European Finance Association

Minutes of the EFA General Assembly 2013
Cambridge Judge Business School, 30th August 2013

The 2013 European Finance Association (EFA) General Assembly (GA) was held on Friday, August 30th at the EFA 2013 conference venue at JBS in Cambridge, and was chaired by the EFA President, Carsten Sørensen. An invitation to this annual meeting of the membership had previously been circulated electronically to all current EFA members. Approximately 350 EFA members were present, including EFA Chair Pradeep Yadav, Vice President Raghavendra Rau, and several other members of the EFA Executive Committee.

CALL TO ORDER & OPENING REMARKS

The President called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. by welcoming the EFA member delegates attending the 40th EFA Annual Meeting in Cambridge, England – and thanked those present at the General Assembly for participating actively in their Association. He went over the Agenda, stating that there were several important items to be approved by EFA members at this General Assembly (which would not take too long).

AGENDA

1. Approval of the 2012 General Assembly Minutes
2. Approval of the 2012 Accounts
3. President’s Report
   – Membership
   – Organisation of Annual Meetings
   – Update on the Review of Finance
4. Nominations & Elections
   – Executive Committee 2013
   – Nomination of the EFA Chair 2014-2016
   – Nomination of the EFA President 2014
   – Nomination of the EFA Vice President 2014
   – Elections 2014
5. Future Conferences
6. Any Other Business / Q & A
7. Awards Presentation

President Carsten Sørensen asked if there were any further items to add to the Agenda; none were raised. The President then asked for approval of the 2013 General Assembly Agenda.

The 2013 EFA General Assembly Agenda was officially approved by the EFA members present.
The President expressed his appreciation of the organisation and the quality of papers at the 40th Annual Meeting of the European Finance Association in Cambridge, acknowledging the great efforts of EFA Vice President & Conference Chair, Raghavendra (Raghu) Rau, and his admirable support team ably managed by Maimie Hume, who have been responsible for making this year’s conference a great success – as well as for raising the profile of EFA as a professional association.

A total of 1713 submissions were received for EFA 2013 (an all-time high) – these were sent for review using a triple-blind review system, spread out amongst 520 reviewers (3 reviewers per paper). 240 papers in 22 tracks were accepted for the conference programme (14% acceptance rate). 655 delegates are registered.

1. **Approval of the 2012 General Assembly Minutes**

The President mentioned that the Minutes of the last General Assembly held in Copenhagen had been posted on the EFA association website (http://www.efa-online.org) for all members (and the general public) to read, and that the link had been previously distributed along with the invitation to the 2013 EFA General Assembly. He asked the GA if there were any further revisions; none were communicated. The President then called for a motion to officially approve the 2012 General Assembly Minutes.

The motion was seconded and carried; the 2012 General Assembly Minutes were approved.

2. **Approval of the 2012 Accounts**

As the final Accounts for 2012 had previously been circulated electronically to current EFA members prior to the 2013 General Assembly, President Sørensen briefly reviewed the slides covering Income, Expenditures, and the Balance Sheet – commenting that the financial situation has been fairly stable, and that EFA is in healthy financial shape, especially considering the current economic climate.

Members were reminded about the existence of the EFA Young Academics Fund. This fund was put in place years ago to help students whose papers have been accepted to the EFA Annual Meeting with their travel expenses (provided all other possible sources of funding at their end have been exhausted). Young scholars may apply to the EFA Secretariat for this assistance if they think they might be eligible.

The President called for a motion to ratify the 2012 Accounts.

The motion was seconded and carried; the EFA Accounts 2012 were unanimously approved.

3. **President’s Report**

**Membership**

The President briefed the gathering on the EFA Membership figures. He noted that the current year-to-date total for 2013 (1809 members) is not a final figure; the grand total by the end of the year is likely to be over 2000 members. The current membership represents about 50 countries and all 7 continents.

The President noted that EFA memberships are for the calendar year (i.e., January 1 – December 31) and automatically include a personal (print and online) subscription to the association’s journal, *Review of Finance* (RoF). As from 2012, Oxford Journals / Oxford University Press (OUP) handle membership payments and annual renewals to EFA, along with managing the RoF subscriptions. One must be a current member of EFA in order to be eligible to submit a paper to the EFA Annual Meeting that year.

**Organisation of Annual Meetings**

As has been reported previously, EFA has moved towards a more centralised infrastructure for its Annual Meetings. Beginning in 2012, the EFA membership renewals were integrated with the annual subscriptions to the *Review of Finance*, with OUP taking charge of the payments, online and otherwise. This is working out very well.
The system and procedure to link together the submissions to EFA 2012 with already being a paid member subscriber was also initiated – although this aspect still needs more fine tuning to be made as effortless and efficient as possible (especially around the submission deadline date). EFA and OUP extend their thanks to the EFA 2013 delegates and this year’s EFA members for their patience and collaboration in this regard, and hope to have an improved system in place for EFA 2014 in Lugano.

Despite some setbacks, not only has this more seamless approach decreased the need for members to use as many platforms each year – but the renewal cycle has now reverted to the beginning of the year (rather than being delayed until the spring). EFA continues to strive for more streamlined procedures for the EFA Annual Meetings in conjunction with submissions / memberships / journal subscriptions.

As part of the 40th EFA Annual Meeting, the European Finance Association (EFA) with the support of the EFA 2013 conference team and the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM) organised a one-day Doctoral Tutorial for PhD students which took place earlier this week prior to the start of the main conference. Eight outstanding PhD students were offered the opportunity to discuss their dissertation research with other doctoral students and leading faculty academics in the broad field of finance. The 2013 EFA Doctoral Tutorial was co-chaired by Frans de Roon (Tilburg University) and Loriana Pelizzon (DSE, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice). On behalf of EFA, President Sørensen thanked the sponsors (the main sponsor NASDAQ OMX, and CQA), organisers, participants, and faculty of the 2013 Doctoral Tutorial for their collaboration in supporting this annual EFA event for PhD students.

**Update on the Review of Finance**

The President noted that Franklin Allen, the Managing Editor of the *Review of Finance* (RoF) as of 2012, along with the entire team and Editorial Advisory Board, are following in the footsteps of the previous Co-Editors, Josef Zechner and Marco Pagano as the RoF continues to maintain a very high standard as a prominent journal in finance.

As the journal’s Impact Factor (IF) has gone down slightly from last year, it is even more important that EFA members and colleagues continue to both submit their articles to the RoF as well as make citations from the RoF in their work as much as possible. These seemingly small gestures would greatly help to ensure the continued success of the RoF, which is actually EFA’s journal (i.e., the Association owns it), so it’s up to members to do their part in supporting it with their professional undertakings.

The annual Publisher’s Report for the RoF was sent to the EFA Executive Committee as well as to the RoF Editorial Advisory Board, including an abundance of information, statistical data, tables and various breakdowns – all showing stable and positive figures. EFA will own RoF outright by the end of 2013 (i.e., the advance of a loan from OUP will be paid off) – and figures currently show that there will likely be royalties from 2013 coming to EFA in early 2014 – a truly noteworthy milestone indeed!

### 4. Nominations & Elections

**Executive Committee 2013**

President Carsten Sørensen reviewed the current composition of the EFA Executive Committee, listing the Officers and Directors, and especially welcoming the newly-elected Directors as of January 2013:

- Ekkehart BOEHMER (EDHEC Business School)
- Kjell G. NYBORG (University of Zurich)
- Annette VISSING-JORGENSEN (Kellogg School, Northwestern University)

He also announced that this would be the last General Assembly meeting as EFA Directors for those whose mandates will finish at the end of this calendar year: Denis GROMB, Luis VICEIRA, Paolo VOLPIN – as well as Past President Jan KRAHNEN. On behalf of EFA and the EFA Chair, the President thanked these individuals for their notable contributions over the years – and publicly extended the Association’s appreciation to all of the 2013 Executive Committee members for their efforts and support of EFA.

The President moved on to the EFA Nominations and Elections for the 2014 calendar year and beyond.
Nomination of the EFA Chair 2014-2016

He reported that the Executive Committee during its meeting on 28th August 2013 had unanimously supported this year’s Nominating Committee’s recommendation to reappoint the current EFA Chair, Pradeep Yadav, for a second (non-renewable) 3-year term as EFA Chair 2014-2016 – and was now seeking a formal vote of confidence by the membership present at the EFA General Assembly. He noted that this was the first time such a ratification vote is needed as 2013 marks the end of the first term of office for an EFA Chair (i.e., this position on the EFA Executive Committee was officially added to the EFA Statutes in 2010).

The nomination of the EFA Chair 2011-2013, Pradeep Yadav, for a second (non-renewable) three-year term, 2014-2016, was officially and unanimously approved as well as loudly applauded by the EFA General Assembly 2013.

Nomination of the EFA President 2014

The President further reported that the Executive Committee during the same meeting as above had unanimously agreed to nominate the Conference Chair of EFA 2013 Cambridge, Raghavendra (Raghu) Rau, as the EFA President 2014 – and was now asking for the formal approval of the EFA membership.

The nomination of the 2014 EFA President, Raghavendra (Raghu) Rau, was unanimously approved and applauded by the EFA General Assembly 2013.

Nomination of the EFA Vice President 2014

The President also announced that, at the same meeting as above, the EFA Executive Committee had agreed unanimously to nominate the Conference Chair of EFA 2014 Lugano, François Degeorge, as the EFA Vice President 2014 and was again seeking the formal approval of the EFA membership.

The nomination of the 2014 EFA Vice President, François Degeorge, was unanimously approved and applauded by the EFA General Assembly 2013.

Elections 2014

President Sørensen reminded the GA that since EFA has started holding elections where there are more candidates than posts available (i.e., since 2010 for the 2011 Elections), it had been decided that future Conference Chairs (aka Vice Presidents) were no longer to be included on the annual elections ballot – instead they are to be co-opted to the Executive Committee as ex-officio Officers the year preceding their nomination and mandate (thus leaving more slots open for Director candidates to be elected).

On behalf of Past President and Chair of the 2014 EFA Elections Nominating Committee, Ingrid Werner, the President announced that the Committee has selected 5 candidates who will stand for election to 3 open Director posts on the 2014 EFA Executive Committee. The online election will be held this fall, and electronic ballots will be distributed via e-mail (again using the SurveyMonkey internet platform) to current 2013 EFA members only (using the e-mail addresses contained in their EFA / EIASM profiles). The 3-year mandates of the 3 EFA Directors who are elected by simple majority vote will officially begin on 1 January 2014. The President urged all EFA members to actively participate in their Association by checking their inboxes for the EFA Elections message, casting their votes for their preferred candidates, and submitting their e-ballots online before the announced deadline (or their votes cannot be counted).

5. Future Conferences

The President announced that the next conference will be the 41st EFA Annual Meeting – to be held in Lugano, Switzerland, 27-30 August 2014. EFA 2014 will be hosted and staged by University of Lugano, Swiss Finance Institute (USI). The Conference Chair is François Degeorge. The EFA Doctoral Tutorial will be held on August 27, 2014, prior to the Welcome Reception and opening of the main conference. The submission deadline is February 15, 2014 (TBC). Conference website: www.efa2014.org.
The President was also pleased to confirm to the GA that in two years the 42nd EFA Annual Meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, in August 2015 (exact dates yet to be confirmed). EFA 2015 will be hosted by WU Vienna University (at their newly renovated campus); Conference Chair: Engelbert Dockner.

The President informed the GA that EFA has recently had the good fortune to receive several interesting expressions of interest and preliminary bids for hosting future EFA Annual Meetings, which were tabled at the Executive Committee earlier this week. The procedure for EFA 2016+ is that the EFA Strategic Policy Group will consider these (and any other new) proposals to duly reach decisions for future years.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB) / Q & A**

The President asked whether there were any other items to be discussed, as well as opening the floor to questions or comments. As no issues were raised, President Sørensen announced that the business meeting was hereby closed and duly adjourned the 2013 EFA General Assembly at 4:15 p.m.

7. **AWARDS PRESENTATION**

The President announced that the EFA 2013 Best Paper Prizes will be presented immediately after the keynote speech. He also gave a brief background on the EFA tradition of honouring Past Presidents over the years, and announced that two commemorative speeches and awards would be presented to Past EFA Presidents at the conference dinner tonight – namely:

- 1994 – Bjarne Astrup JENSEN (speech & award to be presented by Kristian Miltersen)
- 2012 – Ingrid M. WERNER (speech & award to be presented by Carsten Sørensen)

President Carsten Sørensen then invited Vice President Raghu Rau to the podium to act as the MC for the EFA 2013 Best Paper Awards presentation. Vice President Rau thanked all of those involved in the EFA 2013 Scientific Committee for their invaluable contributions towards ensuring an excellent Program. He then proceeded to announce the best paper awards, inviting the respective sponsors and winners to come forward as each award was presented to the authors of outstanding papers presented at the EFA 2013 conference in Cambridge, England.

**EFA 2013 WINNERS**

**SAC Capital Advisors, L.P. Prize**

**Best Conference Paper**

*Do Lending Relationships Affect Corporate Financial Policies?*

by Hadiye Aslan (University of Houston).

[Nominating Committee: Andrew Karolyi (Cornell University); Marc Lipson (University of Virginia); Robert Marquez (UC Davis); Henri Servaes (LBS); Pradeep Yadav (University of Oklahoma).]

**Commonfund Prize**

**Best Paper on Foundation and Endowment Asset Management**

*Why Do University Endowments Invest So Much In Risky Assets?*

by Thomas Gilbert and Christopher M. Hrdlicka (University of Washington).

[Nominating Committee: David Chambers (Cambridge University); Elroy Dimson (London Business School); William N. Goetzmann (Yale School of Management).]

**EFA Best Doctoral Student Conference Paper Prize**

**Best Conference Paper by a Doctoral Student**

*Director Connections in the Mutual Fund Industry*

by Paul Calluzzo (Rutgers University).

[Nominating Committee: Frans de Roon (Tilburg University); Avri Ravid (Yeshiva University); Pedro Santa Clara (Nova School of Business and Economics).]

**NASDAQ OMX Education Foundation Prize + CQA (Chicago Quantitative Alliance) Prize**

**Best EFA / EIASM Doctoral Tutorial Paper**

*Slow Capital, Fast Prices: Funding Liquidity Shocks and Stock Price Reactions*

by Stefan Gissler (University of Pompeu Fabra).
Spängler IQAM Prize

Best Paper Published in the Review of Finance

Bottom-Up Corporate Governance  [Review of Finance 2012 (17), pp. 161-201.]
by Augustin Landier (TSE), Julien Sauvagnat (TSE), David Sraer (Princeton University), and David Thesmar (HEC and CEPR).

[Nomining Committee: As in the past, the winning papers were selected by the Associate Editors, Co-Editors and the Advisory Board from amongst all of the articles published in the 4 issues of the previous year’s volume of the Review of Finance.]

The Vice President congratulated the winners and finalists – warmly thanking the sponsors of the best paper awards as well as the conference for their generous support of EFA 2013 in Cambridge, England.

CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT MEETING

President Carsten Sørensen thanked the General Assembly participants for their attention and support, and wished all delegates a successful and beneficial conference. On behalf of EFA, he thanked Conference Chair Raghu Rau and the entire Cambridge team for having organised a memorable EFA Annual Meeting this year. Special thanks were extended to the EFA 2013 Programme Committee and especially Project Manager Maimie Hume who, along with her merry band of staff and volunteers, have been instrumental in ensuring the success of this year’s EFA conference.

Vice President Raghu Rau reminded the GA gathering of the logistics for the conference dinner at King’s College tonight – and that the honorary awards for Past EFA Presidents would be presented as part of the festivities. He looked forward to seeing many of the delegates at the gala on the “Back Lawn” this evening – as well as a good turnout at the remaining sessions on Saturday morning.

On behalf of EFA, the President and Vice President invited the delegates to attend EFA 2014 next year in Lugano, Switzerland. The next General Assembly will most likely take place on Friday, August 29, 2014.

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