

IAMCR 2015
International Council (IC) Meeting
UQAM, Room J2805, Montreal, Canada,
2-5pm, July 11, 2015
AGENDA

(Minutes prepared by Ben Birkinbine and Maria Michalis)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Janet Wasko

Janet welcomes all present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Alina Bernstein, Divina Meigs, Ibrahim Saleh & Ruth Teer-Tomaselli are excused.

3. Matters arising from last IC Meeting held in Hyderabad, India, July 15, 2014

A discussion followed, no decisions to report.

CONFERENCES

4. Montreal Conference Update – Maria Michalis

Maria provided updates about the conference. 1,250 registrations so far and a new online application is available to create a customized schedule.

Christian Agbobli from the local organizing committee welcomed everyone and provided some updates about logistics.

5. Leicester Conference Planning – Janet Wasko/Peter Lunt

The EB has performed a site visit, and Peter Lunt provided updates on plans for the local organizing committee (budget, academic committee, and work with an outside planning company). Katie Mendes from local organizing committee provided a preview of announcements to come at the plenary meeting.

One question/concern was formulated about working with the outside company to ensure they follow the environmental goals of the organization. The environmental committee and local organizing committee will be in contact with one another.

Question by Phillippe Maarek about student registration cost and lunch costs. The local organizing committee said that costs were comparable with this year's costs but slightly above.

Bruce responded that student costs had remained constant whether they were members or not. Philippe suggested that we might consider incorporating a slight discount for members, if possible.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

6. President's Report – Janet Wasko

Janet gave an overview of EB activities over the last year. Highlights included the conference planning work (proposal, budget, abstracts, program), the additional work completed by Executive Director Bruce Girard, and future conference planning. Work on improving the conference model, the memo of understanding with the local organizing committee, special task force for conference models and fees, and creating one special session for the entire membership. Developing guidelines (publication, IAMCR representation, section & working group procedures, online voting, political statements, research committee, elections conducted electronically), working with committees.

Membership and promotion updates included the IAMCR ambassadors program, relationship with UNESCO, co-sponsoring regional or other conferences.

Fundraising committee has been created, and Cees Hamelink will provide updates.

Handbook for the next EB, including role statements, policies, etc.

Monthly meetings via Skype, plus one face-to-face meeting per year outside the conference.

Executive Secretariat (ES), Bruce Girard

Bruce Girard provided update on the newly created ES position. Focus on fundraising to meet the obligation to have the ES self-sustaining within three years. Also been working on conference organization and the OCS system for registrations, submissions, etc. Bruce also stressed the importance of planning for the work that the ES does if the ES position is not continued past the three-year period.

7. Vice Presidents' Reports – Aimée Vega Montiel/Pradip Thomas

Vice President, Aimee

Aimee provided updates about the Global Alliance for Media and Gender (GAMAG) and its numerous related activities, a book project, and her involvement on committees scholarly review and conference models and fees.

Vice President, Pradip

Updates about three primary initiatives. First, the newsletter is released on a quarterly basis in three languages. Second, finalizing the IAMCR publishing guidelines along with input from the publications committee. Third, working on the IAMCR ambassadors program. Five people have been selected, and meetings will be held with them at this conference. Also exploring the possibility of meetings in Dubai.

8. Secretary-General's Report – Maria Michalis

Maria worked with the local organizing committee for conference planning and also with the Leicester committee. She also led the creation of document for compliance with guidelines for sections and working groups. Finally, she worked on the election committee and procedure for the EB elections in 2016.

9. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Budget for 2016 – Nico

Carpentier

2014 financial report was summarized. The Dublin conference surplus came in (~\$240k), and Nico will provide updates about how the money will be used. In effect, this money is being pushed to a reserve fund to pay for the Executive Secretariat for the next three years. The major structural income came from registration and membership.

Major expenses include the new executive secretariat (~\$40k), banking fees, and ~\$34k in conference scholarships (travel grants). Some of the money from Dublin also went toward increasing travel grants for students. Income was exceptionally high because of the Dublin money.

Further updates were provided about the reserves, and a review of the financial policies used to manage the funds. He also reviewed possible options for how to proceed after the contract term with Comunica expires.

To promote transparency within the budgetary process, copies of the 2014 report are available online.

A provisional budget report for 2015 was presented. For the most part, income is comparable to previous years, but our expenses are expected to increase because of the contract with Comunica for the ES (hence, the funneling of money into the reserve fund). This year, IAMCR awarded 13 travel grants worth an estimated \$19k. Membership sits at 929 individuals and 76 institutionals.

Presentation also included suggestions for how to increase income. First, fundraising is an option, which will be presented further by Cees. Second, a search for ethical investments for our endowment that also has capital protection was incredibly difficult, but one option was presented.

Finally, a proposal for a Conference Emergency Fund was presented as a way to decrease registration fees. Because IAMCR does not guarantee to pay for loss on behalf of LOC, LOCs tend to push up fees. Proposal is to invest any profits into a “safety net” used to cover losses of future conferences as long as certain strict conditions are met. Budget must be approved.

Questions/Discussion:

What about a report from Hyderabad?

Numbers are not final, but it would have been a loss had we not made last-minute emergency cuts.

Was the creation of the executive secretariat supposed to transition the conference model away from reliance on LOCs?

Although this was not part of the initial contract, this discussion will be part of the Task Force for Conference Models and Fees. This is a possibility, but the transition will take time. Having Comunica organize the conference requires them to be paid - which might make this expensive.

Can you clarify the proposal for the Conference Emergency Fund? Specifically, I’m thinking about many unforeseen issues like denied visas for travel, or other unexpected no-shows at the conference?

These types of restrictions would need to be built into the guidelines for access to the funds. The details have not been fully worked out; these are discussions are taking place.

10. Report from Section/Working Group Heads Meeting

The meeting went very well, and we identified some key issues that are important to the attendees. First, we had some questions about the program. Would it be possible to include an index for the program? What about email or contact information for the presenters? Also a PDF copy of the programme would be more helpful than a .docx.

We had questions about the submission of full papers and how the full membership views this. We also had some questions about the OCS. Is it possible to perform batch submissions of abstracts to reviewers? Other questions and suggestions were also provided.

Finally, we also talked about opportunities for activities outside the conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. Legal Committee – Philippe Maarek

Some brief updates were provided, and two additional items will be presented later that require more attention.

12. Environment Impact Committee – Chris Patterson

Bob Hackett expresses gratitude for the collaborative work with the EB and Treasurer. Some brief comments about the committee's history were provided. We've made significant progress. These include shifting investments away from fossil fuel industries. We also think it would be appropriate to officially join the divestment movement taking place around the world.

We now have a Climate Communication Research award, and we're looking for new ways to continue this award.

We're networking with greening committees from similar organizations as a way to develop more ideas.

We've worked with the EB and LOCs to implement environmental concerns in conference planning, including future plans for the possibility of carbon offsets for travel to conferences.

13. Scholarly Review Committee - Tom Jacobson

Tom Jacobsen worked on three different things. One was working with Comunica on a survey for understanding the Sections and Working Groups. SRC suggested that an open-ended field be included in the survey as a way to report progress and plans for the group.

The Committee also took a look at last year's survey data. The number of sessions offered seems to vary between Sections and Working Groups. There are also significant differences in acceptance rates across the groups. The specific data have been included in the report that has been distributed.

The other major item that requires a vote is the revision of a document for the establishment of Sections and Working Groups. A copy of the document has been circulated, and you will see the specific areas that require a vote. The suggested revisions were reviewed with the IC members.

The SRC will review the annual survey data to see if any S&WG haven't met the criteria and report to the EB which will contact the management team. They'll then give them 2 years to sort it out. If nothing happens, the EB can propose to the IC to dissolve the S/WG in question.

Discussion of the first proposed change. (point D.)

Phillippe proposes a friendly amendment to make the SRC Chair the initial contact for flagging change following the reporting process. **Friendly amendment accepted**

Jeremy Shtern proposed a friendly amendment to clarify the term "publication," as it may not apply to all Sections and Working Groups. **The friendly amendment is withdrawn** after discussion of subsequent language that addresses "other emerging modalities of scholarly activities."

Tom Jacobsen calls to vote the proposed changes with the friendly amendment.

First part vote results:

Yay – all remaining in attendance

Nay – 0

Abstentions – 2

****The vote passes****

The second proposed change relates to the minimum requirements for establishing Sections and Working Groups.

Phillippe points out that the proposed change violates the current statute and should be readdressed (The GA establishes and dissolves Sections according to S5.2 Statutes). However, the changes may not be necessary. The SRC already has the authority to review such applications. It is suggested that a guidelines document might be more appropriate.

Tom Jacobsen withdraws the second set of proposed changes.

14. Publications Committee - Marjan deBruin/Ibrahim Saleh

Marjan presented highlights for the publications committee. PC advised the EB on publications governance (royalties, etc.). PC also put forward a proposal for e-books. PC have been working with Palgrave, and have multiple books coming out this year. PC also have four published, two contracted, and a number of other proposals on the table with Wiley-Blackwell.

15. Fundraising Committee – Cees Hamelink

Cees says fundraising has been difficult, but has two proposals: First, we ought to open up the question of fundraising to all members. Second, we would like to bring on a professional fundraiser, whose compensation would be based on performance.

16. Task Force on Global Media Policy – Stefania Milan/Jeremy Shtern

Jeremy Shtern says that TFGMP has served as a liaison between IAMCR and different policy forums (WSIS, WSF, etc.). The group is also exploring possibilities for involvement in these forums as well as scholarship/research opportunities in this area.

17. Task Force on GAMAG - Aimée Vega Montiel

Aimee suggested the possibility of linking up with TFGMP for involvement on policy issues.

18. Clearinghouse for Political Statements – Robin Mansell

Robin was appointed as head, and she provided updates about political statements. Currently, the Clearinghouse has 13 members, who discussed the procedures for issuing political statements. The Statements should not be single voiced and include multiple voices. To address this, the clearinghouse presented proposed language for working procedures to issue political statements. After review, the EB has agreed to the suggestions, but would like to see a more succinct version of the language that could be distributed to the members.

Discussion

Discussion about the proposals focused on the process for issuing statements, the title of the clearinghouse (proposed change to make it “Clearinghouse on Public Statements”), and how the membership is consulted.

Annabelle proposes a friendly amendment to request input from the IC on whether to issue statements.

The EB will consider the proposal from Robin along with the proposed changes.

19. Task Force on Conference Models and Fees – Helena Sousa

Helena provided an overview of the task force, including the methods used for conducting the research. A report was issued that featured results of the study and proposals for future conferences. In the report, some consensus was reached on what was essential, desirable, and non-essential to be covered by the conference fees. Essential features included facilities, and wi-fi connectivity.

As for conference models, the periodicity of the conference was discussed. Most agreed that an annual conference that lasts for 4-5 days was necessary and desirable. Results also showed that two or three plenaries were ideal, as too many can cut into Sections and Working Group meetings. Given IAMCR's commitment to being an international conference, geographic rotation may not need to be strictly enforced because of ongoing concerns with cost.

The group recommends further discussion of the following: issue of fee waivers or complementary accommodation for the EB alone, for IC and S/WG members; maintaining annual conferences; number and level of support to keynote speakers for plenary speakers; moving to a more regionally based conference design; look at individual budget items like wi-fi, transport, meals, etc. in relation to the specific context of the conference venue.

The report was accepted as preliminary, as described.
It was suggested that the Task Force works more on it and refer to the advisors.

Janet to ask the IC to make any suggestions and comments to the Usha Raman (the head of the Committee) just so the TF gets a feeling of what the IC thinks about the preliminary suggestions.

20. Committee for the Improvement of Academic Life – Friedrich Krotz

Item postponed.

LEGAL and ELECTORAL ISSUES

21. 2016 EB Elections – Maria Michalis

Proposed Election Committee:

Beate Josephi (chair) Jeremy Shtern, Brian Pindayi

Proposed Election Procedure:

Nominations and election guidelines are specified in the By-laws, Section 8 (see below) and will be followed for the 2016 election.

1st -28th March 2016: Election Committee calls for candidates and collects nominations, acceptances, and statements.

1st April 2016: Election Committee announces candidates and publicises relevant information.

23rd May – 6th June 2016: Electronic voting period.

20th June 2016: Election Committee communicates the results to the President. The President notifies the candidates of the results before the conference and announces the results publicly at the opening of the Leicester conference.

27th -31st July 2016: Leicester conference

22. Amended Online Voting Guidelines – Philippe Maarek

Phillippe presented a proposal for changes in voting procedures. The first relates to the two-week period for voting. We are proposing that there should be the possibility for adding one week to extend discussion on proposal amendments. Second, we are proposing the creation of an electronic system for calculating votes online.

Call to vote.

Vote results:

Yay – All

Nay – 0

Abstentions – 0

****The vote passes unanimously****

23. Policy on Committee Heads

Bylaws for committee organization

Phillippe presents a proposal for bylaw changes, specifically for organizing two types of committees: permanent committees and ad hoc committees.

Nico proposes a friendly amendment to 966. Suggests to remove “newly elected.”

Friendly amendment accepted.

Call to vote.

Vote results:

Yay – All

Nay – 0

Abstentions – 0

****The vote passes****

EB proposes the submission of these Bylaws to the GA.

NEW/PROPOSED COMMITTEES

24. IC Ad Hoc Committee/EB Commission on International Council Review

Two candidacies received. The EB will follow-up.

25. IC Task Force on Research Exploration

Item postponed.

AOB

26. Any other business/ final remarks

Janet: Elections in 2016,

We will discuss the committee on improvement of academic life later (online).

We also did not discuss having a committee for research. We will be soliciting opinions and feedback on the creation of such a possibility.

The meeting is adjourned.

Attendees

Akpabio Eno
Araujo Denize
Arriaza Ibarra Karen
Baek Seoh-Gi
Braman Sandra
Carpentier Nico
Cohen Yoel
Dasgupta Satarupa
de Bruin Marjan
Fernandes Silva Fernandes Geisa
Geertsema-Sligh Margaretha
Girard Bruce
Goggin Gerard
Hamelink Cees
Hintz Arne
Holland Kate
Holte-Bacha Christina
Jacobsen Tom
Joseph Beate
King Barry
Krotz Friedrich
Lauk Epp
Lent John A.
Maarek Philippe J.
Mansell Robin
Mendes Kaitlyn
Michalis Maria
Milan Stefania
Musiani Francesca
Paterson Chris
Pierson Jo
Pinto Manuel
Ristovska Sandra
Shtern Jeremy
Sinclair John
Sousa Helena
Sreberny Annabelle
Takahashi Toshie
Thomas Pradip
Vega Montiel Aimée
Wasko Janet
Wasserman Herman