

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
TAIPEI, 25 JULY 2005. 9 am – 4:30 pm. DRAFT**

**Present:**

César Bolaño, Hopeton Dunn, Todd Holden, Per Jauert, Beate Josephi, Ullamaija Kivikuru, Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Friedrich Krotz, Philippe J. Maarek, Robin Mansell, Virginia Nightingale, Kaarle Nordenstreng, Hillel Nossek, Allen W. Palmer, Ole Prehn, Peter Putnis, John Sinclair, Annabelle Sreberny, Thomas Tufte, Georgette Wang, Janet Wasko, Livingston White.

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was approved, but the president proposed that various items would be dealt with where they would fit in.

**2. Minutes from the Pto. Alegre meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were approved.

The president remarked that the envisaged questionnaire on the Pro. Alegre conference had not been produced, and that a funding committee would not be established.

**3. President's business**

The president thanked Lucie Cheng (chairperson of the local organizing committee in Taipei) for their hard and professional work resulting in the 2005 conference.

The president's report was circulated in advance, and the president advised the council to deal with its observations and recommendations along the meeting.

**4. The Conference Committee**

The chair of the committee, Ole Prehn, gave a short description on the experiences drawn from the planning of the Taipei conference, and concluded that every conference was a new experience in new settings, and that it would be difficult to make a "conference handbook" beyond a very general level. Asked about the contact between the committee and the planners of coming conferences, the chair admitted, that although contacts between the committee and Taipei had been very intense and without frictions, the committee had not been involved satisfactorily.

It was decided that proposals for coming conferences should if at all possible be submitted well in advance. Further the council approved that the Executive Board should contact the Pto. Alegre in order to get the conference report mentioned in the guidelines.

It was discussed whether to abolish the "off year" conferences and making these regional activities, but no formal conclusion was reached on this item.

**5. Report from the Membership and Participation Committee**

The report, presented by the chair of the committee Ullamaija Kivikuru, takes point of departure in three facts: that IAMCR membership is still heavily biased in favour of the “western world”; that institutional membership is concentrated on Europe; and that the location of conferences is not a basis for expanding membership. In order to expand membership and its global distribution, IAMCR must know the needs of its members, and it has to go beyond having conferences as its next to only activity. It has to offer value for money, and it has to re-consider its fee structure.

The report recommends the following tasks: 1) To make continuous and systematic recruitment of new members by establishing project groups, by abolishing non-functioning sections, and by creating liaison officers around the world. 2) Address member needs by identifying and promoting the basic benefits of the association, by creating an on-going membership survey of the needs of the membership, providing journals as part of the membership fee, and by identifying opportunities for junior scholars to publish. 3) Develop various forms of networking and extended range of activities. 4) Global conferences must include global participation.

The president thanked the committee for its extensive and proactive report, which was then widely and positively discussed.

It was decided that a new fee structure (including journals and a one year trial membership when attending IAMCR conferences for non-members) would be implemented from 2006. That the committee and the executive board would work on the idea of liaison officers; that ICA and other associate members should be invited to ex-officio take part in future meetings of the International Council and that working together with existing and potential associate members should be strengthened. It was further decided to continue the discussion with UNESCO on publishing brief reports on communication research issues.

## **6. Reports from the Legal Committee and the Election Committee**

The Election Committee (chaired by Janet Wasko) proposed to discuss various aspects of the voting system – mainly the announcement process in advance and after the voting and returning to the more simple majority voting system. Also the possibility of outbalancing the representation of gender and regions was put forward.

It was agreed to change the basic voting system to a simple majority rather than preferential voting, to keep the postal voting but announcing the results prior to the conference, whereas an outbalancing template was judged to be too complex to implement. Finally one more member of the Election Committee should be added.

## **7. Report from the Scholarly Review Committee**

There was not a new report presented, but it was suggested to produce a clustering of the current sections and working groups. From the meeting of section chairs it was proposed to limit section priorities to three when a new membership form is established and to appoint a conference programme officer. This was approved and Beate Josephi was appointed officer of a clearing house for papers.

It was also agreed regarding the status of the Junior Scholars Network to continue the existing model.

## **8. The Dallas Smythe Memorial Award**

The president proposed a new fund similar to the Herbert Schiller Award be established in recognition of the work of late professor Dallas Smythe. The criteria would be a paper accepted at the biennial conferences starting in 2006 that is deemed to make a contribution to furthering the understanding of communication studies from a critical perspective and in some way grounded in the tradition of political economy of communication and of high scholarly standard. An award panel chaired by the IAMCR president will be appointed.

This was approved.

## **9. The report from the Publications committee**

Chair of the committee, Annabelle Sreberny, presented the report. As editor of the newsletter, Annabelle Sreberny suggested to maintain the hard-copies together with distributing the newsletter on the web. This was approved. She also suggested that IAMCR sells the membership list, and that members who do not want their names to be included should have the option be deleted. This was approved.

It was further approved to continue negotiations with Sage to establish an offer to include one or more journals in the future membership fee. The council also endorsed the proposal from the Executive Board to close down the journals discount.

Jan Servaes had resigned as responsible for the book series, and the council conveyed its thanks to him. The task is taken over by Thomas Tufte. The council suggested that negotiations with Hampton Press to sell off translation rights should be established, as well as Thomas Tufte announced his initial talks with CLASCO in Buenos Aires to publish a Spanish/Portuguese IAMCR book series, perhaps including translations.

The committee also had several proposals to improve the web site, which were referred to the Executive Council.

## **10. The report from the Budget Committee**

Treasurer César Bolaño presented the report and explained all the technical and legal problems that IAMCR had faced since the transferral of the office from Canada to Brazil. This had not affected the accuracy of the financial status showing a dramatic decrease in revenues.

The financial statement, the enclosed budget for the rest of 2005, and the proposed adaption of the World Bank list of economies were approved as was the list of new members.

It was further approved that IAMCR would invest in a new membership database, and that the president was allowed to hire a person responsible for this.

Janet Wasko suggested that the association should continue considering the establishing of a central office.

It was reminded that IAMCR from January 2006 would turn into using the fiscal year for its budgets and accounts.

## **11. Report from the WSIS Taskforce**

Divina Frau-Meigs and Marc Raboy both being absent, Wolfgang Kleinwächter gave a short briefing on the WSIS process to culminate later in 2005 in Tunisia. But the process would not come to an end in Tunisia. On the contrary governments around the world were beginning to realise the acute lack of knowledge related to the various topics.

The International Researchers' Charter for Knowledge Societies to be presented during the WSIS conference was approved in principle although it might be subject to further but minor changes. It was also agreed to continue the work in the taskforce after the conference.

## **12. Other matters arising**

It was informed that a meeting in the development of the website would take place in London later in 2005.

The council approved the president's proposal that lunch should be included at future conferences.

**Note to IAMCR International Council and Working Group Chairs  
16 August 2005**

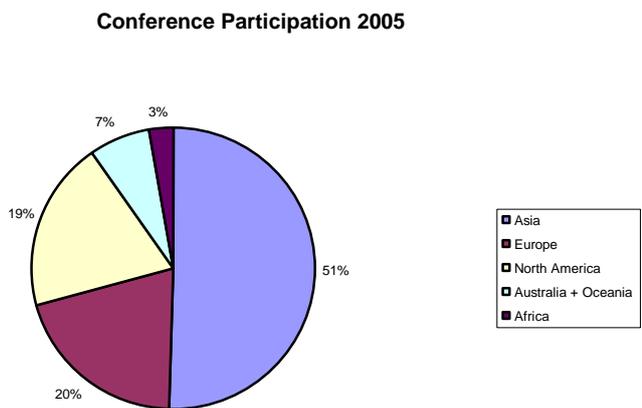
***Informal report on the Taipei conference and on the International Council meeting***

There are occasions when saying thank you really does not suffice! I thank again Professor Lucie Cheng and her team and Professor Paul Mu of Shih Hsin University for their very gracious and effective support in every respect. I also want to thank all the members of the International Council including Section Heads and also Working Group Chairs (and in some cases their designates) who contributed to the successful organisation of sessions and who coped in one way or another with the absences of those who in end could not finance their trips or could not come for other reasons. Last, but by no means least, thanks to Ole Prehn for all his work and to my other Executive Board colleagues for same in various ways. I have written individually to all our Plenary speakers to thank them for their contributions.

For the substance of the conference, a short note will go out in the next few days which will also serve as a blurb for newsletters of other organisations – I might do a longer one for our own Newsletter, but Section Heads have already been submitting their reports so perhaps we don't need to hear much from me!!

I had a very good time at this conference in many ways. For those of you who could not come it is difficult to convey a sense of this particular conference, but as I said during my brief closing remarks, I saw a lot of smiling people and a lot of pensive people during the conference – both I think indicative of a good feeling about the social and academic aspects. When I asked people directly what they thought which I did frequently the most common reflection was 'I have got something to think about when I go home', again a sign that people were engaged with the content.

The total registered participants were 277 (not 378 as I had said at the end of the conference mistakenly – I must have misheard; the local organiser's target had been 250 or so). They came from 39 countries with the regional and country distribution shown below in the Graph and Table.



Of the 140 Asian participants, 65 were from Taiwan, 26 from Japan. Of the 54 North and South America participants, 41 were from the US.

Country		Country	
Australia	15	Korea	11
Austria	1	Malaysia	4
Belgium	7	Mexico	4
Brazil	3	Netherlands	3
Canada	3	New Zealand	4
China	2	Nigeria	4
Denmark	3	Norway	4
Egypt	3	Philippines	2
Finland	3	Portugal	2
France	2	Saudi Arabia	5
Germany	10	Singapore	5
Girona*	1	South Africa	1
Hong Kong	1	Spain	6
India	3	Sri Lanka	2
Indonesia	1	Sweden	3
Iran	2	Taiwan	65
Ireland	4	Thailand	3
Israel	7	United Arab Emirates	1
Jamaica	3	United Kingdom	7
Japan	26	USA	41
	<b>100</b>		<b>177</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>277</b>

\* Girona is in Spain

Of course there were disappointments for some – connected with the persistent problem of ‘no-shows’, how to find out about them in advance, and what to do if a given session really becomes depleted. We will never completely resolve this problem, but we can try new measures and next year I hope to report better success in fund raising for travel.

Ole’s minutes for the International Council meeting will follow but while the outcomes are still very much in my mind, I report a few things below very informally and not necessarily in the order they were discussed as we are already taking action on some of them (and I am conscious of the fact that some of your could not come). These notes are NOT to be read as minutes. Believe it or not, we concluded the International Council meeting one half hour early!

### *Next Conference in Cairo 2006 and beyond*

- Ole and I met for about an hour to discuss arrangements with a representative of the Cairo organising committee, Professor Ibrahim Salah and are in ongoing discussion with him and with members of the Executive Board. Ole will make some proposals about the theme and plenaries in late August on our behalf as well as on other matters. Ole and I will do a site visit in October. Also agreed to look favourably on a joint IAMCR-AMIC plenary which AMIC is enthusiastic about.
- 2007 IAMCR Conference. More discussion but nothing firm. I am writing to the President of SFSIC in France to assess their interest informally and there are other suggestions ‘in the air’.
- Agreed we should do an evaluation of the conference. The conference committee agreed to implement this. In the meantime I found some free, easy to use software and created a survey which has gone out and closes 5 Sept. I have apologised for jumping ahead to do this, but was so taken by the ease of use of the software I had found, I did a quick pilot and got it out. Some of you will have seen it. So far after 4 days the response rate is around 18% and going up which is good for an online survey I believe. Results will be made available in due course – a peak so far shows people being happy in major proportion with the conference with lots of suggestions made in the open ended responses about dissatisfactions and about substantive research topics and issues.
- Agreed that we need a ‘coordinator’ to look after ‘orphan’ papers submitted to future conferences and Beate Josephi has volunteered to serve in this capacity for the 2006 conference. Subsequently following comments about the degree of overlap between papers in different sections this time in some cases, I

have suggested that there also might be some overview of abstracts to help facilitate the process of finding the best ‘homes’ for them, or at least some of them and only as suggestions. This idea may or may not be pursued depending on the workload it would create. If we did this it might signal emerging areas for future horizontal cooperation, which was strongly encouraged.

### ***Membership & Participation***

- The committee presented a full report with many helpful suggestions. One is to designate liaison people in selected countries/regions to help boost and encourage membership. Since the conference I have sent our joining information to 41 institutions in Spain (thanks to Manuel Pares I Maicas) and contacted people for assistance and suggestions so far in Asia and Latin America. This effort will continue.
- There was some discussion of what to do about relatively inactive sections and/or working groups and I agreed to pursue this (see Scholarly Review)
- It was agreed that we should offer the ICA President or his/her designate a non-voting place on our International Council in return for their already agreed inclusion of one of us on their Board.
- Agreed that it would be interesting to see what comes of possibilities for joint IAMCR – ICA research.
- Agreed that IFCA (International Federation of Communication Associations) should be accepted as an Associate Member of IAMCR.
- Agreed that I should pursue the idea of short Issue Reports with UNESCO as reported earlier by me.
- I suggested (partly because the suggestion had been made in Porto Alegre and in the light of declining numbers of members partly due to our earlier problems in enabling people to join) that we should provide a discounted one year membership with all registrations for our conferences. If people want to stay on as members they would pay the full fee in year two. This was agreed and we are implementing it for Cairo 2006.
- I should do a blurb on the Taipei conference and send it to various newsletters for publication facilitated also by various of our members where possible. I will do this soon.
- In any new version of the membership directory we should separate out students so they are visible; this will be done.
- Discussion about whether we should do a more general survey of members to see what they want. I think this idea was favoured. Once we have the results of the conference evaluation survey, I will consult about whether, after we have got more up to date membership information in a database, we should do a further online survey – probably in October or November when we call for membership renewals for 2006.

### ***Legal Issues and Election Committee***

- IAMCR Election Procedures – agreed I think to change to ‘first past the post’/‘simple majority’ voting for the IC but more work will be needed to address how members ‘at large’ are elected; the idea of a fixed template that is rigidly applied was not very much favoured, but an ‘ideal’ target template did seemed to attract support as a guide. Await the formal minutes on this as my recollection on this point is a little unclear.
- One additional member is to be added to the Election Committee
- There was discussion about whether we need to have a ‘President Elect’; I think after that discussion it was decided to leave things the way they are for the present. But given that there were strong views that we do need one (not from me), this issue might come back.

### ***Scholarly Review***

- It seemed to me that people liked the idea of a shorter, more substantively based IAMCR ‘research report’ for 2006 that would try to show relationships between Sections and Sections and Working Groups with a view to clustering similar themes. I will do this to set out how I see things and to get your feedback (probably an initial draft in December 05 for discussion). Kaarle reported and is to ask

again for general estimates of section size. I will be pursuing issues of possible changes that have been raised by some directly with those concerned.

- After some discussion I think it was agreed to leave the Junior Scholars Network as it is. Some people think it is not a good idea but others think it is. I favour leaving it as it is; but we remain open to discussion on this.
- The new Dallas W Smythe Prize for a paper at the biennial conferences was agreed. A selection Panel is in place for 2006. I have written to the Schiller Prize Panel to update their information for 2006.

### ***Publications***

- Annabelle reported that she is continuing her good work with the newsletter and I think generally the view is that hard copy should continue, so it will.
- Annabelle is pursuing an initiative to make one or more journals available to all members and hopes to announce the plan soon. The Council agreed that this was a sensible way forward and could be supported for three years initially under 'new initiatives' in the Budget.
- She is also pursuing several invitations to edit books with various publishers.
- She is generating funds in connection with advertising, etc. and the Executive Board and International Council agreed that in future we should keep track of revenues and expenditure in this area so as to enable revenues in excess of costs to be available to support initiatives in the publications area generally (with approval of course of the budget breakdown in a given year)

### ***Budget and Treasurer Matters***

- Budget for Aug 04-Jul 05 agreed; and for Aug 05-Dec 05. We will propose a budget for Financial Year Jan 06-Dec 06 in late 05 when we have a better idea of membership recruitment and therefore revenues.
- Agreed to continue to try to find a way to have César legally recognised in Brazil as Treasurer. Subsequently, Philippe Maarek has traced the document of the seat of IAMCR registered in Paris and Cees has agreed to find the original document. We may decide to update the registration if César still needs it once he has the original. We will continue to pursue this to a satisfactory resolution. Meanwhile Cesar will try to open an IAMCR account through his university in order to regularise the transfer of IAMCR funds for the Treasurer's office in Brazil.
- Agreed to fund a part time assistant in London to work on the IAMCR membership database and that membership information will be entered into it by us (rather than by members directly at the website). This person (Indrek Ibrus, Estonian, LSE Media and Communications PhD student will start in September initially one day per week). He will also continue to proactively trace what has happened to members in 2004 who have not paid yet for 2005. The database that will be used will be decided by the Executive Board following assessment in the coming weeks of the possibility of modifying the IAMCR website to allow data entry by the London office. The Brazilian office will continue with its responsibilities for financial and membership reporting, budgets, etc. but processing of members will happen in London. The London Office now also has access to our PayPal account so we can see who has paid their membership dues there. This solution (hiring a part time person in London to handle some treasurer related membership matters) was supported and is necessary because of the problems created by Brazilian authorities for Cesar to be recognised Treasurer.
- Agreed to invest part of IAMCR reserves in a fixed rate account for one year. This has been done: USD 40,000 at 3.25% with HSBC.

### ***WSIS Taskforce***

- In the absence of both Divina and Marc we had an update from Wolfgang about the WSIS and the Working Group on Internet Governance. I reported on the various possibilities which are pending

for our presence in Tunis. They are still possibilities, but it looks fairly certain that at very least we will have the session in the larger event being organised by the International Research Foundation for Development (IRFD), organised by Hopeton Dunn. I highlighted Divina's continuing activities re the Task Force and other activities.

- We did not discuss the 'future of the task force' in the meeting, but I have emailed to the co-chairs asking the Task Force to propose a way forward for 'after Tunis' as soon as they can following their summer breaks.
- The IAMCR Researchers' Charter was agreed without modification (and has since been modified slightly in the light of one comment received by email). It has been sent back to the co-chairs for distribution as the Task Force sees fit and should be launched in Tunis at the WSIS.

### ***Other Issues***

- New IAMCR website and members database. The Executive Board (including Cesar who will be in Europe at the time) will meet in London on 29 September with the webmaster to consider what to do with the website and the database for the future. Whatever the outcome of that discussion I will be pursuing the issue of how to ensure an accurate membership database urgently (see above).

I think that is all pending the formal minutes which take precedence over anything I say above. Ignore all this detail, please, if you find it annoying. This is partly just to ensure that I don't forget it all given other preoccupations!

Robin Mansell  
IAMCR President