

XI IASPM General Meeting Minutes - Turku, Finland, July 9, 2001, 4:30 pm

Introduction

The IASPM matters for the period of 1999-2001 were presented by the current Executive Committee, elected at the X General Meeting (held in Sydney, Australia, July 12, 1999):

Anahid Kassabian – Chair

Sheila Whitely – General Secretary

Keith Kahn-Harris – Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Heinz-Peter Katlewski – Publicity Officer

Claire Levy – Member-at-large

I. Call to order

a. Election of Chair for the XI General Meeting

Anahid Kassabian was unanimously elected as chair of the meeting (first proposal by Rebecca Leydon, seconded by Tony Mitchell).

b. Approval of the Agenda of the XI General Meeting

After Russell Reising's proposal, seconded by Tony Mitchell, the agenda was formally approved.

c. Approval of the Minutes of the previous General Meeting

These Minutes were unanimously adopted after Motti Regev's proposal, seconded by Stan Hawkins.

d. Election of two ballot counters and two treasurer's report auditors

Tony Mitchell and Klaus Neumann-Braun were elected as ballot counters and Line Grenier and Steve Jones were confirmed as treasurer's report auditors.

II. Acceptance of the 1999-2001 Executive Committee Reports

a. Chair's report

The report was published online and circulated at the present meeting. The chair reminded that the biggest task of the current EC referred to the updating and restructuring of some points in the IASPM Statutes, Rules of Procedure, and Membership Fee Structure. She expressed her enormous pleasure to work with this group of people.

b. Membership secretary/treasurer's report

Keith Kahn-Harris paid attention to some of the main points of his report. In addition, he pointed out the difficulties in the money transaction process for some members (especially individual members) and that this issue will hopefully be resolved more satisfactorily by the next membership secretary. Jan Hemming raised the issue of the mode of fee payment. Keith Kahn-Harris reported that he investigated ways for payment online by credit-card which

turned to be not possible for now. Anahid Kassabian noted that this issue will hopefully be resolved more satisfactorily by the next membership secretary.

c. Website and RPM report

Heinz-Peter Katlewski spoke on the current state of RPM and the iaspm-website. He proposed that the present meeting thank Steve Jones for his long-term care in setting up and maintaining the IASPM e-mail list and the IASPM-EC list. The proposal was followed by long applause. The main issue discussed referred to the future of the printed version of RPM – a product available for members only, unlike the electronic version which is accessible for both members and non-members. Philip Tagg suggested that the access to the version online may demand a pass word. Jan Hemming, Motti Regev, and Henri Terho argued in favor of the opinion that paper version must continue its life along with the electronic version online.

d. Auditors' Report

All reports were unanimously adopted.

III. Proposals to Changes

The chair introduced the reasons for the proposed changes to the IASPM Statutes, Rules of Procedure, and Membership Fee Structure. She points out that in making changes, the democratic basis of IASPM has been carefully considered, and that these changes are certainly open for discussion. Available online, the proposed changes were circulated as well at the present meeting.

a. Statutes

A question concerning the deleting of article 8.5 from the old version has been raised. The topic of this article says: "The General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting may, at its discretion, elect individuals as honorary life members in recognition of those individuals' services to the world of popular music and to the Association". The chair pointed out that the reason of proposing to delete this article relates to the actual IASPM structure and branch system because of which a practice of honoring people with 'life membership' actually never worked effectively. She pointed as well that there are different other ways of honoring people's contributions to the history of popular music studies and to the organization and that it makes more organizational sense to approach honoring people from these other ways. Proposed changes were accepted unanimously after Geoff Stahl's proposal, seconded by William Barlow.

b. Rules of Procedure

No specific comments. Proposed changes were accepted unanimously after Line Grenier's proposal, seconded by Keir Keightly.

c. Membership Fee Structure/Membership Fee Scale

Line Grenier noted that there is no distinguished category for students in the membership fee scale. Anahid Kassabian explained that the category 'unwaged' was assumed to cover students as well – but this point will be

additionally revised. Philip Tagg suggested that a category for 'retired' people must be added in the fee scale.

Juan-Pablo Gonzales reported that the Latin American branch collected fees of 10 USD for both local and international needs. He proposed that from now on 50 per cent of the branch collected amount to be sent to the International (instead of 80 per cent which was the practice so far). Vanessa Knights noted that countries in the Latin American branch are not under equal economical situation and that Cuba, for instance, should not pay the same fee. Anahid Kassabian added that it's the very branch responsibility of how to distinguish between the countries in Latin America and that according to the updated fee scale, members from Cuba (considered as a low income country) are allowed to get free international membership. She pointed as well that similar questions stand before all multi-national branches.

Proposed changes were accepted unanimously after Motti Regev's proposal, seconded by Steve Jones.

IV. Archive and permanent office

Heinz-Peter Katlewski outlined the growing necessity for IASPM to setting up its own archive and a permanent office where data base to be collected and stored. He reported that after exploring location possibilities, the EC proposed the Institute of Popular Music in Liverpool as the most appropriate site for both purposes. Keith Kahn-Harris reported that he had already started negotiations with persons from IPM – Sara Cohen and Philip Tagg. The meeting decided unanimously that the EC should go further with these negotiations.

V. Book series

Sheila Whitely reported her ongoing investigations for possible IASPM book publications. Emphasizing on the specific international profile of IASPM, she outlined two projects. The one is a volume which to include a collection of important essays from Kanazawa and Sydney. A team of editors is moving forward on this. The second project intends to initiate a book series covering central debates in contemporary popular music studies, including the themes of Space and Place, Identity and Subjectivity, and Technology and Production. More concrete profiling of this project will be additionally announced on the website. Tony Mitchell pointed out that projects of the kind may take years and that his volume on Hip-Hop (which includes chapters from IASPM members worldwide) will be published by the end of this year after six years of hard working. Motti Regev commented that a book, originated by IASPM, must necessarily show different parts of the world. Vanessa Knights asked for more specific clarifying of the projects' themes. In response, Sheila Whiteley pointed out that the IASPM membership will be continually informed about the progress of these projects and that certainly everybody is welcome to contribute. It has been accepted that the projects outlined must be pursued further by the EC.

Book Award

Claire Levy presented for discussion the IASPM book award proposal, made by a committee formed for that purpose after the Sydney meeting. In spite of the understandable skepticism concerning the English language hegemony, the committee developed a two-part-proposal: for one, a biannual award to be given for best debut (first book) in English; for two, any non-English language branch that wishes to run a competition may award the IASPM best book (in any specific language). It has been suggested that part one of the proposal (selection for the best book debut in English) will be chosen by a three-member-jury which to include Line Grenier, Lutgard Mutsaers, and Tony Mitchell. The proposal has been unanimously accepted.

VII. Next conference site

The chair reported that there are two possible sites for the IASPM conference in 2003: Rome and Montreal. Both proposals were introduced by representatives of the respective sites.

The proposal of the Italian branch to host the next conference in collaboration with the University of Rome has been presented by Francesco D'Amato, who made clear a variety of advantages in terms of geographical and cultural location of Rome. English and Italian were proposed to be the formal conference languages and a commitment for providing with simultaneous translation was stated.

On behalf of the Canadian branch Keir Keightly presented the proposal for hosting the next IASPM conference in collaboration with the McGill University in Montreal. He pointed out the multicultural and multilingual profile of the location, the strong activities of the Canadian branch, plus a number of other advantages in terms of funding, facilities, accessible accommodation, and local attractions.

The meeting welcomed both proposals and discussed a variety of considerations in favor of both sites. Preferences for Rome were expressed by Juan-Pablo Gonzales on behalf of the Latin American branch. On the other hand, it was noted that after Turku, Rome will be the second consecutive site in Europe and choosing another continent for holding the next biannual IASPM conference would be in favor of members from other parts of the world. The final decision was made by elections (votes given anonymously). The collective vote (40 to 30) favored the Canadian proposal and it was announced that next conference will be held in Montreal. It was pointed out as well that Rome will be given further consideration for hosting a IASPM conference in the future.

VIII. Elections for the IASPM Executive Committee 2001 – 2003

Three of the existing members were nominated for re-election and three newly nominated persons were presented at the meeting. All nominated persons were unanimously elected. The new Executive Committee is comprised of the following members:

Chair: Anahid Kassabian (USA)
General Secretary: Claire Levy (Bulgaria)
Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Marion Leonard (UK)
RPM/Web: Jan Hemming (Germany)
Publications: Sheila Whitely (UK)
Member-at-large: Shuhei Hosokawa (Japan)

Anahid Kassabian addressed acknowledgements to the outgoing EC members Keith Kahn-Harris, for his stalwart duty as Membership Secretary/Treasurer, and Heinz-Peter Katlewski, for his stellar two-term performance as editor of RPM and Web Builder/Manager. She addressed as well special thanks to the great co-operation of Henri Terho, Helmi Jarviluoma, and all other hard working members of the local Organizational Committee in Turku.

IX. New Business

A few issues were raised for discussion.

It has been recommended the EC to take care of looking for more flexible options in terms of how graduate students to be included as frequently and widely as possible in any of the IASPM business matters.

A question concerning the encouragement of profiled study groups in the framework of IASPM has been discussed.

Yetkin Ozer posed the question of how IASPM may become more active in initiating international collaborative projects and indicated the possibility for such projects to be financially supported by the European Union. As a step in this direction he noted the need of looking for a recognition with organizations like UNESCO.

Closing

The Meeting was adjourned July 9, 7:20 pm.

Claire Levy
General Secretary