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Prof Ai Sekizawa, Asia/Oceania
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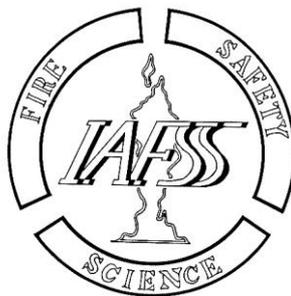
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MINUTES (final) IAFSS Committee Meeting

Held in conjunction with the 10th AOSFST conference, Conference Center Tsukuba, Japan

Venue: Tsukuba, Japan

Date: Monday, 5.40 pm – 6.30 pm

Teleconference access: Available, information was sent to members in an email

Attendance:

W.K. Chow (WKC)

Bogdan Dlugogorski (BD)

Charley Fleischmann (CF)

Brian Meacham (BMea)

Ai Sekizawa (AS)

Jinhua Sun (JS)

Takeyoshi Tanaka (TT)

Jose Torero (JT)

Patrick van Hees (PvH, Chairman)

Alexis Coppalle (AC)

1. Apologies for absence

The meeting was opened by the Chairman PvH.

Apologies were received by the secretary before the meeting from Luke Bisby, Rita Fahy, Arnaud Trouvé, Anthony Hamins, Björn Karlsson. Tuula Hakkarainen, Michael Gollner and Margaret S. McNamee were available to call into the meeting but due to technical difficulties the telephone access was abandoned after 5 minutes. The Chairman apologises to them, as this was a force majeure situation and the meeting continued without their participation.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

a. Young Scientist Award

In the absence of Guillermo Rein, the Chairman gave a quick status update on the discussions. There is a compromise negotiated for the type of awards. At the moment, 1 award is proposed under 6 years and 1 under 10 years from dissertation. The Chair asked GR to put together a proposal by early next month, which then could be decided on by the Executive Committee. This is important for the planning of the next symposium by the Chair of the Awards Committee.

Note from the chair: At the end of October GR provided the text in annex

Annex 1

1. The task group proposed to have two awards and suggested two different names for the awards. The Executive Committee asks for approval for the name of the awards. Motivation will be provided when the committee is asked to vote on this.

b. **Task of Vice Chair (Prof. van Hees)**

Annex 2

A document had been distributed before the meeting and this was shortly discussed. It was decided that comments should be given to the Chair. The Chair also informed the members that he would start collecting and putting together all documents in order to set-up a process description for the IAFSS. The document would later be approved by the Executive Committee. For clarification of the decisions the minutes of the Executive Committee will be made available to the members of the Management Committee. This was not yet done previously.

3. Organisation of the 12th Symposium (Prof. van Hees)

Annex 3

Before the meeting an overview of the different positions for the next symposium was distributed. A First Symposium planning committee meeting by phone was held a week before the management meeting last week. Things are going smoothly at present. On request of the past chair it was decided to remove the nominating Committee from the Symposium list as the nominating committee has an independent role.

The dates for the conference were set: 12-16 June 2017 in Lund.

4. Report on AOAFST (Prof. Chow)

The AOAFST Meeting was held the same day and the most important decision was to have Taiwan to host the next symposium. The next date will be about 3 years out. The organizers will look to try and not overlap with other conferences. The AOAFST is also trying to work out details of committees (best papers, lifetime award, etc.). A draft will be circulated in due time.

5. Report on 10th AOSFST Symposium (Prof. Tanaka)

250 people registered, coming from more than 15 countries. In total 127 paper submissions of which 95 were selected. 65 poster submissions, of which 61 were accepted.

6. Fire Safety Journal (Prof. Torero)

Prof. Torero will step down as editor but the replacement has not been easy. A decision will be made by Elsevier soon and the Chair reminded the members about the agreement we had with Elsevier. The Chairman provided Elsevier with a list of the members of the Committee in order to be able to select a new editor. In relation to the agreement the chairman made it clear that the decision was made by Elsevier not by IAFSS. A discussion was held on impact factors, review time and key words.

7. IAFSS website

Annex 4

The Chair of the New Technology Group, Prof. Gollner, had distributed a report prior to the meeting. The membership is around 500 and went down

mainly because of students not continuing after graduation and due to fact that it is the year after the symposium. It was noted with appreciation that Michael Gollner does an excellent work with the website.

8. Proceedings

The Chairman PvH explained how vulnerable the organisation is with respect to publishing its proceedings. This was clear when publishing the proceedings of the New Zealand conference. Only few persons know the system for putting the doi numbers on the papers and publishing online is a matter solely known by Terry Fay. The chair explained how much personal time Terry Fay had put into this work and wanted to thank him for that as well as Michael Gollner and the editors. However, for the future we should look for redundancy and alternatives. For this reason a small Task Group (TG) led by CF was set up by the Exec. Committee. They will also look into the possibility getting our papers onto the web of science. It is understood by everybody present that this is a difficult matter with a lot of criteria. The TG will report first to the Exec. Committee later this year and then the whole committee will be consulted if a proposal is available. Hopefully a proposal or a draft idea is available when the first call is issued.

9. Report on 2nd European Symposium of IAFSS

The chair gave a short report of the conference. About 100 participants attended the conference which was organised in half day session starting with a key note followed by posters. This was seen as a good formula and less formal. Some posters will be published in Fire Technology but not all. This procedure should be clarified in the future. A volunteer for a next conference had approached already PvH.

10. Survey of 2yr versus 3yr cycle for IAFSS conference

From the results it was clear there was no majority for a change. The people present agreed that we should not change anything for the moment. The chair will check with Michael Gollner if the poll was completely closed and the Exec. Comm. will confirm the status.

**Annex 4
(same as
website
info)**

11. AOB

A short discussion was made on the fact that we need to reflect on the fact that we are charity and that we need to consider how to use our assets.

It was also discussed how to obtain again members from certain disciplines e.g. fires in structures.

12. Date of next meeting

The Chair informed to plan a meeting at Interflam in 2016 and would investigate if another time or place could be appropriate. He thanked all participants for their attendance and apologised for the technical problems which occurred unfortunately at the beginning of the meeting.

Young Scientist Award proposal from the TG led by Guillermo Rein.

Dated 29/10/2015

The Proulx and Magnusson Early Career Awards recognise meritorious work by younger members of the International Association of Fire Safety Science (IAFSS) who have contributed a body of work that is of significance to any area of fire safety science. The two awards are distinguished by the duration of time from the candidates' doctoral degrees to the nomination date. Each of the awards shall consist of a certificate and a monetary sum of £3000.

For the Proulx Award, candidates must be at the time of nomination within five years of their Doctoral degree graduation. The award commemorates Guylene Proulx, expert in human behaviour in fire at National Research Council Canada, and IAFSS Board member who passed away in 2009.

For the Magnusson Award, candidates must be at the time of nomination within five to ten years of their Doctoral degree graduation. The award commemorates Sven Erik Magnusson, pioneer of parametric fires and of risk management, and co-founding father of IAFSS who passed away in 2014.

The awards will be administered together with all other IAFSS awards. Normally one Proulx and one Magnusson awards shall be made at each symposium; however, fewer awards will be made, if, in the opinion of the panel of judges, candidates of sufficient merit have not been proposed for any of the awards. The awards shall be presented at the IAFSS Symposium.

Task Vice Chairmen

The following major task are designated to the different vice chairmen:

- Promote the association in the region.
- Increase the members in the region with special focus to those countries where few members
- Be pro-active in organising or helping organising events in the regions.
- Market the association at other conferences in the region
- Be stand-in for the chairman in their region if the chairman cannot attend
- To be a first contact for the chairman to get an impression what the impression is from the region about certain possible proposals from the committee

Symposium Committees

12th Symposium Planning Committee

Co-Chair E. Galea

Co-Chair K. Boyce (ke.boyce@ulster.ac.uk)

Members

Chairs of the other committees (i.e. Arnaud, Bart, poster, Anthony, Daniel, editor, workshop)

B. Dlugogorski (past chair)

C. Fleischmann (prev. conference)

P. Van Hees (chair)

CONTACT DETAILS

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Naian Liu	liunai@ustc.edu.cn	China
Coleen Wade	Colleen.Wade@branz.co.nz	New Zealand

12th Symposium Program Committee

Co-Chair A. Trouvé

Co-Chair B. Merci

Poster Chair: Nian Liu

Workshop Chair: see below

Members:

12th Symposium Publications Committee

Editors Elisabeth Weckman (others to be nominated by Elisabeth)

Other members pending

12th Symposium Awards Committee (including best thesis)

Chair A. Hamins

Members pending

IAFSS Nomination Committee

Chair B Dlugogorski (other to be nominated by Bodzio and Patrick)

Members pending

12th Symposium Workshops Committee

Co-Chair Tuula Hakkarainen

Co-Chair Anne Elise Steen-Hansen

12th Symposium Local Arrangements Committee

Chair D. Nilsson

Members

Pending

12th Symposium Best Thesis Award Committee

Chair: Anthony Hamins

Members

Pending

12th Symposium Writing Mentor Program

Chair: Coleen Wade

Members pending

IAFSS New Technology Subcommittee
Website & Media Update
October, 2015

Team Members:

Michael Gollner	University of Maryland, USA	Chairman, Co-Webmaster
Nils Johansson	Lund University, Sweden	Co-Webmaster
Terry Fay	Jensen Hughes, USA	Publication Archive
Xinyan Huang	Imperial College, London	Events Calendar
Rory Hadden	University of Edinburgh	Social Media
Amanda Robbins	Sereca Fire Consulting, CA	Federated Search
Jing Li	University of New Haven, USA	Website

We are in desperate need for someone to assist with PHP/ SQL skills to help us manage the publication archive!

Current Activities:

Website

- Averaging a **peak** of 200 users per day during the week
 - Last 3 months had 14,000 sessions (not all unique)
 - Means the website is getting traffic and people are checking it
- Operate several functions
 - Share news events – approved by chair or executive members (Trouve/Wieczorek)
 - Highlight important news – chosen by web team from news
 - Post open fire science positions – posted by web team
 - Seek guidance from Trouve/Wieczorek for questions
 - Post upcoming events/conferences

Publications Archive

- 11th IAFSS proceedings are now posted and indexed with DOI
 - Took web team 3 months to post
- All old proceedings now indexed with Google
 - Small glitch in code corrected
- Recommend we use the paid version of easychair to easy export files & information for next time

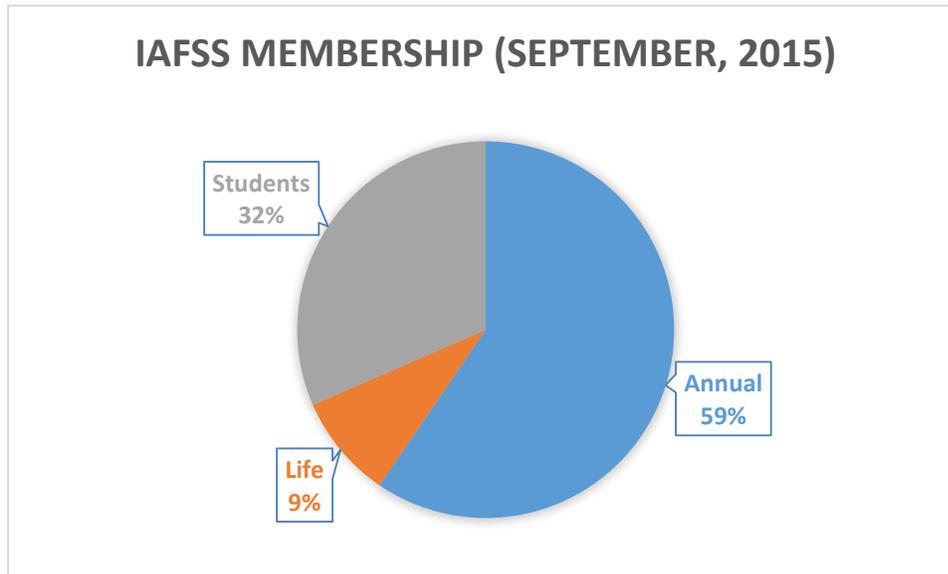
Social Media

- Share news via social media
 - LinkedIn 1435 members
 - Twitter 214 Followers
 - Facebook 341 Follower
 - 277 views on our last newsletter

Surveys

- Utilized SurveyMonkey to send out surveys as asked by chair

Membership Update:



Annual	300
Life	45
Students	159
Total:	504

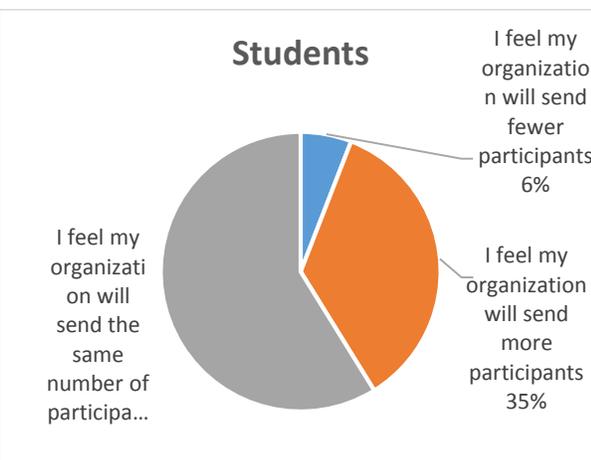
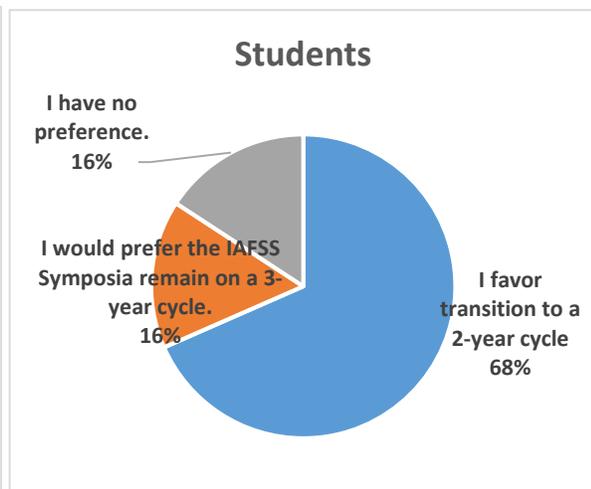
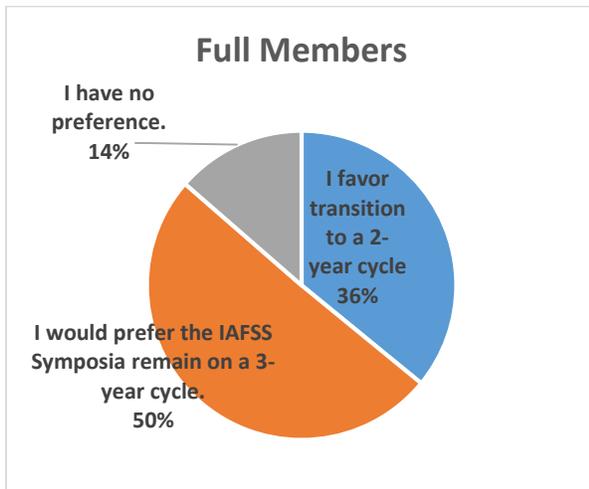
**IAFSS New Technology Subcommittee
Membership Survey on 2 or 3-year Symposium Cycle
October, 2015**

123 Responses (24%):

- **103 Full Members (29%)**
- **19 Student Members (12%)**
 - *Note: only 48% of people opened their email*
 - *7 unsubscribed from all surveys in the future*

Full Members: 50% favor 3 year cycle, 36% 2 year cycle

Students: 68% favor 2 year cycle, 16% 3 year cycle



Selected Survey Comments:

The most important comments for/against all relate to quality and publication.

I do not feel this decision can be made until the publication conflict is resolved. Publication of the work is the primary issue here. Otherwise the 3-year cycle is fine.

I am in favor of higher quality publications that in fact add constant value to the symposia.

The proceedings of combustion symposium is a SCI journal. The IAFSS needs to make its symposium papers as SCI papers. It is the essential way to keep quality.

A recurring theme is the slow publication cycle for the last symposium and the fact that they are not ISI indexed

Another aspect not covered in the list of disadvantages is the proceedings publication. The latest proceedings have taken 18 months to finalize

Considering how long it takes to get reviews in FSJ (IAFSS's official Journal), it would be better to keep symposia on a 3-yr cycle to keep the submission quality (for both symposia and FSJ).

The issue of 'journal status' is real for the young professionals whether this is 2 or 3 year cycle.

We have the same problem for the International Combustion Symposium before. Maybe this can be solved in a similar way but it takes a lot of effort.

In favor of the 2-year cycle

The Symposium is by far the main activity of IAFSS. In the current 3-year cycle, I tend to forget about the association for two years, which is too long, in between symposia. A 2-year cycle will make IAFSS more dynamic, relevant, engaged and up to date.

I think the transition to a 2 year cycle will be highly beneficial to the organization. I don't see why IAFSS is the only organization with such an awkward, long gap between conferences.

With how quickly information can be disseminated online 3 years is an eternity. That being said I'm not an academic so I may not fully appreciate the negatives of going to a 2 year cycle.

A 2-year cycle is much better for academic organizations and students can see this as a regular meeting to attend. With increased research activities in fire science and engineering, this is the correct direction in my opinion.

From a European Standpoint, this would be great, as it will enable most PhD students in a 3-year cycle to attend at least one Symposium during their study.

In favor of keeping the 3-year cycle

We are having problems in dealing with the 3-year cycle at the moment. The 11 IAFSS proceeding is still not out.

The real issue is the level of effort required to organize each meeting and the technical program. We need to find ways to make this more efficient so that the burden is not excessive. If we can overcome this, 2 yrs would be of value.

There's a danger of having too many conferences!

I prefer the format of 3-year cycle since this allows the work presented to have higher quality, while a 2-year cycle will reduce it. However, the only advantage I see from the 2-year cycle is a larger involvement of PhD students (e.g. I could not attend or get fully involved during my PhD to any IAFSS conference).

There are already too many conferences which occur too frequently in my opinion.

The quality would be reduced if it were to be held every 2 years. Our community is not big enough. It might be different for the combustion community - many more researchers involved in that field.

APPENDIX

Screenshot of Website:

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FIRE SAFETY SCIENCE

ABOUT | NEWS | EVENTS | NEWSLETTER | DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Login

About the IAFSS

- Membership
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- Student Membership Registration
- Officers & Bylaws
- Committee Documents
- Awards

News

Publications

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- Fire Technology

Newsletter

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- Fire ReSearch Engine
- Educational Resources

Upcoming Events

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IAFSS Symposium

- 11th Symposium

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Recent News

11th IAFSS Proceedings Published
New Guidelines for IAFSS Conference Sponsorship
NFPA's Philip J. DiNunno Prize Awarded to the Affordable Home Smoke Alarm
AOSFST 2015 Early Registration Deadline Extended to Aug. 15
Fire Safety Science News #38: July, 2015
Short review: 2nd European Symposium of Fire Safety Science
Save the date: 12th IAFSS Symposium
IAFSS Proceedings Indexed by Google Scholar
New teaching resources available
Obituary: Sven Erik Magnusson

Connect with us

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Search

Save the date: 12th IAFSS Symposium

The International Association for Fire Safety Science is proud to announce that the 12th International Symposium on Fire Safety Science will be held June 12-16, 2017 at Lund University, Sweden.

July 2015 | 12th IAFSS | Google Scholar | European Symp. | Newsletter

Recent News

11th IAFSS Proceedings Published

The final version of the Proceedings of the 11th International Symposium on Fire Safety Science are now available online in [...]

New Guidelines for IAFSS Conference Sponsorship

The executive committee of the IAFSS has developed a new set of guidelines for sponsorship of conferences based on many recent [...]

NFPA's Philip J. DiNunno Prize Awarded to the Affordable Home Smoke Alarm

In honor of the late Philip J. DiNunno, the highly regarded former CEO of Hughes Associates who passed away in [...]

Upcoming Events

September 28, 2015
8th International Symposium on Human Behaviour in Fire 2015

October 4, 2015
ATEM'15: International Conference on Advanced Technology in Experimental Mechanics 2015

October 9, 2015
10th Asia-Oceania Symposium on Fire Science and Technology (AOSFST 2015)

October 26, 2015
16th Annual International Water Mist Conference

November 16, 2015
6th International Fire Ecology & Management Congress - Advancing Ecology in Fire Management

December 9, 2015
International Conference on Performance-Based and Life-Cycle Structural Engineering (PLBE)

March 1, 2016
Suppression, Detection and Signalling Research and Applications Conference (SupDet 2016)

March 16, 2016
7th International Symposium on Tunnel Safety and Security (ITSS)

Open Positions

Fire Scientist / Engineer Position at the IBHS Research Center
Research Mechanical Engineer in Experimental WUI Research at NIST, USA
Two doctoral student positions at Aalto University, Finland
Assistant / Associate Professor – Fire Protection & Safety Engineering Technology at ECU, USA
Senior Manager – Passive Fire Protection Inspection Services, BRE Global Ltd, UK
PhD Studentship – Risks in Energy Related Critical Infrastructure – European University Cyprus
NYC (NYFD) Research Position
Post-Doctoral grant offered by RISCO (Portugal)
Research Positions in Advanced Computational Modeling

Membership Survey: Whether to transition the IAFSS Symposium to a 2-year Cycle

At the 11th IAFSS Symposium in New Zealand, the topic of changing the symposium cycle from a 3-year rotation to a 2-year rotation was brought up. The management committee of the IAFSS decided it would be best to solicit input from our membership, in the form of a survey, before making a decision on this topic. A committee volunteered to provide a detailed review of other conferences and a list of pros and cons for the membership: Michael Gollner (USA), Mélanie Rochoux (France), Bogdan Dlugogorski (Australia), George Hadjisophocleous (Canada), Björn Karlsson (Iceland) and W.K. Chow (China).

The IAFSS was founded with the primary objective of encouraging research into the science of preventing and mitigating the adverse effects of fires and of providing a forum for presenting the results of such research. Our tri-annual symposia, now all freely available online, have served as a testament and resource of the outstanding fire science research that has been produced by our community. The question now is whether continuing the 3-year cycle for symposia or moving to a shorter, 2-year cycle would serve the best interests of the IAFSS and greater fire science community.

Reviewing these organizations and conferences, we have assembled a list of *Advantages* and *Disadvantages* related to shifting our current schedule to a 2-year cycle:

A review of relevant fire conferences and symposia (fire dynamics, structures, combustion, human behavior, etc) by the committee indicated that there is a mixture of conferences operating on a 1 year (e.g. AGU, IAWF, APS, etc.), 2 year (e.g. International Symposium on Combustion, ICDERS, Fire and Materials, Structures in Fire, etc.) and 3 year cycle (e.g. Interflam, IAFSS, Fire and Explosion Hazards, Human Behaviour in Fire, Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics, etc.). Reviewing these organizations and conferences, we have assembled a list of *Advantages* and *Disadvantages* related to shifting our current schedule to a 2-year cycle:

Potential Advantages to a 2-year Cycle

- As the symposium is the main scientific fire safety science symposium, this change will result in more interaction between fire safety scientists.
- The IAFSS symposium will become more accessible to PhD students who now will have at least 1 opportunity during their studies to attend the symposium. Most students miss that opportunity with the 3-year cycle, which may contribute to the membership fall-off after graduation. This would also improve their educational experience, CV, job prospects, etc.
- The meeting could be staggered with the International Symposium on Combustion (the most closely related meeting), allowing a yearly opportunity for most students and researchers to present their high-quality research that will provide continuity and avoid time conflicts.
- More opportunities will be available to acknowledge members of our community with awards.
- The proceedings will reflect a more timely account of the state of the field and potentially increase international collaboration between members.

Potential Disadvantages to a 2-year Cycle

- Time conflicts and competition could arise with conferences on a different schedule, such as InterFlam, Fire and Explosion Hazards or Human Behaviour in Fire; however, with the exception of the Combustion Institute, no other conference has such a fundamental focus as the IAFSS.
- There is the possibility of a lowered quality of papers, with less research being conducted between symposia.

- A more robust organization and additional volunteers will be required for conference hosting and article peer-review.
- There is an unresolved conflict between publishing in the Proceedings of the IAFSS Symposium (which does not have the status of a journal publication) and publishing in a journal. This problem will become more severe, potentially having a negative impact on quality.
- It could be more expensive for academics and researchers to attend more frequent conferences.

The IAFSS Management Committee would like to know the opinion of the general membership on a possible change in the frequency of the Symposia, going from a 3-year-cycle to a 2-year cycle. Note that this is only a survey and that the Management Committee will consider other inputs and implications before taking any action: the results of the survey are an important piece in this discussion but the results are non-binding.

QUESTION 1:

- I favor transition to a 2-year cycle
- I would prefer the IAFSS Symposia remain on a 3-year cycle.
- I have no preference.

QUESTION 2:

If the IAFSS Symposia are changed to a 2-year cycle:

- I feel my organization will send the same number of participants
- I feel my organization will send *more* participants
- I feel my organization will send *fewer* participants

Comment (optional):

Raw Survey Results

	Full	Students	Total
I favor transition to a 2-year cycle	37	13	50
I would prefer the IAFSS Symposia remain on a 3-year cycle.	52	3	55
I have no preference.	14	3	17
I feel my organization will send <i>fewer</i> participants	40	1	41
I feel my organization will send <i>more</i> participants	7	6	13
I feel my organization will send the same number of participants	54	10	64