



Bibliotheca Baltica General Assembly on 4 October 2018, 9.00 –10.30 hrs

Rostock University Main Building

Minutes

Agenda:

1. Opening by President Renaldas Gudauskas
2. Establishment of the number of delegates authorized to vote on behalf of their libraries (and number of guests)
3. Acceptance of the Agenda
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Assembly in Riga, 20th October, 2016
5. Report by the President and Board members on activities and plans
6. Report by the Treasurer on the financial situation of Bibliotheca Baltica
7. Proposal of a change to the Bibliotheca Baltica Statutes
8. Elections (President, Treasurer, Board members, Auditors)
9. Further activities of the Bibliotheca Baltica Working group
10. AOB

Participants:

See enclosed list

1. Opening by President Renaldas Gudauskas

The General Assembly is opened by the Bibliotheca Baltica President. He thanks Rostock University Library and especially Susanne Goldmann for the excellent preparation of the Symposium.

2. Establishment of the Number of Delegates authorized to vote on behalf of their libraries (and number of guests)

All members present sign the prepared list.

3. Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda is accepted unanimously.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Assembly in Riga on 20th October 2016

The minutes of the General Assembly 2016 are confirmed unanimously.

5. Report of the President and Board Members on Activities and Plans

Renaldas Gudauskas as out-going President of Bibliotheca Baltica looks back on the eight years of his presidency, concentrating mainly on the four successful Symposia (2012 in Tallinn, 2014 in Södertörn, 2016 in Riga and 2018 in Rostock) and on the projects that were discussed, supported and initiated during this period. He points out that on every occasion Bibliotheca Baltica managed to choose very up-to-date topics for the Symposia and that in his view especially in 2014 the selection of Digital Humanities as the focus for the Symposium in Södertörn was a great achievement because it was one of the first major international library conferences dedicated to this important topic. But also the other choices (e.g. the role of librarians as providers of support for research, the new challenges to the library profession and making sources in libraries and archives available to academia and the public as well as sharing them) proved to be of great interest to the profession and resulted in good and high-quality attendances. In this vein the 2018 Symposium is also in accordance with Rostock University's motto of "traditio et innovation", which in his view would also be a good motto for Bibliotheca Baltica. He is very happy that thanks to the efforts of Robert Zepf and Andris Vilks a recent publication of Rostock University has highlighted the role of Bibliotheca Baltica in the library, information and cultural heritage field of the Baltic Sea region and points out that the association Bibliotheca Baltica and its activities reflect the strategic alignment of Rostock University and its library.

Regarding the projects that Bibliotheca Baltica was involved in during his presidency Renaldas Gudauskas mentions the cooperation with the virtual Baltic Sea Library Project, the cooperation with Ernst & Young for an application in the Horizon 2020 programme and the current cooperation project with five libraries funded by the Council of the Baltic Sea States, which will be discussed later.

Renaldas Gudauskas ends his report by reflecting shortly on the geographical enlargement of Bibliotheca Baltica, which now has members in Belarus and France, and by thanking the other Board members for their continuous support during his presidency.

6. Report by the Treasurer on the financial situation of Bibliotheca Baltica

Liisa Savolainen shows slides of the balance sheets for 2016 and 2017 and the auditor's reports for the same years (these are attached to these minutes).

Following her report the General Assembly votes unanimously to discharge all Board members from all the financial liabilities for the years 2016 and 2017.

Liisa Savolainen then explains that the 2018 Symposium is jointly financed by Bibliotheca Baltica and Rostock University. The financial outcome of the Symposium will become clear after the Symposium but the Treasurer expects the financial balance of Bibliotheca Balance to be between 1.000 and 1.500 Euro at the end of the financial year 2018.

Currently Bibliotheca Baltica has 19 paying member libraries which value especially the networking possibilities and the excellent Symposia organized by Bibliotheca Baltica.

In order to provide a more stable financial basis for Bibliotheca Baltica the Board suggests an increase in membership fees from 70 to 100 Euro starting from 2019. The funds generated by the membership fees are used completely to finance the Symposia including the travel grants for young professionals.

Renaldas Gudauskas as President thanks Liisa Savolainen for her very valuable and professional work as Treasurer of Bibliotheca Baltica.

7. Proposal of a change to the Bibliotheca Baltica Statutes

The members have been informed about the proposed change in advance through the Symposium website.

The Secretary explains the proposed change by saying that the Bibliotheca Baltica Board has decided at its meeting on 11th June 2018 to propose a change of **sentence 2 of §3** of the **Bibliotheca Baltica Statutes** as last amended on **20th October 2016** at the Riga General Assembly.

Current wording:

*The representatives of the member libraries present at the General Assembly elect the President as well as up to **eight** additional members of the Board for a term of four years.*

Proposed wording:

*The representatives of the member libraries present at the General Assembly elect the President as well as up to **ten** additional members of the Board for a term of four years.*

The members vote unanimously in favour of the proposed changes. President Renaldas Gudauskas thanks the members for their trust and support.

8. Elections

In an open vote the following candidates are elected as Board members for the period 2018-2022:

- *Robert Zepf* as President: all yes-votes
- *Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen* as Treasurer: all yes-votes
- *Jonas Gilbert* as Board member: all yes-votes
- *Liisa Savolainen* as Board member: all yes-votes

All candidates accept their election and thank the General Assembly for the trust expressed.

The General Assembly agrees that Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen will take over the financial affairs of Bibliotheca Baltica once the necessary changes regarding the registration of Bibliotheca Baltica and the bank account with Nordea Bank have been finalized. This means that Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen's term of office as Treasurer of Bibliotheca Baltica will last from 2019 to 2022.

Raivo Ruusalepp (National Library of Estonia) and *Charlotte Hillergård* (Södertörn University Library) are elected as auditors for the business years 2018 and 2019.

9. Further activities of the Bibliotheca Baltica Working Group

Jürgen Warmbrunn thanks both the National Library of Latvia and the Rostock University Library for their very successful work in redesigning and updating the Bibliotheca Baltica website which is very important for the visibility of the working group.

The new President of Bibliotheca Baltica, Robert Zepf, then informs the members about the project “Digital approaches in cultural heritage: towards a pan-Baltic cooperation network” funded by the Council of Baltic Sea States. This project, which involves the national libraries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden as well as Rostock University Library, was developed in very close cooperation with Bibliotheca Baltica. Its aim is to foster the digitization of cultural heritage objects in the Baltic Sea region and to bring this subject as well as the role played by libraries more clearly onto the political agenda.

Robert Zepf adds that one of the major activities of his presidency will be a membership drive. Although Bibliotheca Baltica is a low-budget operation there is nevertheless a need for financial sustainability as a prerequisite for Bibliotheca Baltica to be able to reach its goals and to strengthen its activities. He will also try to win libraries from outside the Baltic Sea region but with a mandate to collect material from this area like the Bavarian State Library in Munich as new members.

The Board will meet at least twice in 2019: once in March in Riga as part of a meeting of the CBSS project and once in autumn in Szczecin, where the next Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium is scheduled to take place.

10. AOB

None

Attachments:

Balance sheets of Bibliotheca Baltica for the years 2016 and 2017 and auditor's reports for the years 2016 and 2017

Prof Dr Renaldas Gudauskas
President of Bibliotheca Baltica

Dr Jürgen Warmbrunn
Secretary (for the Minutes)