

IASPM EC Minutes (Meeting I)

October 25, 2017

* Meeting of the Executive Committee held October 25, 2017 (9pm ECT) by videoconference (Skype)

Present: Julio Mendivil (JM), Ann Werner (AW), Jacopo Conti (JC), Kimi Kärki (KK), Marta Garcia Quiñones (MGQ), Silvia Martínez (SM)

Absent with apologies: Antti-Ville Kärjä (AVK)

1- CANBERRA CONFERENCE 2019

Timeline

The meeting discussed to repeat the timeline of the earlier congress in Kassel. The times seem agreeable to all present. Therefore, the first CFP would have to be issued in March, 2018. The definitive timeline proposal should be accepted by the congress organising committee (OC) but a first outline is proposed with the following dates:

- **First CFP:** March 4, 2018
- **First deadline for abstracts:** June 1
- **Extended deadline for abstracts:** June 17, 2018
- **Accepted proposals:** end of September 2018

Academic Committee

JM pointed out that the broadest possible cross-section of branches of society should be represented on the Academic Committee (AC), as well as the greatest possible range of languages (although it is still not clear what the official congress languages will be).

The first task will be to choose a coordinator for the AC from those suggested by the OC. JM will communicate with Samantha Bennett and Catherine Strong to get their opinions. The EC considers it appropriate for the AC to be chosen among IASPM members by consensus and internal vote of EC members by consensus and through an internal vote.

The number of members the AC should have was discussed. There is no fixed number. It was made clear, however, that it should include two members of the OC. We shall complete the group of possible candidates to the OC by each EC member submitting a list with proposed candidates by November 15. It was made clear that the lists should include members across all IASPM branches.

Travel grants

MGQ brought up the problem for the IASPM treasury of calculating the cost of travel grants offered for attending congresses. If applications are to come in mainly from Europe and America, the mean cost of tickets will be enormous. If we allocated the same amount of money that was spent in travel grants for the Kassel conference, we would only be able to offer maybe 6 or 7 travel grants, instead of 13. However, MGQ added that the amount of

money to be spent on travel grants for the Canberra conference should be decided on the basis of a projection of expected income and expenses for the next two years

To compensate this, KK proposed studying how this was organised for the 2003 Montreal congress, for which an offer of accommodation with local students was offered to PhD students. The EC will discuss this possibility with the OC.

The EC will also discuss with the OC the possibility of obtaining and offering local grants allocated for accommodation, enrolment, and other costs.

2- TREASURY AFFAIRS

Bureaucracy of name changes for bank current account

MGQ informed the EC of the bureaucratic difficulties arising from changing the holder names of our bank account so it may be accessed by members of the new EC. The documentation requirements from the British bank in which the account is held are very demanding and slow to process: official residence certificate, official translations of ID documents, etc. Getting the documentation together and getting it to the bank to complete the name-changing process is proving difficult but it is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, MGQ thanked the former treasurer, Emilia Barna, for her constant and patient cooperation in providing info and undertaking administrative tasks despite her duties having concluded in July.

New Bank account

At the General Assembly held in Kassel, the new EC was commissioned to study changing the IASPM bank, and it was requested that an account be opened with an ethical bank.

Given the bureaucratic problems encountered with the British bank, and faced by the likelihood of further complications arising due to Brexit, the possibility of opening an account in another country was discussed. The EC thanked Sarah Hill, who has given her personal details to the Co-Op bank, following a request by the bank that at least one of the IASPM officers linked to the account should reside in the UK.

To date, IASPM official currency has been the US dollar, since annual fees were established in US dollars. However, the EC is not clear whether this should remain so in the future. The meeting discussed the fact that every two or four years the EC composition is renewed, its member resident countries changing, thus complicating the process of signatures for access to the bank account.

The EC discussed the fact that the IASPM does not have an official headquarters that could be used for the bank account. This problem also affects matters such as the society archive (provisionally stored at the IMP, Liverpool), and others, and it would be advisable to look at this in general in the future.

MGQ reported that in mid-September Emilia received a notification from our bank, the Co-Op, to let us know that our US dollar account will be closed on 13 December 2017, since they are not offering this service anymore. If we did nothing, the funds would be converted to GB pounds and transferred to our GB account at the Co-Op. Since many finance experts think that the GB pound is expected to fall in view of Brexit, MGQ asked to consider the possibility to open a new bank account before mid-December, so that the funds could be transferred to it before or after that date. The EC will work on preparing several options for presentation and approval at the next General Assembly in 2019 (however, it is not clear whether a decision like this should be approved by the GA)

Tax exemption

AW underlined the news sent out in September regarding her having processed an exemption from tax in Sweden (where the IASPM statutes are registered) valid until 2022. The document is attached to these minutes. Since the declaration is made in Swedish, AW has agreed to translate it to English in order to archive both versions (see DOC 1, DOC 2 and DOC 3 documents attached).

3- PROBLEMS WITH UPDATING MEMBERSHIP

JC informed the meeting that the list of IASPM members is in a chaotic state. For some weeks, he has been trying to tidy up the current members list, consulting the local branch membership secretaries to obtain updated information. This process encounters the obstacle of a lack of response from several branches; JC will persist in trying to obtain this information.

One important problem detected is that some people contact the Membership Secretary directly in order to join IASPM, without first going to their local branch. This generates extra work and bad coordination between the general Membership Secretary and the different branches. To avoid this, KK, as webmaster, has volunteered to make it particularly clear on the Society's website that new members first contact the local national or regional branch.

In addition to the member list, another serious problem is the lack of control over the Society's mailing list. To date, Robert Strachan still has total control over the list from the University of Liverpool server, and there seems to be no way to get him to respond to the requirements of the Membership Secretary. As well as the lack of control exercised by successive ECs, collateral problems have been created, such as the old membership secretaries continuing to receive a copy of each email sent to the list, as spam, years after their functions have been wound up (as has happened to Laura Jordán).

Given the difficulties of trying to reach Robert either by email or directly by phone, the proposal was accepted to contact him through some other member of staff at Liverpool University. KK has volunteered to bring up the issue with Sara Cohen and ask her to mediate on our behalf.

4- ICTM CONFERENCE AND BEIJING 2018

SM went through the information previously sent to the EC: the ICTM has invited the IASPM to form part of a forum with other scientific societies (SEM, IMS and IAML) to take place in Beijing in July, 2018. The proposal came from Svanibor Pettan, ICTM vice-president, who conveyed it to SM during the Limerick congress in July, the new IASPM EC having just been chosen. Given that the EC had not yet begun working at this time, and with the ensuing summer break (northern) likely to delay an urgent answer, the matter was passed to IASPM Chair JM who also considered it pertinent to take part in the gathering. Given that the CFP issued by the ICTM already showed acceptance on the part of the IASPM, the related debate is a little unusual. It is not clear if the procedure followed to accept participation in this forum was the correct one, but it is understandable given the situation regarding the EC's period of transition and the urgency of the decision.

MGQ underlined the reticence traditionally shown by the ICTM towards popular music, and expressed her doubts about the appropriateness that a conference on "music and dance in the Internet era" should be held in a country like China, where access to YouTube and other websites is routinely blocked by authorities. SM argues that this change of attitude, with the recent interest and approach by the ICTM regarding IASPM study practices, should be regarded as an opportunity for cooperation. JM explained the interest involved for the IASPM

in establishing links and collaboration with consolidated scientific societies such as the ICTM. SM informed the meeting that conditions for participation seem advantageous for members, given that the OC will cover accommodation expenses and enrolment for 20 participants proposed by the IASPM. The EC discussed the possible acceptance or denial of IASPM participation and stressed the need for clarity on what tasks will be involved and how to select the 20 participants from the IASPM. JM will write to Svanibor Pettan and find out what exactly we have to do (how many papers can be accepted? how to select them?).

5- WEBSITE

The EC has learned that Jan Hemming, chair of the OC for the Kassel 2017 congress, registered the domain "iaspm.org". JM has to talk with him to make clear what use he wanted to make of it.

Marta suggested that it would be useful if the IASPM reserved all domains related to its name and acronym (iaspm.xxx). She will check how much we pay for the domain and the hosting, and make these figures available so a decision can be taken at the next meeting.