

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
PARIS, 22ND OF JULY 2007**

Present: Carlos Barrera, Alina Bernstein, César Bolano, Marjan de Bruin, Andrew Calabrese, Tania Cantrell, John Downing, Hopeton Dunn, Bruce Girard, Cees J. Hamelink, Todd Holden, Beate Josephi, Sophia Kaitatzi-Whitlock, Ullamaija Kivikuru, Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Friedrich Krotz, Rico Lie, Manuel Parés y Maicas, Philippe Maarek, Alvaro Mailhos, Robin Mansell, Rosa Mikael Martey, Divina Frau-Meigs, Virginia Nightingale, Kaarle Nordenstreng, Hillel Nossek, Allen Palmer, Ole Prehn, Peter Putnis, Marc Raboy, Andrei Richter, Ellen Riordan, Mohammad Siddiqi, John Sinclair, Tania Ribeiro Soares, Sujatha Sosale, Annabelle Sreberny, Laura Stein, Daya Thussu, Elena Vartanova, Jürgen Wilke, Janet Wasko.

1. Apologies for absence

The president opened the meeting by welcoming all present and sent apologies from president of ICA, Sonia Livingstone, who would attend the conference later to co-chair the joint IAMCR/ICA session. And she welcomed especially Bruce Girard and Alvaro Mailhos, both responsible for managing the web site.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting 23rd July 2006 in Cairo were approved. Matters arising would be included in the agenda.

4. President's report and update

The president started by announcing that the Halloran memorial during this conference would be followed up by Halloran lectures at subsequent conferences. She also drew the attention to the booklet on IAMCR's history issued in memory of Jim Halloran. She then thanked Divina Frau-Meigs and her team for organising this anniversary conference as a success with around 900 participants.

A lot of time had in the past year been spent on improving the web site, and she thanked Bruce Girard and Alvaro Mailhos for their hard work, and Tomas Gonsorcik for the work he had offered to the IAMCR web site. To improve the web more systematically, she proposed that an Internet Oversight Committee should be established.

During the year she had tried to involve more associations as associate members with some success, e.g. with ALAIC, with whom an agreement had recently been signed.

UNESCO had commissioned four reports to be discussed in the programme, and she thanked UNESCO for their willingness in that way to contribute to the conference.

The board had agreed to hold one or more pre-conference in Stockholm as suggested by Friederich Krotz. Pre-conferences should be financed by participants attending these.

She mentioned that ICA had a success rate of 45% of proposed papers, but more importantly that ICA had spent around \$25,000 on bringing people from poor countries to their conferences. This fact might have implications for the IAMCR.

In her closing remarks, Robin Mansell announced that she would not stand for re-election as President in 2008, but might be willing to serve the association otherwise if asked.

5. Report from vice-president Divina Frau-Meigs

The vice-president concentrated on the Paris conference, which she hoped would be a memorable and successful event that attracted 800-900 participants with a large number of papers to be presented. She thanked UNESCO for its immense collaboration during the planning stage, especially Dr. Kahn. This collaboration could be seen as a new and promising era in the UNESCO/IAMCR relationship to be developed, so that IAMCR would not only retain its observer status, but also widen it to be recognised as an umbrella organisation with regional affiliates.

During the post-WSIS phase, a lot of meetings had taken place and she had attended those on several action-lines. She had taken on the responsibility as moderator in the sub-theme of cultural diversity. She proposed to set up an ad hoc group, which was approved to address this area. Finally, she stressed the importance of establishing a strategy for the continued work.

6. Report from vice-president Annabelle Sreberny

The vice-president presented the status of the Newsletter which was being issued biannually and even making a profit by selling advertising space. The only and costly problem was that of printing and posting, and she suggested that the distribution in the future should be limited to electronic circulation. People with no access to downloading pdf-files could ask for hard copies. This was approved.

She went on to other parts of IAMCR publishing activities, mentioning that Sage had taken on the distribution of our three discounted journals, and that the publishing of IAMCR books with Hampton was continuing – although at relatively slow pace. Finally she said that the contract with Blackwell for the Global Media Handbook Series was now in operation. The early stages of planning was well underway and the series was not expected to compete with the Hampton books.

Regretfully Thomas Tufte had announced his resignation from managing the Hampton series, and it was suggested the he would be replaced by Marjan de Bruin and Claudio Padovani, which was endorsed.

7. Secretary General's report

It was announced that IAMCR had entered into an agreement to hold its 2009 conference in Mexico City at the end of July 2009. Further there had been a follow up on Colin Sparks' contact with Fudan University (Shanghai), and a final agreement was pending on the approval by Chinese

authorities to have the next conference (2010) be to be held in Shanghai. He also mentioned that Portugal was in the pipeline for 2011.

He forwarded a list of people proposed as honorary members of IAMCR during this 50th anniversary conference. The list was accepted.

8. Treasurer's report

The treasurer proposed a budget of \$50,000 which was approved. The informal auditors (Jan van Cuilenburg and Philip Lee) had approved the financial statement and had both observed that IAMCR was now back on track with rising income from membership fees. This resulted in an estimated overall balance of \$ 150,000 in surplus at the end of 2007.

It was suggested that some of this should be applied to specific purposes as they arose and were agreed.

The treasurer referred to the paper he had issued on "Democratization of the IAMCR. Advances Between 2004 and 2007. New Challenges".

The president mentioned the contract with ALAIC and stressed that this model, where members of ALAIC could enter the conferences at a lower fee, would also apply to other organisations, although at different agreed fee levels for individuals (subsequently during the conference a similar agreement was signed with AMIC in Latin America).

The International Council generally welcomed the initiative as a way forward with IAMCR's regionalised internationalisation.

9. The web site

Bruce Girard and Alvaro Mailhos went through the development of the web sites and its obstacles. They suggested the establishing of an oversight committee with a maximum of four members to guide them as and when issues arose and to advice on the further development of the site further. They pointed to the fact that each section and working group now had the possibility of establishing their own sub-sites that could be edited in a decentralized way.

10. Scholarly Review Committee report

Kaarle Nordenstreng said that the work of the committee was lagging behind, but that a full proposal would be ready for the next General Assembly. It would include criteria for establishing and dismantling sections. It was not the ambition to superimpose a central model, but to build it up from the bottom. He mentioned that names for sections and working groups better reflecting their remits should be elaborated and asked for the help from the sections and working groups.

The president asked all sections and working groups to look at their mission statements and propose ideas for changing the labels.

Milton Campus' proposal to dismantle the working group on health technology and communication was approved, whereas his proposal for a new working groups seemed a little diffuse and was not accepted.

The Junior Scholars' Network was renamed the Emerging Scholars' Network.

The International Communication Section was discussed, and it was suggested that the name might need to be changed as it was vague. This would be on the agenda in Stockholm.

11. Task force on Media and Communication

Andrew Calabrese referred to the charter approved in Cairo. The ambition was to take an active and interventionist role and to keep up the momentum after the WSIS. It should not develop into a new section but should rather be seen as a facilitator or coordinator.

12. Legal Committee

Philippe Maarek announced that a French version of the statutes was ready. During the translation a few technical issues had arising resulting in proposals for changes in the statutes. These would need to be approved at the General Assembly in 2008.

As the president had indicated she would not run for re-election, the committee proposed to reinstate the past-president seat in the board (without voting rights) for two years to maintain continuity in the association. This was generally approved and should be part of the proposals for changing the statutes.

13. Election Committee

Janet Wasko went through the election procedure, and Philippe Maarek pointed to the fact that all elected positions were set at zero in 2004, formally making way for re-election of those who had been elected in that year, and that an early warning would be published on the vacant presidency.

14. The Stockholm conference 2008

Ester Pollack introduced the conference to be held at Stockholm University at the end of July 2008. It was approved that in the future, IAMCR will operate with two different events (each biannually): a five day congress including the General Assembly, and a four day conference: 2008 being the five day Congress year. Friederich Krotz mentioned that we should actively encourage more concrete and output oriented pre-conferences.

15. Membership and Participation Committee

Ullamaija Kivikuru presented the report that was a extension of earlier reports. It was noted with satisfaction, that many of the proposals contained in recent reports were now to a certain degree implemented. She indicated that the new membership database is extremely helpful for generating data about the members. It is clear that the paid-up membership is now at about the same level as 10-15 years ago, although comparisons needed to made with care with respect to the details.

The composition of members is such that European members tend to favour institutional membership, while the rest prefer individual membership. Only 20 % of the membership is from outside Europe and North America and it is those who most regularly attend conferences.

The report concluded with the following recommendations: That IAMCR continues to appoint regional liaison persons to collaborate with existing regional organisations in the field; that regional workshops etc. should be hosted by IAMCR; that IAMCR should continue recruiting emerging scholars; that we should find ways to decrease the conference attendance drop-out rate; and that we should encourage especially doctoral students to submit papers to the IAMCR conferences.

It was proposed to change the committee name to the Membership and Regionalisation Committee which would be comprised of: Cesar Bolano and Daya Thussu (co-chairs), Ullamaija Kivikuru, Ibrahim Saleh, Hopeton Dunn, Catherine Loneux, Rosa Mikeal Martey(**names**)

16. Report from the section heads meeting

Beate Josephi summed up the main conclusions of the meeting representing 13 sections and some observers.

First of all there was unanimous satisfaction with the work done by the local organising committee chaired by Divina Frau-Meigs, who was congratulated for this achievement. It was pointed out that it would be advantageous if there was only one way to submit abstracts; that is, through the official IAMCR web site, and that the procedure for finalising the conference programme should be streamlined. It was therefore proposed, that the deadline for submitting abstracts should be January 31st and the programme should be fully finalised on March 31st. Therefore, the programme schedule should be completed in mid March by the Secretary General. The latter was approved.

17. Other business arising

Wolfgang Kleinwächter informed the meeting that GIGANET would conduct a summer school on internet governance, and that UNESCO was a sponsor of this event.

The president closed the meeting and the International Council saluted her for bringing IAMCR back on the track.