

## **IASPM EC Minutes (Meeting II)**

December 13, 2017

\* Meeting of the Executive Committee, December 13, 2017 (9pm ECT), held by videoconference (Skype)

*Present:* Julio Mendivil (JM), Ann Werner (AW), Jacopo Conti (JC), Kimi Kärki (KK), Marta Garcia Quiñones (MGQ), Sílvia Martínez (SM), Antti-Ville Kärjä (AVK)

### **1- NEW BANK ACCOUNT**

MGQ told the meeting we are awaiting confirmation from the bank that it has received the amended signatory access forms for our account. Once the change is finalised and the new signatures activated, Emilia Barna will finally be able to disengage from her activities as former treasurer. Of the two accounts we have with the bank, the dollar account has been closed. This means we are now operating only in pounds sterling. Since dollar movements cannot be followed online, MGQ has asked the bank for a statement of all movements for the past two years.

In respect of the opening of a new account satisfying all the requirements demanded at the last General Assembly meeting (Kassel, July 2017), AW reported that she had approached some Swedish banks but without any successful outcomes. Certain actions to meet the General Assembly's mandate were discussed: consult other national IASPM branches to find out how they solved the same problems (AVK commented that the Norden Branch covers several countries and has an account in Finland); consult an international banking expert who has experience of working with NGOs; consult other plurinational or continental societies with a bank operation similar to the IASPM's. KK pointed out that bank processes tend to be easier in Finland but in cases consulted, the Society, despite being Europe-based, has a permanent office in Finland. A proposal was also made to consult the treasurer of the IASPM's US branch to explore the possibility of opening a dollar account in the USA.

MGQ noted all suggestions and will continue to work on opening the right account for us.

### **2- THIRD ICTM JOINT FORUM-BEIJING**

We picked up from the discussion raised at the previous meeting on IASPM participation in the 3rd ICTM-Forum, to be held in Beijing in July, 2018. JM backed participation, arguing that is positive for the IASPM to respond to the interest shown by the ICTM in popular music studies. He also maintains that being part of the event is important politically. SM backed IASPM participation on the basis that many ethnomusicologists work in the field of popular music studies, with one foot in each Society, the IASPM and the ICTM. AVK, as chair of the Finland national committee, stated that the IASPM should support the initiative and have an institutional presence at the Forum. AW was not against participation but expressed concern that our involvement should not add to the tasks of the already overloaded and overworked EC. The fear that this involves the EC in extra work was discussed but the meeting felt that, since the EC is not part of the event's organising committee, our only function would be to select the twenty IASPM papers for the conference.

JM, AVK, and SM volunteered to form part of the reading committee for selecting these papers (AC) and they were assigned by the EC to the task. MGQ stated she was not totally opposed but made certain considerations clear: she said that our non-participation could penalise the academic community in China; she also argued that participating might compromise the EC's

current workload; as she had argued in the previous meeting, she claimed she was not convinced that this event offers equal conditions to the different societies involved. AW requested that this question only occupy the time of a limited number of EC members. A vote was taken on IASPM participation at the forum: MGQ voted against; all others approved participation.

As a committee, we underlined the need for maximum transparency in all communication and handling in respect of IASPM participation in this Forum. We agreed to send copies of all mails related to the organisation of the event to all EC members, including those not actively engaged in Forum administration. SM agreed to write the CFP and send it out to everyone on the Society's mailing list. The timeline agreed was:

- End of December: launch CFP
- End of January: deadline for receiving papers.
- Mid-February: announcing selected papers and rejections.

### **3- ACADEMIC COMMITTEE FOR IASPM 2019-CANBERRA CONFERENCE**

One of the most pressing tasks for advancing organisation of the 2019 Canberra conference is the make-up of the Academic Committee (AC). JM pointed out that to date we have sent out a long list of potential members to the Organising Committee (OC), which responded with a shortlist of ideal candidates. JC observed that some of those selected for the AC are members who are not very active on the IASPM mailing list and who do not respond to mails sent by the EC. AVK proposed asking the OC what criteria it used to make up the list. MGQ pointed out that, as the EC, we cannot ask for explanations; the most we can do is ask to know the criteria used to compile the list.

The meeting wondered if deciding on the list is the responsibility of the OC or the EC. JM commented that the decision should be worked out between both committees. MGQ stressed that the decision arrived at is not covered by the statutes but is a mandate from the Kassel General Assembly (2017) to avoid disagreements between the EC and OC on organisational questions regarding the congress. MGQ pointed out that there was no always AC for earlier congresses since the OC itself selected papers. JC reminded the meeting that in some past congresses, the EC was in charge of choosing the OC, and he underlined that the EC should be deeply involved in decisions on the make-up of the AC, as well as of conference themes and other organisational issues, since this is an IASPM conference and the EC is the representative organ for the Society as a whole. It was put forward that a specific member of the EC be responsible for coordinating the make-up of the AC together with the members of the OC. We agreed to AVK taking over coordination of communication with the OC on this subject and any others that might arise in relation to the conference.

JC raised one further doubt in relation to who should contact the shortlisted members for the AC. It was approved that the EC should be in charge of this announcement, and MGQ volunteered to write the draft of the invitation letter.

### **4- STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

AVK pointed out several issues, shared previously by email between EC members, on the development of assemblies: quorum, prior remittance of documents to discuss, etc. Certain proposals were discussed, such as the possibility of accepting electronic voting for general assemblies, as well as the setting of a quorum for voting. We agreed to present specific proposals for improvement at the next General Assembly. JM proposed that one agenda item at the next general assembly be on improvements leading to a more democratic decision-making process. AW put forward that an EC member should be in charge of identifying specific problems arising

from previous assemblies, and that these should be summarised for discussion at future meetings. AVK volunteered to go through the current statutes and rules of procedure and initiate the process for changes, updates and amendments needed.

AW brought up another issue on EC functioning: the precise role that should be played by members-at-large. One of the posts will be assigned to duties of managing tax payments to the Swedish government and institutional questions with the same. Although not established in the statutes, AW cast doubt on the possibilities of someone without fluent Swedish being able to fulfil this duty. It seemed logical to the meeting that this task be commissioned to a member-at-large who is Swedish or who resides in Sweden, although the criteria for picking other members-at-large were thought to be not clear enough. We agreed to study specific proposals allowing for the definition of profiles and duties of members-at-large. If it is agreed that these posts should be permanently defined, at the next assembly the EC will propose the modification of the statutes to include this information.