

**GAMEO Management Board Minutes
Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Elkhart, Indiana
2011 October 26**

Present: Abe Dueck (Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission), Bert Friesen (Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, chair), John Lapp (Mennonite Central Committee), John D. Roth (Mennonite World Conference), Sam Steiner (managing editor), John Thiesen (Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee), Richard Thiessen (associate managing editor, treasurer, recording secretary).

Absent: Ken Sensenig (MCC, represented by John Lapp).

1. **Opening and introductions:** Bert Friesen read from Psalm 78:1-8.
2. **Review of agenda:** Bert Friesen
3. **Review of minutes of 20 November 2010:** Richard Thiessen
4. **Business arising from minutes:** None
5. **Recommendation & Action on adding new GAMEO Partner (Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana):**

Sam and Richard reviewed a proposal distributed earlier to the board. After a brief discussion **it was agreed by consensus that the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism (ISGA) be added as a partner.** For the remainder of the meeting, John Roth represented ISGA.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the Global Anabaptist Wiki approach and how articles are created. There were positive comments on how the two sites complement each other.

6. Reports

- a. **Managing Editor:** Sam Steiner reviewed his written report, distributed earlier.
- i. **Statistical Review:** Sam Steiner
- ii. **Style/Design Issues**

There was a lengthy discussion on the translation of articles in GAMEO. John Roth described what is currently being done with the Wiki. Articles can be translated automatically by Google Translator. This would be a much easier route to take for us instead of having someone do the translation work manually. GAMEO should consider using a Google Translate bar.

Our thinking in the past had been to have separate language portals with separate editorial structures for each linguistic group. It was questioned whether or not this is a realistic approach.

There was consensus that GAMEO should move away from the idea of having multi-language portals, but have parallel homepages that would include translated templates for the various types of articles. The encyclopedia index would be inclusive of all articles, with articles in languages other than English identified as such, and with an ability to generate

language specific indexes.

iii. GAMEO DVD: A number of DVDs have been distributed to conservative groups within North America as well as internationally. Eighty-five copies of the DVD will be distributed to international conference attendees in the next few days.

iv. Consulting Editors

The consulting editors will work on national or denominational articles and specific theological articles. These articles, identified by the managing editors, will be sent to the consulting editors for their consultation and assistance in assigning writers.

b. Regional Editorial Committee reports: written reports were received from the following regional editorial groups: British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Lancaster, and Eastern Pennsylvania (Franconia). Richard will initiate exploring the formation of regional editorial groups in California, Indiana, and Kansas for 2012.

7. GAMEO Content Projects

a. Hutterite Brethren: Bert reported that there has been no progress with this group in 2011.

b. *Mennonitishes Lexikon (MennLex)*: Richard reported that there is a good working relationship with this group. Some articles submitted to MennLex that were originally written in English have been used by GAMEO, and some German articles have also been translated.

c. *Lexikon der Mennoniten in Paraguay*: Richard reported that GAMEO has permission to translate articles from the Lexikon into English, and this work will be proceeding.

d. Other Anabaptist Groups:

The Brethren in Christ are working on an encyclopedia; their contact person is Morris Sider at Messiah College.

The Church of the Brethren are working on an update to their encyclopedia; their contact person is Jeff Bach at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College.

8. GAMEO Cooperation with Global Anabaptist Wiki: Richard/John R.

a. Shared Front Page: The plan is to develop a common design for both sites, with clear communication regarding the purpose of each site.

b. Anabaptist Ethereal Library: The plan is for the Global Anabaptist Wiki to carry this material in the future.

c. Bibliographical Guide: The plan is for the Global Anabaptist Wiki to carry this material in the future.

9. GAMEO Conversation with Global Mennonite History Project/MWC

a. Objectives: Could GAMEO find a home with the Mennonite World Conference?

MWC would be the treasurer and manager of the GAMEO funds. The global church through MWC would have a sense of ownership of GAMEO, and see this as a benefit. GAMEO would benefit by having MWC help to increase visibility, add credibility, and make fund-raising easier by communicating that the project is not just a North American entity but a global entity. GAMEO would allow the work of the Global Mennonite History Project to continue.

b. Review of agenda for Thursday conversation.

10. GAMEO Structure

a. Policy Working Document: there was only brief discussion regarding this document.

11. Staffing

a. Associate Managing Editor(s): With the appointment of Richard Thiessen to the managing editor position, **Sam will now serve as the associate managing editor.**

12. Technical Issues

Content Management System software: Plone needs to be updated to a newer version, and very few PeaceWorks clients still use Plone. Drupal is widely used among PeaceWorks clients. A number of websites are now using MediaWiki. MediaWiki allows for a multi-language platform, has a large world-wide user base for support with technical issues, and is flexible in terms of permissions and role protocols.

After discussion, **it was agreed that we will explore moving to MediaWiki.** PeaceWorks is willing to work with us on the transition to MediaWiki, and is willing to allow us to go into a deficit situation for several thousand dollars.

13. GAMEO Priorities for 2012

- Finalizing transition of managing editors
- Initiating work with consulting editors
- The Software transition
- Dialogue with Mennonite World Conference
- A common design with the Global Anabaptist Wiki and dividing responsibilities in terms of content
- Raising the additional funds needed for the software transition

14. Promotion: No new ideas were suggested.

a. GAMEO DVD (new edition?): We will not do a new edition.

b. News release: We will issue a press release regarding our new partner, the consultation with MWC, the platform migration, and the website work with ISGA.

c. Other

15. Finances

a. Financial report for FYE2011: Richard presented an update to the budget for 2010-2011;

final statements were not yet available.

b. Fundraising: In terms of raising additional funds, perhaps we should approach our partners and ask for a special contribution. We could also create a contribution page similar to MWC.

c. Budget for FYE2012

Expenses

- Hosting: \$1,000
- Software: \$4,000
- Travel: \$2,500
- Contingency: \$500
- Total expenses: \$8,000

The conversion to MediaWiki will be a additional set of expenditures, seen more like capital expenditures rather than operating costs.

Revenue

- Partners: \$1,500
- Sponsors: \$5,000
- Total revenue: \$6,500

16. Other Recommendations: there were no other recommendations.

17. Elections

a. Chair (three year term): Bert was elected for a final three year term.

b. Recording Secretary (task of Associate Managing Editor)

18. Other Business: None

19. Next Meeting (January 2013?)