

Event Report

26th EUROGRAPHICS

General Assembly

The Twenty-sixth General Assembly of the EUROGRAPHICS Association was held at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, on September 1st, 2005, at 17.20. The Chairman, Professor Hans-Peter Seidel welcomed the 59 members present.

1. Minutes of the Twenty-fifth General Assembly

The Minutes of the Twenty-fourth General Assembly, published in *Computer Graphics Forum*, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 848-852 (2004) were received.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave an annual report of the activities of the Association. He started by thanking his predecessor, Professor Philip Willis, for the excellent job that he had done during his chairmanship.

3.1. Workshops Board

The Chairman stressed the importance of the workshop series. The key role of the Association is to provide services to the community to enable the community to organize events with little overhead.

There are eight Working Groups: Animation, Hardware, Rendering, Data Visualization, Multimedia, Parallel Graphics, Geometry Processing and Geometric Modelling, Virtual Environments, Graphics and Cultural Heritage and Sketch-based User Interfaces and Modelling. The Chairman explained that the new cultural heritage working group is building bridges to a community outside 'hardcore' computer graphics.

Symposia and workshops have been held, or are planned, during 2005 on Computational Aesthetics, EuroVis Visualization Symposium (with IEEE TCVG), Rendering, Geometry Processing, Volume Graphics (with IEEE TCVG),

Point-based Graphics (with IEEE TCVG), Graphics Hardware (with ACM SIGGRAPH), Computer Animation (with ACM SIGGRAPH), Natural Phenomena, Sketch-based Interfaces, Virtual Environments, VAST Graphics and Cultural Heritage.

The draft programme for 2006 includes EuroVis, Rendering, Virtual Environments, Hardware, Geometry Processing, Point-based Graphics, Animation and Parallel Graphics. Other proposals are under discussion with the Workshops Board.

3.2. Publications Board

The Association runs a journal and also produces high quality proceedings of events.

The Chairman thanked the Editors-in-Chief of the journal, *Computer Graphics Forum*, David Duke and Roberto Scopigno, for their contributions. He reported that the impact factor of the journal is rising.

EG events proceedings are now produced by EG Publishing. Twelve titles were produced in 2004. He thanked the Publications Board Chairman, Dieter Fellner for making this happen.

The Chairman reported that the EG Digital Library continues to grow. The library includes *Computer Graphics Forum*, workshop and conference publications, including state-of-the-art reports. The proceedings of partner events are now also included in the Digital Library. Meta data has been added for all entries in the library. Non-member access to the Digital Library is available through TIB Hannover. Downloads from the Digital Library continue to increase. Downloads of papers increased by 20% from 2003 to 2004, and the overall usage by 50%. The average number of downloads per month in 2004 was 1281.

The Chairman pointed out that it is important for the community to be positioned so that power does not reside exclusively in the hands of publishers. He emphasized the work that EUROGRAPHICS has done on behalf of the community to ensure that there is infrastructure available to support high-quality publication.

3.3. Operations Board

The Chairman reported that the number of members has risen to 743 (a 9% increase over the corresponding number in 2004). The four top countries are Germany 127, USA 96, UK 79, and Spain 68. 17% of the members are student members.

The Association also has 24 Organizational Members and 12 Educational Members. The Chairman said that he believed that many more groups could benefit from Organizational Membership and he encouraged all members to encourage others to join the Association. He pointed out that there are many reasons for joining a professional organization at both the institutional and personal levels.

The Chairman reported that electronic access is well established as the preferred means for accessing the journal; the fraction of members taking print subscriptions has continued to decline; 65% of the members have electronic-only subscriptions and only 11% have print-only subscriptions.

3.4. On-line Board

The On-line Board is responsible for the provision of online services to members and to other Boards and Chapters. The Chairman reported that the redesigned Web site is now operational and further work to improve the Web site is in-hand.

3.5. Professional Board

The Chairman reported that a new method for paying back a proportion of the EG membership fee to Chapters has been implemented.

He also reported that a Canadian Chapter has now been established, bringing the total number of Chapters to 10. He welcomed Alla Schaffer, treasurer of the Chapter, who was representing the Chapter at Eurographics 2005.

The Association has agreements with a number of societies including ACM SIGGRAPH, SIGGRAPH, SIGRAD, Norgsigd, GI FB GDV and NGI. The Professional Board agreed cooperations with twelve events during the year; this form of support for other events is proving popular.

The second Eurographics Medical Prize competition has been organized and the results were to be announced in the closing session of EUROGRAPHICS 2005.

The Chairman reported that the very successful cooperation agreement with ACM SIGGRAPH, signed in August 2000, was due to expire this year and a new agreement had been drawn up. At this point in the meeting the new agreement was signed by the Eurographics Chairman and Vice Chairman and by the ACM SIGGRAPH Chairman, Scott Owen, who was present at the meeting.

Professor Arnold asked whether it would be possible for the ACM SIGGRAPH Digital Library and the EUROGRAPHICS Digital Library to be jointly indexed, that is to say searches in one could return content in the other. The Chairman said that such issues were under discussion.

3.6. Promotions Board

The main activity of the Promotions Board has been the organization of the 25 years of EG celebrations. The Chairman thanked Pere Brunet, the Chairman of the Promotions Board, for the effort that the Board has put into organizing this year of celebration.

3.7. Education Board

The Chairman reported that the Education Board, is bringing together people who teach computer graphics or use computer graphics for teaching other courses. He reported that the EUROGRAPHICS 2005 programme includes two sessions on computer graphics education, chaired by J.J. Bourdin and H. McCabe.

In addition to operating the CGEMS repository for high quality resources, the Board is planning several new activities, including a workshop on computer graphics education at EUROGRAPHICS 2006. The aim of the workshop will be to define an international computer graphics curriculum. The overall aim of the Board is to improve the profile of graphics teaching.

3.8. Fellows

Two new Fellows have been elected, Professor Marie-Paule Cani and Professor François Sillon. The General Assembly congratulated them on their election.

4. Presentation of Accounts

The Treasurer, Werner Hansmann, presented the accounts for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004.

4.1. Internal Accounts

The Treasurer explained that he would first present the internal accounts of the Association and then the official accounts. The Euro is the official Eurographics currency and hence the Internal Accounts of the Association have been calculated based on the Euro. As the legal and fiscal seat of the Association are in Switzerland, the Audited Accounts are calculated in Sfr but translated to Euros (using the Association's official exchange rate for 2004) for presentation to the General Assembly.

Table 1: Internal Accounts 2004

Income	Actual	Budget	Difference
Membership fees	75,429.99	66,000	9,429.99
Events	55,747.29	22,000	33,747.29
Bookshop/proceedings	67,601.98	18,000	49,601.98
Royalties	17,934.26	17,000	934.26
Bank interest	6,849.95	6,000	849.95
	223,563.47	129,000	94,563.47
Expenditure			
Executive Board	9,628.10	12,000	-2,371.90
Prof. Board	200.00	3,000	-2,800.00
Chapters	4,979.11	4,000	979.11
Workshop Board	111.40	1,000	-888.60
On-line Board	8,799.44	3,000	5799.44
Ops - Secretary	21,088.08	22,000	-911.92
Ops - Services	32,089.65	31,000	1,089.65
Ops - Treasurer	5,803.34	8,000	-2,196.66
Ops-Taxation	2,438.77	2,000	438.77
Promotions Brd	4,136.40	8,000	-3,863.60
Education Brd	0.00	5,000	-5,000.00
Publicns Brd			
- CGF & WS Proc	74,589.50	14,000	60,589.50
- Travel	0.00	2,000	-2,000.00
Bookshop	7,337.24	18,000	-10,662.76
Contingency	221.87	1,000	-778.13
	171,422.91	134,000	37,422.91
Surplus/Deficit	52,140.57	-5,000	57,140.57

These show a surplus of 52K Euros compared to a budgeted deficit of 5K Euros. Table 1 reports income and expenditure on the membership account and compares this with the budget for the period, which was agreed by the General Assembly in September 2003.

Notes

- Membership had increased above the budgetted level and hence income from fees was higher than anticipated. Income from the Bookshop/proceedings was also higher than anticipated due to the introduction of EG Publishing in 2004 which was not foreseen when the budget was drawn up.
- Expenditure was broadly in line with expectations. EG Publishing also accounted for the difference between actual and budgetted expenditure on the bookshop and CGF and workshop proceedings.

4.2. Audited Accounts

The Auditor's Report is reproduced at the end of these minutes. In these minutes the accounts are presented in Euros; the official accounts are in Sfr and the official Eurographics exchange rate for 2004 has been used for the conversion. The Profit and Loss Account for 2004 is shown in Table 3 and the Balance Sheet in Table 3.

Table 2: Profit and Loss Account (January 1 to 31 December 2004) with comparative figures for 2003

Income	2003 Euros	2004 Euros
Subscription	73,171.50	75,758.69
Repayment on book sales	14,417.73	67,470.77
Bank interest	1,981.98	2006.50
Short term deposit interests	0.00	0.00
Events	37,657.74	47,812.99
Royalties et al.	68,818.06	17,726.75
Exchange diff.	4,741.82	0.00
Result on prev. period	0.00	1,238.83
	200,788.83	212,014.54
Expenditure		
Executive Board	8,472.90	9,646.82
Professional Board	1,377.03	202.58
Workshop Board	0.00	112.84
Chapters	2,294.38	3,196.51
Online Board	30,629.90	8,863.10
Operational Serv.	0.00	32,504.31
Secretariat	25,029.88	21,123.19
Treasurer	11,921.47	6,133.12
Promotions Board	7,137.77	4,075.97
Bkshp. and Publ. Brd.	37,666.97	82,985.30
Contingency	502.40	224.74
Exchange difference	0.00	3,613.55
	125,032.71	172,682.03
Result		
Profit or loss for period	75,756.12	39,332.51

Table 3: Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2004 with comparative figures for 2003

Assets	2003 Euros	2004 Euros
Cash	86.23	6.49
Banks	384,646.10	356,398.55
Federal withholding tax	609.16	1,201.51
Deposit	492.82	495.29
Account receivable	3,669.16	53,758.12
EG '03 account	7,232.73	0.00
EG '04 account	0.00	6,442.53
	396,736.19	418,302.49
Liabilities		
EG'05 account	0.00	481.83
Accounts payable	34,768.18	16,519.48
Fortune	361,968.66	401,301.18
	396,736.84	418,302.49

The audited accounts report a surplus of 40K Euros. The audited accounts include income due to the Association from workshops for which invoices have been issued but payment has not yet been received.

Table 4: Capital Assets 2001–2004

Euros	2001	2002	2003	2004
Capital at year end	339,025.60	286,212.55	361,968.66	401,301.18
Surplus/(Loss)	45,853.27	(52,813.06)	75,756.12	39,332.51

For information, Table 4 summarizes the capital and results reported in the audited accounts over recent years. The Treasurer noted that the large loss reported in 2002 arose from income that was due in that year but was not received until the following year.

The Auditor's Report was presented to the General Assembly.

Professor W. Purgathofer proposed that the audited accounts be approved, seconded by Professor W. Heidrich. The motion was carried, *unanimously*.

5. Appointment of Auditors

Dr N. Dodgson proposed that Audit & Co. SA of Geneva be appointed auditors for the financial year commencing 1 January 2006. Professor A. Chalmers seconded. The motion was carried *unanimously*.

5.1. Estimates for 2005

The Treasurer presented an estimate of income and expenditure for 2005 shown in Table 5. A small end of financial year surplus is currently predicted, compared to a small deficit envisaged in the budget for 2005. He explained that EG Publishing had not been fully incorporated into the budget for 2005, thus there were significant differences to the budgetted income and expenditure for these budget lines.

6. Budget and Forward Look

The Treasurer, Werner Hansmann, presented the budget for 2006 and forward look until 2010, shown in Table 5. Figures are KEuros. He explained that the forward look beyond 2006 was provisional. A conservative view of income from membership fees has been taken. Membership is assumed to be flat over the period of the forward look with a small increase in the number of Organizational and Educational Members. EG Publishing has been taken into account. The forward look shows a nearly balanced budget over the period.

The Treasurer explained that the membership fee income was based on an increase in the membership fee for Organizational Members from the present figure of 840 Euros to 960 Euros from 1 January 2006. He explained that the proposed increase arose from the enhanced benefits package to Organizational Members as a result of EG Publishing. Organizational Mem-

Table 5: Estimates for 2005

(KEuros)	End	Year	Budget	Difference
Income	March	End		
Membership fees	41	75	68	7
Royalties	19	19	19	0
Events	-30	28	28	0
Bookshop & proc.	-19	65	18	47
Bank interest	0	6	6	0
	11	193	139	54
Expenditure				
Executive Board	0	10	12	-2
Prof. Board	0	3	3	0
Chapters	0	4	5	-1
Workshop Board	0	2	2	0
On line Board	0	3	3	0
Ops - Secretary	5	23	24	-1
Ops - Services	16	35	32	3
Ops - Treasurer	1	8	8	0
Ops-Taxation	1	4	6	-2
Promotions Brd	2	8	8	0
Education	2	5	5	0
Publns CGF & proc.	20	75	17	58
Bookshop	0	6	18	-12
Contingency	0	1	1	0
	47	187	144	43
Surplus/Deficit	36	6	-5	11

bers receive copies of **all** workshop proceedings produced by EG Publishing.

The proposal from the Executive Committee to increase the fee for Organizational Members was discussed. Members posed a number of questions.

- 1 *Is it cost effective for a university to become an Organizational Member if a number of individuals are already individual members?* The Chairman explained that it is highly desirable to have more Organizational Members both for the Association and for the groups themselves. He noted that an institution's library could become an Organizational Member. He said that the proposal to increase the fee was in order to cover the cost of the increased benefits that Organizational Members now receive, and the decision to return a fraction of the fee to local Chapters.
- 2 *The proposed increase is in the region of 12–14%. With the current number of Organizational Members that is a revenue differential of 2–3,000 Euros. If the marginal cost of providing Organizational Membership has increased, that is a reason for seeking an increase in the fee, but if it is the absolute level of revenue that is a concern, the case is more debatable.* The Chairman of the Publications Board, Professor Fellner, replied that when the current Organizational Membership benefits and fees were agreed, the number of publications included in the package was between 4 and 6.

Table 6: Budget for 2005 and Forward Look

(KEuros)	06	07	08	09	10
Income					
Member fees	75	75	76	76	77
Royalties	19	19	20	21	22
Events	28	29	29	30	31
B'shop and Procs.	65	65	65	65	65
Interest	5	5	5	5	5
	192	193	195	197	200
Expenditure					
Exec. Brd.	12	13	13	14	14
Prof. Brd.	3	3	3	3	3
W'shps Brd.	2	2	2	2	2
Chapters	4	4	4	4	4
On line Brd.	3	3	3	3	3
Operations					
Secretary	23	23	25	26	26
Services	35	37	38	40	41
Treasurer	8	8	8	8	9
Taxation	5	5	5	5	5
Promotions	6	6	6	7	7
Education	5	5	5	6	6
Publications - CGF	17	16	17	17	18
B'shop and Procs.	69	70	70	71	71
Contingency	1	1	1	1	1
	193	197	200	207	210
Surplus/(Deficit)	-1	-4	-5	-10	-10

In 2004 Organizational Members received 12 publications each, assuming a cost of 20 Euros (and this is less than the production cost), this accounts for the proposed increase of 120 Euros in the fee. Professor Fellner went on to say that a regular library subscription to *Computer Graphics Forum* only includes electronic access to the journal through the Synergy system; it does not include the full conference materials, workshop proceedings and partner event proceedings which are provided as a benefit of Organizational Membership through the EUROGRAPHICS Digital Library. In addition Organizational Members can send any number of their staff to any EUROGRAPHICS event at the member discount rate. Professor Fellner also said that the Association was trying to identify budget positions and ensure that each was realistically costed with respect to the benefits provided.

The motion to increase the Organizational Membership fee from 840 Euros to 960 Euros with effect from 1 January 2006 was proposed by Professor L. Kobbelt and seconded by Professor M. Chen. the motion was passed *nem. con.* (3 abstentions).

The budget and Treasurer's report were accepted *unanimously*, proposed by Professor N. John, seconded by Professor T. Ertl.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his efforts on behalf of the Association.

Table 7: Election Results

Candidate	Region	Votes	
Baranoski	8	24	
Cani	5	87	Elected
Duce	1	72	
Fellner	2(7)	92	Elected
Gotsman	8	50	
Navazo	6	77	Elected
O'Sullivan	1	67	
Pulli	4	73	Elected
Rushmeier	8	92	Elected
Skala	7	78	Elected
Thalman	5	40	
Vandoni	5	64	
Willis	1	58	
Wyvill	8	81	Elected

7. Executive Committee Elections

7.1. Results of the 2005 Elections

The Chairman reported the results of the 2005 elections (see Table 7). There was one regional vacancy in region 4 and two in region 8.

The Chairman congratulated those who had been elected and thanked those who were not elected for their support of the Association. Those elected commence their three year terms of office on 1st January 2006. The Chairman explained that Professor Fellner was resident in region 2 at the time of the election but at the time of the General Assembly was in the process of moving to region 7.

The composition of the Executive Committee for 2006 will be:

Until 31 December 2006. Brunet (6), Chalmers (1), Ertl (2), Jorge (6), van Liere (3), Purgathofer (7), Sillion (5).

Until 31 December 2007. Coquillart (5), Duke (1), Gross (5), Müller (2), Scopigno (5), Seidel (2), Torres (6).

Until 31 December 2008. Cani (5), Fellner (7), Navazo (6), Pulli (4), Rushmeier (8), Skala (7), Wyvill (8).

The numbers in brackets after each name indicate the region to which the member belongs.

The Chairman said that the Executive Committee had looked at the composition of the electoral regions and wished to propose a change to take effect in the 2006 elections. The current composition of the electoral regions, number of full members in each and corresponding percentage of the membership is:

- 1 United Kingdom, Ireland 66(12%).
- 2 Germany 107(19%).
- 3 Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein 17(3%).

- 4 Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland 23(4%).
- 5 Italy, Switzerland, France, Monaco, Malta 75(13%).
- 6 Spain, Portugal, Andorra 103(18%).
- 7 Rest of Europe 36(6%).
- 8 Rest of the World (non-European) 139(25%).

The figures show an imbalance between the larger regions and the three small regions (3, 4 and 7). The Chairman explained that the Executive Committee wished to propose an amalgamation of regions 3, 4 and 7, to create a new region ('All other European Countries') with 76 members (13%). At the same time, the name of region 8 should be changed to 'All non-European Countries'. Each of the resulting 6 regions would be guaranteed 2 positions on the Executive Committee. If approved, the new composition of the regions would be:

- 1 United Kingdom, Ireland.
- 2 Germany.
- 3 Italy, Switzerland, France, Monaco, Malta.
- 4 Spain, Portugal, Andorra.
- 5 All other European countries.
- 6 All non-European countries.

The proposal was discussed.

Will the regions be defined every year or is the proposal in response to an established trend? Professor Duce said that the General Assembly had asked the Executive Committee to look at the regional composition a number of times in the past. This was the first occasion since 1994 on which a change to the composition was being proposed. He said that the proposal was a reaction to an established trend.

Is there other fine tuning that might be done? The Chairman said that the Executive Committee felt this was a sufficient change for the present time.

The current regions have a geographic compatibility; is the proposal the best re-alignment? The Chairman said that it made sense to group large constituencies. He said that a perfect solution was never possible and the Executive Committee felt the proposed grouping was a sensible step given the current membership distribution.

The change to the composition of the regions was proposed by Dr P. Bono, seconded by Professor P. Brunet and was approved *unanimously*.

The Chairman stated that there would be one regional vacancy in region 1 in the 2006 elections.

7.2. Appointment of Nominating Committee

The General Assembly appoints two members to a Nominating Committee whose function is to nominate candidates for

Table 8: Executive Board 2006

Chairman	H.-P. Seidel
Vice-Chairs	R. Scopigno D.A. Duce
Secretary	C.E. Vandoni
Treasurer	W. Hansmann
Asst. Treasurer	F. Melero Rus
Education Board	I. Navazo
Executive Board	H.-P. Seidel
Operations Board	C.E. Vandoni
On-line Board	C. Wüthrich
Workshops Board	H. Müller
Publication Board	D. Fellner
Promotions Board	P. Brunet
Professional Board	N. John
Strategic issues	D.A. Duce

the Executive Committee elections. The Executive Committee has appointed D. Fellner and P.J. Willis.

M. Chen and W. Heidrich were elected by acclaim to represent the General Assembly.

8. Executive Board 2006

The Chairman announced the composition of the Executive Board for 2006 (see Table 8).

The Chairman thanked all the Board members for their work during the year. He gave special thanks to the two Vice Chairmen, David Duce and Roberto Scopigno. He emphasised the important role that the Vice Chairmen play in the Association, they trigger a lot of activity and are key to the smooth running of the Association.

He also thanked the Secretary Carlo Vandoni and Treasurer Werner Hansmann. He welcomed Francisco Melero Rus who has joined the Board as Assistant Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer has responsibility for financial aspects of the workshop programme. He pointed out the very time consuming work done by the Chairman of the Workshops Board, Heinrich Müller and the major benefits that the community receives through the work of Dieter Fellner in the Publications Board. He thanked Pere Brunet for his leadership of EG@25 and Nigel John for his work in the Professional Board. Finally he thanked David Duce, responsible for Strategic issues and Vice Chairman and said that his role was essential to the running of the Association.

9. Annual Conferences

The Chairman announced that the annual event in 2006 will take place on 4th-8th September in Vienna, Austria. He said that the venue for 2007 was still under discussion.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held during EUROGRAPHICS 2006 in Vienna, Austria on Thursday 7th September 2006.

11. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 18.15.