical Argumentation in Political Discourse*” are encouraged to come forth with a suggestion on as to when and where the event could take place.

8. Sinai Rusinek gave an account on the introductory course which will be organised in Jerusalem on 7-12 September 2008. The course serves regional needs, although it has clear resemblances with the Helsinki introductory course. The course has attracted a lot of interest and the organisers are adjusting the format to serve the needs of a large audience. The organisers plan a similar event with an international focus for the following year(s). The organisers of the introductory courses co-operate to avoid negative competition.
9. The next advisory board meeting will be organised in Madrid on 6 December 2008.
10. Jörn Leonhard and Helge Jordheim proposed a research training seminar on the “Empire” which the board approved. The board members also discussed the possibility of working together on various publications in the future.
11. Henrik Stenius presented the outcomes of the European Conceptual History meeting organised in Helsinki in March 2008 by Europaeum and Centre for Nordic Studies at the Renvall Institute (Helsinki University). The European Conceptual History project aims to produce a series of anthologies on clusters of concepts. The advisory board put forward the idea that Concepta could have a more pro-active role in this project.