

ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATORS  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
2021

Virtual Meeting, February 15, 2021

*Minutes*

AIEA Virtual Annual Conference Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 15, 2021 (Virtual)  
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm **Eastern**

1) Welcome

- Darla Deardorff offered a welcome to conference attendees from the AIEA Secretariat.
  - Special appreciation was extended to the conference chair, conference interns, and to the annual conference committee for their work in support of the 2021 virtual conference
- AIEA Associational Welcome from President, Adel El Zaïm
  - Adel called the annual conference meeting to order.
  - He welcomed AIEA Board members and officers as well as the Committee Chairs and thanked all conference participants for being present.
  - In recognition of outgoing Board members and Committee Chairs, Adel highlighted individuals concluding their service to the association and recognized their contributions to AIEA.

2) President's Remarks

- As AIEA President Adel El Zaïm reminded conference participants of the unique opportunities to contribute and benefit from the organization, including the need to work together to share ideas for the future.
- Adel noted that 2020 and 2021 were not normal due to the global pandemic and that it was an important time for the association.
- AIEA pivoted very quickly to online support for members including Town Hall series and the Peer Learning Circles, which will continue in 2021
- AIEA also collaborated a great deal with sister associations nationally and internationally including advocacy.
- Member opportunities include active engagement with AIEA during the conference and beyond.
- In terms of thinking to the future, the theme for the annual conference in 2022 will center on why the internationalization of higher education still matters.
  - a. In the coming weeks, Adel will begin work with the conference planning committee, chairs, and start the recruitment process for session proposals.
  - b. Current plans for the 2022 annual meeting include both an in-person and hybrid experience in New Orleans, LA.
- Adel thanked Cheryl Matherly for her excellent leadership of the Association including serving in the Presidential Stream and as the Conference Chair for the

past two years as the association transitioned to its new process (of the AIEA Past President serving as the Conference Chair).

### 3) Conference Chair Remarks

- As Conference Chair and Immediate Past President, Cheryl Matherly noted that the annual theme for the 2020 AIEA Conference is *Leading Internationalization in a New Era: Collaborating for Global Solutions*.
- Cheryl provided an overview of conference statistics including:
  - 648 conference attendees registered
  - 49 individual sessions
  - 20 networking breaks
  - 6 spotlight sessions
  - 4 plenaries
- Cheryl expressed appreciation to the AIEA Conference Committee, Secretariat, presenters, and all those involved in making this year's conference possible.

### 4) Treasurer's Report

- AIEA's Treasurer, Gil Merckx, indicated that the association is in very good financial shape.
- AIEA's investment account lost some value at the beginning of pandemic, but the association was able to transition to bonds so ultimately the account has gained in value.
- Gil shared that the largest source of income annually is the conference with dues accounting for a small part of the overall budget. He also indicated that the largest expenditure for the association is the conference and the Secretariat.
- Gil's overall summation was that the AIEA budget is healthy and the association continues to retain a solid financial position.

### 5) Nominations Report

- AIEA President Adel El Zaïm expressed appreciation to the committee for their work and provided an overview of the nominations and election process.
- He next welcomed the association's newest Board members – Jewell Winn, Paulo Zagalo-Melo, Jane Gatewood, Sherif Barsoum, and Shannon Márquez.
- Adel reminded AIEA members that AIEA is an association of member-leaders. He requested that members nominate individuals for leadership positions and strongly encouraged members to vote during associational elections.

## 6) Transfer of Leadership

- AIEA President Adel El Zaïm expressed how honored he was to serve this past year and noted that he looks forward to his new role as Immediate Past President in the year to come.
- Adel transitioned leadership by passing the gavel virtually to President-Elect David Fleshler.
- David took a moment to recognize Adel for his service during a very difficult year, noting how important AIEA is to the international higher education community. David thanked Adel personally and on behalf of the Board and membership for his grace during this past year and noted that he was looking forward to the year to come and continuing to work with Adel.
- Adel received a plaque as a token of appreciation for his leadership and service.
- David officially concluded the associational meeting for 2021.

## 7) Final Remarks

- Darla Deardorff extended appreciation to all AIEA leaders for their help and support during the past year.
- She indicated that participants would now be moving into networking time including breakout rooms along with the next session block occurring at 2 pm.