

## **MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

**First Session - Fener Hall, Kadir Has University, Istanbul  
Wednesday July 13, 2011 - 14:00-17:00.**

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### **1. Welcome**

The meeting of the IC was called to order by the President Annabelle Sreberny who welcomed everyone and thanked the Executive Board (EB), Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the various Task Forces.

### **2. Istanbul Conference Update**

Secretary General Hopeton Dunn updated the IC on arrangements for the conference, noting that all Sections and Working Groups would be represented, that full attendance was expected from speakers confirmed for the Plenary Sessions and Special Sessions and that as SG he had worked closely with the LOC on details of the Opening and Closing ceremonies, conference receptions and venues, among other things. He was satisfied that the necessary arrangements had been made for another successful conference.

The IC then heard from the leaders of the LOC Deniz Bayrakdar and Levent Soysal of Kadir Has University and Koray Özkan from the hospitality firm Delano who had assisted with conference planning and registration. Deniz explained the LOC structure and the various areas of responsibility. Levent reported that some 2505 abstracts were submitted, 1641 abstracts accepted and an unprecedented 1108 full papers uploaded via the conference's OCS system. Additionally, all conference sessions and attendant support systems had been arranged. Koray Özkan elaborated on the transportation and social events that had been planned.

The Secretary General expressed appreciation to the LOC for their hard and dedicated work and for their close collaboration with him and the EB. He also thanked the Section and Working Group Heads, deputies and abstract reviewers for preparing the concurrent panels and other scholarly aspects of the conference.

### **3. Matters Arising from GA and IC Meetings Held in Braga, Portugal, July 20 and 22, 2010**

Annabelle referred to two issues which arose from the GA and IC meetings held last year in Braga: membership categories and conference fees. She expressed concern regarding the increasing hardships faced by many in academic life in all regions. She indicated that further comments on these matters would be made in her President's Report.

### **4. President's Report**

Annabelle mentioned the role of new online communication platforms being used by IAMCR, including Facebook and Twitter. She said that the Association had almost 2.000 fans just prior to the conference and that the Association's life was also actively being reflected on Twitter. Annabelle also mentioned that in recent years IAMCR's

membership was increasing. She referred to the development of better and stronger connections with external partners and regional associations.

The President expressed concern that the IC was relatively inactive and encouraged suggestions about how this situation could be addressed. She also stressed the importance of establishing electronic voting procedures and said the Executive Board, the Legal Committee and Comunica Foundation would explore the regulatory and technical feasibility of introducing electronic voting, and eventually elaborate a proposal.

Finally in her report, the President mentioned the importance of the Association's Task Forces and Standing Committees. Their functions and mandates are to be compiled.

***Action: President***

## **5. Discussion**

Sara Bannerman intervened to remind the IC about the recommendations made by the Conference Fees Committee established in Braga. She wanted to be advised of any progress made in the Braga fees debate commitments including on the following undertakings:

- Fees should be as low as possible
- Virtual participation should be encouraged
- A committee should be established to analyse membership and conference fee categories
- Expensive cultural and social events included in the registration fees should be kept to a minimum
- IAMCR should intensify efforts to seek sponsorship
- Fee structure should be transparent
- Financial reports of conferences should be available to a wider audience

Annabelle indicated that she and the Treasurer would work to define membership categories and make a proposal at the Durban Conference. The Secretary General Hopeton Dunn asked that the action proposed by the President be expedited so a report on Conference Fees could be received by the IC in a matter of months, well before the Durban Conference. This was agreed. He affirmed the commitments made on the matter at the Braga Conference and volunteered to become a part of the Working Committee on Fees. Sara Bannerman also asked if a representative of the ESN could be on the designated Conference Fees Committee and this was also agreed.

***Action: President, Fee Committee, ESN***

Turning to the Association's Membership Fees, President Sreberny reminded the IC that IAMCR had not raised its Membership Fees in the last 8 years. She noted that fees were set in declining dollars and this meant that for most people annual membership fees have actually declined.

Robin Mansell explained that the last membership fees revision was actually made in 2004/2005, when the distinction between high- and low-income countries' fees was made.

Philippe Maarek expressed his concern about any eventual increase in high-income countries' membership fees.

It was mentioned that a new membership fees structure may have to be approved at the Durban General Assembly.

***Action: Treasurer***

## **6. Vice-President's Reports, by John Downing and Ruth Teer-Tomaselli**

Vice President John Downing thanked Comunica for its contribution to IAMCR. He additionally reported on IAMCR's current language policy debate and suggested that John Sinclair's and Gabriel Kaplún's proposals on IAMCR language policy should be merged and incorporated into an integrated proposal. This suggestion regarding language policy was accepted.

***Action: JD***

John also mentioned IAMCR newsletters on which he had worked in the preceding year. Marjan de Bruin observed that there was a proposal that the Newsletter should come to the Publications Committee. On this regard, Hopeton mentioned that there were currently other publications being produced outside of the Publications Committee and while this was not a problem, it would be useful to notify the Publications Committee about such projects. He made reference to the Braga book that had just been released and commended its contents and timeliness. A similar publication from the Mexico Conference was also reported to be in progress.

It was agreed that the committee should take action to harmonize publishing activities, streamline information flow and maintain the Newsletter.

***Action: JD and Publications Committee***

Ruth Teer-Tomaselli indicated that her position as Chair of the Membership Committee had a rather vague mandate. She mentioned her work with African associations, which resulted in a higher level of participation of African members to IAMCR 2011 conference.

***Action: Ruth, EB***

Ruth also presented the outline of a detailed proposal that had been circulated for the Durban Conference. She said that a fuller report would be made at the appropriate IC agenda item and also at this Conference's closing ceremony. Effort have been made she said to keep fees down. Efforts were also being made to limit the Association's carbon footprint at the Durban conference and that detailed planning of the logistics for 2012 was underway. She thanked the IC for their vote of confidence in selecting Durban as the 2012 venue.

## **7. Secretary General's Report by Hopeton Dunn**

Hopeton reminded the IC that the SG's mandate was to lead in the annual conference planning and to coordinate scholarly conference programming among the Section and Working Group Heads, the LOC and the EB. In addition, the SG provided the hub for the overall organizational in initiatives of the Association. He reported that these duties were carried out successfully in the year under review.

He mentioned that IAMCR had grown over the last few years, reflected both in increased membership numbers and unprecedented growth in conference attendance.

This growth warranted the introduction two years ago of the Open Conference System (OCS) as a more efficient means of conference administration in partial substitution for the email system that was in use before. While the new system was not perfect, it had made a tremendous difference to overall conference administration, including abstracts submission, reviews, record-keeping and panel composition.

He also referred to the problem of multiple submissions of abstracts by the same author and reminded the IC that an agreement had been reached earlier that conference presentations were to be restricted to 2 individual presentations per person (individual or as first author) and an additional group presentation might be allowed. He also reported progress in restoring some extra quality to panel presentations by resuming the practice of requiring full paper submissions. He noted that an 'abstracts only policy' led to a deterioration of the conference quality as many presenters had started to resort to evidently rushed PowerPoint presentations in place of adequately prepared presentations or full papers.

Hopeton said IAMCR should aim to formalize this policy of becoming a full paper-conference, despite some issues related to online archiving.

In relation to the administration of the organization, he stresses the need for additional support to the SG which in the past he had expressed in terms of the Association electing an Assistant or Deputy Secretary General. Additionally, he requested all S&WGs be asked to elect deputy chairs as a means of strengthening their administrative reliability.

Philippe Maarek observed that if the Assistant Secretary General was to be an elected position that would require an amendment to the statutes. He also mentioned that in order to add additional officers to complement S&WG Heads the association's statutes would also have to be changed.

**Action: SG, EB**

The SG agreed to submitting amendments to the statutes to the General Assembly to enable S&WGs to uniformly have deputies or co-leaders.

Hopeton reminded the IC of the need for fundraising apart from conference income and recommended that consideration be given to establishing an IAMCR Foundation to lead fundraising for promoting training and research. This proposal was supported by the Treasurer Beate Josephi who saw the need for more organized income generation for IAMCR.

Claudia Padovani also agreed that fund raising was a really important task but asked if a Foundation was necessary. Marjan de Bruin mentioned that a non-functioning Fund Raising Committee already existed.

Hopeton indicated that this was precisely the problem and agreed on further discussion within the EB on the rationale of setting up the Foundation.

**Action: HD**

Manuel Parés I Maicas congratulated the Secretary General on the efforts at increasing the quality of Conference presentations and noted that the organization should devote further resources to intellectual work rather than to debating some organizational issues.

## **8. Treasurer's Report, by Beate Josephi**

Treasurer Beate Josephi informed the IC of the audit of IAMCR's financial records for the period 2005-2010. She thanked former President Robin Mansell for the hard work and support to the Treasurer in compiling the necessary records and information.

Beate reported that there was a deficit for 2011, mainly due to volatile exchange rates, journal costs and other expenses.

The designated accounting reviewer of the Association's financial records, IC member Deepak De, presented an audit report.

Marc Raboy requested more information on the costs associated with the collaboration with Comunica, asking for a breakdown of the expenditure (website, salary, overhead). Beate Josephi agreed to provide a detailed report to IC members on this issue.

### **Action: Treasurer**

Todd Holden suggested further incentives for IAMCR membership, such as reduced fees.

Philippe Maarek responded suggesting to lower registration fees for members.

## **9. Report on IAMCR Conference 2012 - Durban Proposal - Ruth Teer-Tomaselli**

Ruth Teer-Tomaselli presented the Durban 2012 Conference proposal, prepared by the South African LOC and the South African Communication Association (SACOMM). The theme of the Conference will be South-North Conversations and would also address issues of media development indicators. She also mentioned that certain companies had already committed to sponsorship of aspects of the conference. Ruth noted that the presence of some 150 African scholars at the Istanbul Conference was from her efforts and the commitment of SACOMM.

Divina Frau-Meigs suggested the possibility of room sharing as a means of lowering conference costs in Durban.

## **10. Report of the Elections Committee, and Resolution on Adoption of Electronic Voting System**

Janet Wasko reported on the work of the Elections Committee. She said that a proposal for approving electronic voting procedures should be submitted to the General Assembly and that IAMCR should look at how other international organizations were dealing with the voting process. Additionally, she suggested that election results be announced *before* the conference. She indicated that she would not be serving a further term as the Chair of the Election Committee and suggested that a new chair should be elected by the IC.

Robin Mansell suggested having a trial or parallel electronic voting. She also mentioned she had some ideas on how to cover the costs for implementation of a trial electronic voting procedure.

Janet Wasko mentioned the complications that might arise from a trial voting procedure. She further suggested that a first electronic voting exercise could be on how members feel about the electronic voting procedure itself.

Cees Hamelink was recommended to chair the Elections Committee and suggested that 2 additional members should be appointed by October 31. It was agreed that election activities should start with invitations for nominations in March 2012.

*Action: President, EB and Election Committee*

## **IC Reform**

John Downing circulated a motion to consider the restructuring of the International Council by reducing the number of members to make it more dynamic in carrying out its mandate.

Divina Frau-Meigs and Philippe Maarek responded that while the IC was important it was the S&WG Heads that were the backbone of IAMCR. In the same direction, Marc Raboy in agreeing, mentioned that the International Council was the watchdog of what's going in the Association. Claudia Padovani supported Marc Raboy's intervention. Raboy's perspective on the oversight role of the IC was also supported by Hopeton who expressed the view that the International Council was a forum for discussing of ideas to be presented at the General Assembly or actions to be taken by the EB, and in this light the current structure should be retained but there was still a need for some members to become more active.

Todd Holden suggested virtual meetings as a means of making the IC more dynamic.

Manuel Parés I Maicas supported John Downing's proposal.

Hillel Nossek mentioned that the current structure of IAMCR does not fit the aims of the institution, and that the International Council should be seen as a parliament.

Philippe Maarek expressed that the International Council didn't get any motivation from the Executive Board. He stressed the role of the IC in the Association's intellectual work, and reminded the IC that it's not an executive body.

In reference to electronic voting, Maarek mentioned that clear criteria for geographical and gender representation should be established.

After listening to the different interventions by the International Council members, John Downing, with the agreement of the seconder Manuel Pares I Maicas withdraw his motion regarding a restructuring of the International Council. However it was agreed that efforts would be made to keep it more active and dynamic.

*Action: IC, President and EB*

## **11. Report from Section Heads Meeting - Sujatha Sosale - Convenor**

Sujatha Sosale reported on the S&WG Heads meeting, which took place earlier the same day. Details were to be written up and circulated, but in the interim there were key recommendations on paper submissions, reforms of the OCS system, the review process and the arrangements to be made by LOCs for panel sessions.

*Action: Sujatha, SG, EB*

## **12. Report from Task Force Sub Committee on IAMCR and the Environment – Robin Mansell**

Robin Mansell reported that these environmental reforms were to be undertaken under the aegis of the Association's Global Communications Policy Task Force subcommittee. However, work had just started to get underway on this topic as the lead person, Toby Miller, had a succession of personal challenges. She said there was a decision to be made as to whether the Task Force itself should be maintained, but that a meeting was scheduled during the Istanbul conference when the matter would be discussed. She indicated that several members had suggested the need to keep the Task Force in operation.

As a means of reaffirming the mandate on environmental matters, John Downing proposed a motion in the following terms:

"The International Council of the IAMCR proposes that in view of spiraling indices of dangerous global climate change, the Association, in order to act responsibly within its own domain, should develop and adopt short-, medium- and long-term policies and practices." The motion was carried.

These policies are to be debated in an open Internet process within the Association before October 31st, 2011. On that date, for a further month up to November 30, the Environment Subcommittee and co-opted individual members of the Association active in the preceding debate should be asked to frame short-, medium- and long-term practices for further discussion over the period December 1 – May 31. The final document to be circulated to the entire Association at the beginning of June 2012 and should consist of a Schedule of motions for debate and final vote at the General Assembly, with competing alternatives clearly marked out and listed.

### **Action: TF and EB**

Claudia Padovani suggested that deadlines should be set, and suggested that the first virtual meeting should focus on environmental issues, publications, language and fees. To this suggestion, Divina Frau-Meigs responded that each virtual meeting should focus on a single issue and that a meeting chair should be designated. John Downing agreed to work with the Task Force in organizing the virtual conferences.

On a motion by the President, the International Council agreed to meet again on Saturday July 16, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. at the same venue to consider the rest of its agenda.

### **Action: SG**

## **Second Session – Fener Hall, Saturday 16 July, 12:30-14:00**

President Annabelle Sreberny re-convened the meeting of the International Council.

She reported with regret that one member, Sophia Kaitatzi-Whitlock, had to go back to Greece due to a family emergency.

The remaining Committee Reports were then taken:

### **13. Report from Membership and Regionalization Committee – Ibrahim Saleh, Ruth Teer-Tomaselli**

Ibrahim Saleh reported on the work of the Membership and Regionalization Committee. He mentioned that the Committee's strategy to expand IAMCR's outreach was to link the Association with other institutions, to establish connections with open publication agents and to designate national coordinators. He also mentioned that under-represented regions were a challenge for IAMCR and that the Committee intended to continue to address this challenge.

***Action: MRC***

Annabelle reminded the International Council that there was a short Power Point slide presentation that could be used for promoting IAMCR. Hopeton suggested that the Committee gather information about other regional organizations and to compile a register of such regional organizations. This was agreed

***Action: MRC***

### **14. Report from the Scholarly Review Committee -Tom Jacobson**

Tom Jacobson reported that that the Committee's work plan had been endorsed by the IC last year. The SRC developed a webpage with academic paper presentation guidelines. He reminded that these were not rules but guidelines. He also suggested that the Executive Board should make a recommendation to the LOC and to the S& WG Heads to promote the use of these guidelines.

***Action: EB***

The SRC was also commissioned to review the 'mission' of IAMCR. According to Tom, there were some factual inaccuracies in the contents of the mission and aims as they then appear on the website. The committee limited itself to cleaning up the language.

Additionally, he mentioned that there should be a clear procedure and guidelines for creating Sections and Working Groups. He also noted that there was some overlap and confusion in some Sections and Working Groups, which might be considered a problem. He discussed the issue of reviewing the performance of Sections and Working Groups, and which indicators should be used to assess the Section and Working Group performance (size, number of sessions, etc.). He reminded that a proposal was submitted in Leipzig and suggested working with this document.

Various contributions regarding how to measure Sections and Working Groups size and activity were made by Beate Josephi, Marjan de Bruin and Sandra Braman. Tom Jacobson suggested that activity reports from each Section and Working Group should be required. Hopeton noted that this would mean too many reports and proposed that

Heads continue to upload post conference reports on their webpages and that a general report should be made through the collective efforts of the Heads.

Ruth Teer-Tomaselli re-affirmed the possibility of virtual meetings and also suggested a first meeting on reports. She also agreed that an edited general report on the work of Sections should be published on the website.

Todd Holden noted that reports should be a requirement. Hillel Nossek pointed out that there should be an evaluation of IAMCR Sections and Working Groups, and that the SRC should suggest what IAMCR is missing.

Philippe Maarek moved that some form of annual reports of Section and Working Group activities should be required, and that these reports should be sent within two months after each conference (October 1st). John Downing suggested that a reminder should be sent to Section and Working Group Heads, and that failing to submit the activities report would reflect poor performance. The motion was approved.

***Action: SRC Chair***

#### **15. Report from the Legal Committee - Philippe Maarek**

Philippe Maarek proposed that Cees Hamelink be approved as chair the Elections Committee and this was seconded by Hopeton. It was also agreed that Alina Bernstein, Barbara Thomas and Deepak De would serve as the other Committee members. He also proposed that geographical representation of members should be prioritized. In this regard, he volunteered to receive any ideas on how to organize this geographical representation, which could be sent to him before November 1, 2011.

#### **16. Report from the Publications Committee - John Downing, Claudia Padovani, Marjan de Bruin**

Claudia Padovani reminded that in Braga there was a proposal to further the activities of the Publications Committee. She mentioned that the Committee felt that many interesting things were going on: the Hampton Series, the Newsletter, the Handbooks, the publication of the Braga book, etc. She suggested that the Publications Committee should have its own mission and that better forms of internal communication should be sought. Committee member Marjan de Bruin indicated that in the review year, one (1) book had been published, 5 additional books were with the publishers, and an additional two books were pending.

Claudia Padovani and Marjan de Bruin put up the motion that the composition and work plan of the Publications Committee should be approved. The proposal was accepted by consensus.

***Action: Publications Committee***

Annabelle Sreberny indicated that she would compile the mandates of the various taskforces and Committees by December 1, 2011.

#### **17. Report from the Task Force on Ethics - Virginia Nightingale**

Virginia Nightingale, who was not present, had indicated that she was not able to take on this task any longer. Sujatha Sosale was designated as Acting Chair of this Committee until the Durban Conference.

***Action: Sujatha Sosale and EB***

**18. Any other business**

Hopeton referred to IAMCR's website, which he considered to be in need of substantial review. He also suggested mandating Comunica to manage the review and to submit a proposal on the revisions and improvements needed. Philippe Maarek enquired if this would imply extra costs. Robin Mansell agreed on the need for a website updating which would imply no additional expenditure. This was agreed.

***Action: EB and Comunica***

Philippe Maarek asked what was the nature of the contract with Comunica.

Marjan de Bruin asked what happened to the James Halloran Lectures. Ruth agreed to work on them together with John Downing.

***Action: Ruth and John***

Stefania Milan suggested calling for bids for organizing future conferences

Marjan de Bruin suggested that no papers should be read at plenary sessions.

Sara Bannerman indicated that she would circulate additional fees enquiries and suggestions.

There being no other matters, the IC meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes taken by Secretary General Hopeton Dunn**