

**International Council meeting  
IAMCR Madrid 2019  
Complutense de Madrid  
7 July, 2019, 2-5pm**

**1. Attendance:**

**International Council members:** Helen de Sousa, [person sitting next to Maria], Maria Michalis, Nico Carpentier, Tom Jacobson, Denize Araujo, Kaarle Nordenstreng, Tanja Dreher, Claudia Magallanes, Peter Thompson, Asta Zelenkauskaite, Guillermo Mastrini, Rodrigo Gómez, Benjamin Birkinbine, Cees Hamelink, Nelson Costa Ribeiro, Claudia Padovani, Tonny Krijnen, Geisa Fernandez, Denize Araujo, Aphra Kerr, Jo Pierson, Robin Mansell, Phillippe Maarek, Friedrich Krotz, Richard Maxwell, Claudia Lago, Nicholas Benequista, Susan Abbott, Karen Arriaza Ibarra, Asta Zelenkauskaite, Beate Josephi, Takesato Watanabe.

**Executive Board members:** Janet Wasko, Aimeé Vega Montiel, Graham Murdock, Bruce Girard, Elske van de Fliert, and Gerard Goggin

**In attendance:** Valeria Zamisch, IAMCR Membership Coordinator; and members of IAMCR 2020 Beijing LOC.

**2. Apologies:**

Binod Agrawal, Wajiha Raza Rizvi, Eno Akpabio, César Bolaño, Kaitlynn Mendes, Alina Bernstein, Gholam Khiabany, Ksenia Ermoshina, Mahmoud Galander, Veronique Wavre, Annabelle Sreberny, Frank Morgan, Virpi Salojärvi.

**3. Minutes of last Meeting:** Approved unanimously

**4. IAMCR 2019 Madrid Conference:** Prof Loreto Corredoira and Prof María José Canel briefed IC on the key foci of IAMCR 2019 conference.

**5. IAMCR 2020 Beijing Conference:** Dean Changfen Chen, Professor Min, and Dr Chan and colleagues gave a presentation on IAMCR 2020.

Nico Carpentier asked what policies the EB had put in place to address concerns regarding sensitivity of potential academic topics proposed for the conference. Janet Wasko noted the inclusion of a specific addition on academic autonomy and independence in the MoU. Nico followed up asking how would SWGs proceed to gain advice on various aspects of their program. Prof Shui expressed the willingness and importance of addressing issues on a case by case basis.

Tom Jacobson asked about the practicalities of transport for preconferences in Suzhou - and Yik Chan noted that they will cover costs of 50 participants for fast train transport to Beijing (on a first come, first served basis).

Robin Mansell asked whether EB had plans for alternatives ('plan B') if it proved not possible to hold the conference in Beijing. Janet Wasko responded that while EB had discussed broad prospect (as with any conference). Nico Carpentier emphasised his trust in the LOC, and suggested that approaches and guarantees be fleshed out if possible - for instance, in the MoU. Asta suggested such provisions be written up and shared with SWG Heads at early opportunity. Philippe Marek asked the EB, consulting in the meeting to apply the same approach as occurred with conferences held in the former East bloc - namely, 'free freedom'.

## **6. Executive Board Reports:**

The various members of the Executive Board presented reports on their activities (circulated in the meeting papers).

Philippe Marek enquired regarding EB discussions on future conference locations, and Janet Wasko indicated discussions underway with potential 2021 bid proposers for Kenya, as well as a wide range of interested hosts for 2022 onwards.

Elske van de Fliert presented a detailed report on IAMCR finances (see slides in IC papers).

## **7. Sections & Working Groups:**

Gerard Goggin presented a brief report on the SWG Heads meeting held this morning, noting discussion revolving around two key issues:

- 1) A debrief and debate on the challenges of the registration situation in Madrid 2019;
- 2) The election of two co-chairs/coordinator of SWG Heads - Asta Zelenkauskaitė, and Yolanda Paul.

Asta expressed her intention as new co-coordinator of SWG Heads to do a 'listening tour', to better understand concerns.

Nico put on the record the effect that the registration issues had on people not able to register for the conference, due to the limit, as well as the extra labour it causes for the SWG Heads. He suggested that it raises larger issues for the future of the IAMCR conference.

Claudia noted that the meeting made some very specific suggestions for changes to future conferences that she would like the IC to take into account.

Philippe expressed agreement with the perspective expressed by Nico that the conference model is no longer working. He expressed disagreement with the idea of putting limits on number of co-authors.

Aphra noted the suggestion that an apology be made to people who had papers accepted, but were not able to register for the conference.

Janet noted that IAMCR is an international organization, holding a conference in a different place each year - raising many challenges.

Nelson Ribeiro noted that IAMCR conferences are held in different places, with different implications - so different plans could be made (e.g. for European locations which attract many registrations). Nelson expressed need to discuss the vision for the conference - what is ideal size? Nelson noted his appreciation for the efforts and response of the Executive Directorate. Nelson also noted that proposal that each section have the flexibility to respond as it wishes to do so.

Tanja Dreher expressed the importance of diversity and inclusion in conceiving and organizing conferences. She sought clarification on the number of participants in Beijing 2020. Professor Min Huang confirmed that the approved limit was 1500 participants.

Nico suggested the need to pass two motions to address the key issues raised at SWG Heads meeting.

Nico proposed the following motion, seconded by Philippe:

**That the IC establish a Taskforce on Conference Models.**

Robin mentioned the importance of acknowledging that conferences vary from year to year, but also that given the model of signing an agreement with LOCs/hosts, to devolve the responsibility to a LOC - who bear the financial risk of organizing a conference. The issue is that, if IAMCR does wish to have additional flexibility, then the LOCs would also take on burden of extra costs, renegotiating with their own institutions.

Tom expressed a desire to hear a discussion on growing the size of the conference - and what would the problems be, and what would be measures to be taken to ameliorate them by? (given that other associations are much bigger).

The vote was put: 17 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

The motion was declared passed. Janet noted work would proceed to establish such a Taskforce.

## **8. Committee/Taskforce Reports**

Heads and representatives of various IAMCR committees and taskforces presented reports on their annual activities:

**Legal Committee** – Philippe Maarek gave a brief report.

In particular, he proposed a motion, seconded by Nico:

**That the Election Committee publish notice of candidacies for the EB and IC received as soon as they are received.**

Tanja Dreher noted the practice of CCAM invited interested candidates to contact and be in discussion with current Section leadership at earliest opportunity. She also suggested the publication of all candidate statements at the same time.

**The motion was put, and carried in a majority decision.**

Philippe reported the discussion at the SWG Heads meeting to establish and elect two Co-ordinators of SWGs.

Informed by a subsequent discussion with the President, Philippe suggested the idea that the two Co-coordinators be 'permanent guests' of the EB (receiving the right to attend the meeting without voting rights).

This idea was then debated by the Council. Tom expressed the view that these representatives express the view of SWGs. Asta suggested that this measure not be solely an experiment.

IC debated the suitability and form of the motion to capture this sentiment.

Robin put the view that the Coordinators need to be asked their views of the most effective way forward for liaison - e.g. attending meetings of the EB, or a more flexible forms.

Nico suggested two motions - the first along the lines of the original motion Philippe expressed, and the second motion to make this temporary.

Asta noted that in the morning meeting discussed the roles of the Coordinators - revolving around the role of communication both ways. However, that the question of the transition is a complicated one - with the burden being placed on the coordinator to establish the practices. She felt that comparison with past practice would be useful.

Maria, as a past secretary-general, asked whether the concerns related to conferences - or a range of other issues with which the EB dealing.

Yik Chan noted that at the SWG Heeds meeting the details of the role was not specified - such as the later idea devised by Philippe regarding the participation in the EB.

Robin articulated a counter-proposal - that the IC agrees for the coming one year period to accept requests from the Coordinators to participate in EB meeting as they wish - subject to review, and redefinition of the role in the future.

Informed by the discussion, Philippe proposed the following two motions, seconded by Nico.

**That:**

- **The IC validates the election of two Co-Cordinators -- Asta Zelenkauskaite and Yolanda Paul by the Section and Working Group Heads for the year to come;**
- **The 2 Coordinators will have the right to access the EB, when they wish.**

The motion was discussed and put: 11 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstension.

**That:**

- **The IC asks the Legal committee to formulate a proposal to the bylaw and statutes to the next General Assembly in the next year to the SWG Coordinators.**

Tanja Dreher suggested the importance of this occurring in consultation with the Coordinators themselves.

Motion: 15 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

### **Environment Impact Committee**

Janet summarized the report of the EIC (as distributed) in the Chair (Kerrie Foxwell-Norton)'s absence.

### **Scholarly Review Committee - Tom Jacobson**

Tom summarized the report of the SRC (as distributed). In particular, Tom reported that the SRC wishes its role to be backgrounding the Taskforce. Also that the Taskforce be a defined temporary committee - and that any overlap of its work with that of the SRC should be avoided.

Tom conveyed the SRC's view that the President, or their delegate, be tasked with opening a conversation with relevant SWGs who were not meeting the necessary benchmarks as indicated by the SCR report.

Janet noted the importance of the President discussing with the EB such a referred issue and need to initiate a conversation with the relevant EB. Tom felt this was very much in the spirit of the SRC's desired approach.

### **Publications Committee**

Maria gave the Publications Committee report (as distributed). She noted the achievements of Claudia Padovani and Marjan's expanding Palgrave series, as well as the rejuvenation of the Wiley-Blackwell Handbook series.

### **Membership Committee – Helena Sousa**

Helena gave the report of the Membership Committee (as distributed). She noted the possibility of working with publishers to provide benefits to members. Helena also noted that it is time to do another membership survey and that

### **Ambassador Network Report – Graham Murdock**

### **Committee on the Improvement of Academic Life – Chika Anyanwu/Gerard Goggin**

Gerard gave a brief report on the CIAL.

### **Task Force on GAMAG – Aimée Vega Montiel**

**Clearinghouse for Political Statements** – Robin Mansell reported that the Clearinghouse did 5 public statements in the past year, that were disseminated widely by the Executive Director. She noted there were two objections to statements that were responded to by the President. The Clearinghouse now has 17 members, balanced in gender - and Robin thanked them for their responsiveness and speed. She noted the Clearinghouse declined to make one statement that was suggested, in relation to Brazil - as they felt there was a lack of an evidence base.

**Commission on IAMCR History** – In the absence of Jörg Becker (Chair), Janet noted the formation of the Commission and its activities. It noted the achievements of the Commission, and work of Cees Hamelink and Kaarle Nordenstreng, in finding a home for the archives with UNESCO.

## **9. Other Business**

### **9.1. New IAMCR journal:**

Graham Murdock reported strong support from the Publications Committee to establish an IAMCR open access journal as a 'shop window' for the range and excellence of the work that members do. There are some practical things to work out, but he requested a general endorsement from the IC for it to proceed. It would publish 2 issues a year - one of papers from the conference, and another issue on an open theme. Graham noted that IAMCR is unusual as an association no 'formal mouthpiece' - and that we need to have one.

### **9.2 UNESCO Proposal of a Study on Misinformation:**

Janet noted that UNESCO has approached IAMCR to be involved in a project on misinformation - and members of the EB will meet with Guy Berger to discuss at the Madrid 2019 conference.

### **9.3 UNICEF/IAMCR Communication for Development Research Fund – Elske van de Fliert:**

Elske van de Fliert briefed the Council on this new UNICEF/IAMCR Communication for Development Research Fund. The fund aims to advance our understanding of how Communication for Development (C4D) contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as targeted in UNICEF programs and projects, and to contribute to the work of the Global Alliance for Social and Behaviour Change (GASBC). During two funding rounds (2019-21), the Fund will provide grants for four small research initiatives @ USD 4,000 for early career researchers in low- and middle-income countries. UNICEF and IAMCR, through the GASBC Task Force, will provide mentoring, facilitate peer review and organise a special session at the 2020 and 2021 conferences.

### **9.4 Global Alliance for Social and Behaviour Change:**

Tom Jacobson gave an overview of the new Global Alliance for Social and Behaviour Change- and that the Alliance has asked IAMCR to join, as a formal member.

### **9.5 2020 Elections**

Janet noted elections for IC and EB will occur in 2020.

Janet called for nominations for the Election Committee. Beate Josephi and Robin Mansell indicated their willingness to serve on the Committee. Manuel Pinto was suggested as someone interested in joining the committee.

IC endorsed these three candidates to serve on the Election Committee of the IC.