



MINUTES OF THE IAFSS BUSINESS MEETING

KIT, Karlsruhe
Thursday 25th September 2008
2.00 – 3.15 pm

AGENDA

The meeting was convened at 2.00 pm under the chairmanship of Dr Craig Beyler. Fifty one members of IAFSS were present, satisfying the quorum requirement (30 members or 1/10 of the membership), as stipulated in the Point 10 of the Rules of the Association.

(1) Apologies

No apologies were received.

(2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The previous meeting was held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China on 22 September 2005 under the chairmanship of Professor Dougal Drysdale. Forty eight members of the IAFSS were present. The minutes were circulated to all members and additional copies made available at the meeting. The minutes were accepted as true record.

(3) Chairman's Report

Dr Beyler requested the Secretary to take over the chairmanship of the meeting. Subsequently, the meeting was conducted by Professor Dlugogorski.

Dr Beyler presented the Chairman's report. (i) He praised the Program Committee of the 9th Symposium for their successful activities. (ii) He reviewed the efforts to collect all papers published at the Fire Safety Symposia, the Asia-Oceania Symposia, and as FRS Notes in one location on the internet, creating a valuable resource for the Association and the community. (iii) He called for volunteers to become involved in the activities of the Association, especially in activities related to making the publications available on the internet. He encouraged volunteers to contact Mr Terry Fay (tfay@haifire.com) and all membership to visit <http://iafss.haifire.com>.

A discussion followed on how to make the Association's message visible to public (Dr Rein), how to serve the public and the membership (Dr Beyler) and on a need for public access to the Fire Safety Notes and the Association's publications (Dr Hall).

(4) Treasurer's Report

Dr Robert Bill presented a report with highlights as follows: (i) The membership numbers were 241 in 2002, 291 in 2003, 259 in 2004, 261 in 2005, 251 in 2006, 232 in 2007, and 219 as 10 July 2008. (ii) IAFSS balances amounted to £109,063 in 2002, £106,088 in 2003, £103,156 in 2004, £119,547 in 2005, £111,842 in 2006, £112,290 in 2007, and £108,452 as of 30 June 2008. (iii) The income in 2006 consisted of membership fees (\$372 and £4904) and book sales (\$212 and £3170), with the expenses of \$5,145 and £8,820, the Association had deficit of \$4,560 and £746 (paid in 2007). (iv) Detailed figures on the Secretariat's expenses were presented. The two most important items making the £8,820 amount included the operation of the office £5,400 and mailing £2,064. (v) Similar figures were presented for 2007, the income consisted of membership fees (\$535 and £5164) and book sales (\$225 and £925), with the expenses of \$3,960 and £7,297, the deficit amounted to \$3,200 and £1,208 (paid in 2008). (vi) The main expenses included the operation of the office (£5,400), website (\$300 and £900), and the Newsletter (£647). (vii) Additional financial activity included scanning of the proceedings (vol 1-6) - \$3,274, Scanning assistance (\$2,500), Scanning FRS Notes, £1,421 and Symposium software (\$700). (viii) There were 456 attendees at the 8th International Symposium (Beijing China). The income amounted to \$138,317 (registration of \$128,317 and sponsorship of \$10,000) and expenses corresponded to \$138,130 (CFPA expenses \$92,166, Proceedings \$25,902, Secretariat costs \$20,061). (ix) The cost of the 8th Symposium Awards was £3,601 (x) The financial statements were audited by Dr William Grosshandler and Professor Ian Thomas. Dr Bill thanked both auditors.

(5) Election of the IAFSS Committee

The Scrutineers of the Association (Professor Edwin Galea and Dr Nouredine Benichou) reported that the following candidates were elected to the Committee

1. Dr V Babrauskas (Fire Science and Technology, USA)
2. Dr C Beyler (Hughes & Associates, USA)
3. Mr D Brein (University of Karlsruhe, Germany)
4. Prof W Chow (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China)
5. Prof N Dembsey (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA)
6. Prof B Dlugogorski (University of Newcastle, Australia)
7. Prof D Drysdale (University of Edinburgh, UK)
8. Dr C Fleischmann (University of Canterbury, New Zealand)
9. Prof G Hadjisophocleous (Carleton University, Canada)
10. Dr A Hamins (National Institute of Science and Technology, USA)
11. Prof Y Hasemi (Waseda University, Japan)
12. Dr Y He (University of Western Sydney, Australia)
13. Dr B Merci (Ghent University, Belgium)
14. Prof F Mowrer (University of Maryland, USA)

15. Prof P Joulain (National Centre for Scientific Research, France)
16. Dr B Karlsson (Fire Authority, Iceland)
17. Dr S Kumar (Building Research Establishment, UK)
18. Dr G Proulx (National Research Council, Canada)
19. Dr A Sekizawa (National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster, Japan)
20. Dr M Simonson (SP Technical research Institute, Sweden)
21. Prof J Sun (University of Science and Technology, China)
22. Prof T Tanaka (Kyoto University, Japan)
23. Dr C Wieczorek (FMGlobal, USA)
24. Prof J Torero (University of Edinburgh, UK)

The petition candidates, who had been listed separately on the ballot paper, were not elected. A lively discussion followed with a number of members arguing for and against listing all candidates alphabetically. At the end of the discussion, the following motions was put forward by Professor Galea

“(i) All candidates to be ordered alphabetically on the ballot paper. (ii) All candidates to be invited to provide short statements (with word limit) on the ballot paper.”

The motion was seconded by Professor Jonathan Barnett and was carried by the General Meeting.

Note. This resolution has not been implemented on the last ballot by an oversight, and is to be implemented for elections in 2014.

(6) 10th IAFSS Symposium

Professors Arnaud Trouvé and Fred Mowrer reported on the preparation of the 10th Symposium, to be held on the campus of the University of Maryland between 20 and 24 June 2011. A number of points were covered, including the access to the venue. The venue is easily accessible by a metro system, and the area is served by three airports for international and out-of-state visitors.

(7) 8th Asia-Oceania Symposium on Fire Science and Technology

Professor W-K Chow, the Chairman of the Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology, invited the membership to participate in the 8th Asia-Oceania Symposium on Fire Science and Technology, scheduled to be held at the University of Western Sydney. Prof Chow named the Vice-Chairmen of the Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology, including Professor S Sugahara (Japan), Professor J Sun (China) and Dr Yaping He (Australia). Note: Subsequent to the General Meeting, the 8th Symposium was moved to Victoria University in Melbourne and held between 7 and 9 December 2010. The Symposium was chaired by Professor Ian Thomas of Victoria University.

(8) Appointment/Election of Two Honorary Auditors of the Association

Professor Galea (University of Greenwich, UK) and Professor Thomas (Victoria University,

Australia) were appointed the Honorary Auditors of the Association.

(9) Newsletter

Dr Jack Watts had become the Editor of the Newsletter after the resignation of Dr Jim Mehaffey. Dr Watts spoke about the operation of the Newsletter, encouraging the membership from every continent to collect information, forward it to him, and to volunteer to become Associate Editors of the Newsletter. Note: After the Symposium, Professor Ali Rangwala (WPI, USA), Dr Guillermo Rein (The University of Edinburgh) and Professor Patrick Van Hees (SP, Sweden) were appointed as the Associate Editors of the Newsletter.

(10) AOB

Three issues were raised from the floor (i) need to increase the membership of the Association (Dr He); (ii) need for improve citations of fire safety papers (Dr Eric Marchant); (iii) need for indexing of the papers published in the Proceedings of the IAFSS Symposia (Professors Ali Rangwala and Peter Sunderland).

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3.30 pm.

Bogdan Dlugogorski
Past Honorary Secretary of the Association