MINUTES – IAFSS Committee Meeting – FINAL
Held in conjunction with the 12th IAFSS, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Venue: Kårhuset, LTH, Hollywood Room
Date: Wednesday June 14th 2017, 19:00-22:00

Attendance:
Luke Bisby (LB)  Longhua Hu (LH)
Alexis Coppalle (AC)  Björn Karlsson (BK)
Ritsu Dobashi (RD)  Brian Meacham (BMea)
Bogdan Dlugogorski (BD)  Bart Merci (BMer)
Rita Fahy (RF)  Yoshifumi Ohmiya (YO)
Charles Fleischmann (DF)  Guillermo Rein (GR)
Jason Floyd (JF)  Arnaud Trouvé (AT)
Ed Galea (EG)  Patrick van Hees (PvH)
Michael Gollner (MG)  Beth Weckman (BW)
Tuula Hakkarainen (TH)  Yi Wang (YW)
Anthony Hamins (AH)

1. Opening of the meeting
The meeting was opened by BD.

2. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from W-K Chow (WKC), Peter Johnson (PJ), and Margaret Simonson McNamee (MSM).

3. Welcome to new members of the Committee
BD welcomed new members and asked them to present themselves and their affiliation.

BD overviewed the election process and moved to election of the Chair.

4. Election of Chairperson
BD asked for nominations for Chair. PvH was nominated by BD, which was seconded by EG. PvH was approved unanimously.

5. Election of other Officers of the Association

Vice Chair – Three Regions:

Americas: BD asked for nominations for Vice Chair, Americas. AT was nominated by MG, which was seconded by AH. AT was approved unanimously.
Asia/Oceania: BD asked for nominations for Vice Chair, Asia/Oceania. LH was nominated by BD, which was seconded by YW. LH was approved unanimously.

Europe/Africa: BD asked for nominations for Vice Chair, Europe/Africa. EG was nominated by AC, which was seconded by AH. EG was approved unanimously.

Secretary: BD asked for nominations for Secretary. BMea was nominated by PvH, which was seconded by BW. BMea was approved unanimously.

Treasurer: BD asked for nominations for Treasurer. MSM was nominated by PvH, which was seconded by EG. MSM was approved unanimously.

Executive Committee members: The Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer are all automatically members of the Executive Committee according to the bylaws. Two additional members are to be elected from the Management Committee.

BW was nominated by BD, which was seconded by BMer. BW was approved unanimously.

BD asked for nominations for the remaining position. BMer was nominated by PvH, which was seconded by AC. BMer was approved unanimously. BD congratulated the members and handed the meeting over to PvH

6. **Venue for the 14th Symposium Decision**

PvH noted that Prof. Hasemi was waiting outside of the room, and suggested shifting the order of the agenda to discuss and come to a decision. This was agreed.

There was a wide-ranging discussion regarding the merits of two excellent proposals.

It was asked if any additional information had been provided, and BMea reported that the Queensland team came back with a per-person estimate of US$500 conference delegate fee (similar to Tsukuba at US$450), including meals, banquet and the like, as requested. It was noted that both delegate fee estimates were quite low / reasonable overall.

Discussion was held regarding the last time the Symposium was held in each country, which was 1988 in Japan and 1997 in Australia.

It was noted that the tradition has been to have a large and broad local committee behind the bid, which helps reduce risk and illustrate availability of resources. It was noted that the Tsukuba bid well-reflected significant support of the universities and professional associations.

It was observed that the Queensland bid showed more external funds (e.g., from city). However, it was also noted that the broad support illustrated in the Tsukuba bid reflects significant commitment and stability.

There was significant discussion regarding benefits and challenges of an established team versus a young and growing team. One aspect was the young group would be mid-career by the time the opportunity came again, which was countered by the more established group likely to be largely retired by then. This is a particularly difficult challenge of a 3-year cycle.
It was noted that perhaps the Queensland team could bid on an AOSFST conference, which might be a bit smaller, as a way in which to gain experience. With the current IAFSS symposium having 478 attendees, a conference 6 years out could be quite a bit larger and more complex.

It was agreed that both bids reflected facilities which could accommodate much larger attendance, if we are so fortunate.

After much deliberation, EG called for an indicative vote, which indicated broad consensus for the Tsukuba bid.

**Committee Action:** Tsukuba bid selected for 2023 IAFSS Symposium by consensus.

7. Responsibilities of the Vice-Chairs

PvH noted that this issue had already been addressed in the 2015 Committee meeting in Tsukuba and by the Executive Committee (see Annex 1), and so just briefly restated the tasks of the different Vice Chairs:

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

It was noted by PvH that the term “chairman” should be changed to Chair to be more gender neutral. BD agreed, but noted that such a change would need to go to the membership for vote as a bylaws change.

8. Responsibilities of the Committee Members

PvH noted that discussion in the Committee on Sunday and in the General membership meeting earlier on Wednesday reflected the need to engage more members in activities, including Committee members. Noting that this is a voluntary association, and one cannot have requirements for service, we need to enliven the Association, finding ways to bring in new members (overall and to the Committee), and showing greater value.

PvH presented a short list of topics for discussion, as supplemented by others, which included:

- Strategy document with general guidelines
- Membership growth and support
- Finances
- Facebook and communication policy
- Gender, diversity and equal opportunity
- Young IAFSS
- Symposium feedback
- Education committee
- Means to engage Committee outside of formal meetings

To the latter point, PvH noted his desire to set up task groups which include all members of the Management Committee, and work outside of
Committee Meetings, reporting back to the Executive Committee and Committee as a whole. This is a way to get everyone more involved between meetings.

There was considerable discussion around the various topics. It was then suggested to consolidate areas into a handful of working group areas.

**Strategy, finance, membership, and bylaws**

Discussion in these areas included the importance of considering what we want to look like in 9 years (aims, activities, membership, funding, etc.). There was broad agreement to reconsider / develop vision and mission statements, with actionable objectives along key areas (e.g., activities, membership, finance).

EG, GR and others commented on the need to develop a financial plan and associated budget to address the increasing funds and the potential risk regarding loss of charity status. GR noted this should be a priority.

There were questions as to whether we just put on symposia, or should we engage in advocacy in some ways. Can we do more to support PhD students (and others), not just at symposia, but more generally?

With respect to symposia, should we pay for the attendance of all awardees, including travel? Should we have more awards, scholarships, etc.? Can we support those running workshops and the cost of workshops?

With respect to membership, how do we grow? Do we want to grow, and if so why – for what purpose? Can we engage better with fire safety engineers?

It was noted that the Society for Fire Safety (SFS) in Australia are interested in a ‘group’ membership (corporate membership). This would bring in more bodies. Should this be pursued (specific request and general concept)?

Ultimately, we need to develop the value proposition – how do we make IAFSS sufficiently valuable to attract new members and to encourage active participation of members in advancing the objectives of the association?

It was noted that we need to understand how we are proceeding with the Secretariat, including associated financial issues, and that we need a financial plan that fits the strategic plan and objectives. It was also noted that we need to develop bylaw changes as appropriate to outcomes from the strategic planning and associated working groups.

**Committee Action: Working Group formed – PvH chairs, includes Executive Committee, JF, AH, and YW. PJ was suggested, if he is interested.**

**Young IAFSS / Diversity / Equal Opportunities**

The aim of this group would be to explore such items as how to engage younger members, potential roles for young member(s) co-opted to the Management Committee, how do we facilitate appropriate opportunities related to gender (including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ)), diversity, and related areas. Should we have targets?

How should we change the bylaws to facilitate (input to the above working
group)? What other issues and opportunities exist? Is this somehow an investment area?

**Committee Action: Working Group formed - TH chairs, includes PvH, BD, RF, BK, with link to Communications working group (MG, JF, et al.)**

**Symposium and Member Feedback**

PvH noted in general that with more than 400 people in attendance, feedback on the Symposium will be helpful. EG noted that the Symposium Committee was working on a survey, and discussion on expansion ensued. It was noted that this group as a lot of ideas / feedback which will be brought into the discussion.

It was suggested to ask about membership, but to send to all members, as well as 1800+ LinkedIn members, and perhaps SFPE and others. Could put link on IAFSS website and short note via social media channels.

Questions would not only include how the current symposium was viewed, but ideas for the future (e.g., topics, number of parallel sessions, workshops, etc.), and could expand to include perceived value, what would be seen as adding value, etc.

**Committee Action: Working Group formed – EG chairs, includes BW, (Karen Boyce, running survey).**

**Education Committee**

PvH started with a discussion as to how to reactivate this group and what its aims should be. He noted the success with the pre-symposium PhD course (30 attendees) and asked if we could do more.

The idea of a summer school was raised, and GR noted the Combustion Institute has a lot of success with that concept. AC noted this was a successful approach in France as well.

BMer noted importance of engaging with other groups. BW suggested SFPE as one. CF noted the benefit of revisiting model curricula. BW noted she is involved in three model curricula development activities.

**Committee Action: Working Group formed – CF chairs, includes BMer, AC, LH.**

**Communications Committee**

Discussion was held on the need to develop policies associated with communications, including social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.), newsletter, website and more. Strategies to involve more people, from the Committee and the membership at large, are needed. MG provided in his website report of June 11 a list of skillsets which could be helpful.

**Committee Action: Working Group reaffirmed – MG chairs, includes RF. More volunteers are sought.**

9. **12th Symposium Proceedings**

PvH noted the great job that the Proceedings Committee has done, and offered thanks to those involved. As Publications Editor for the Proceedings, BW added her sincere thanks to the team for a job well done.
10. **Report regarding the Secretariat**

PvH noted that in the near term, as discussed on Sunday, we will pursue an interim arrangement with Sue Owens from Interscience, and get into more discussion / negotiation with the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE).

It was noted that we need to define clear specifications for the short term / interim person (e.g., number of hours, to do what, when, rates, etc., with a cap on time and funding), as well as clear specifications for negotiations / discussion with IFE (i.e., expected time / resources (1.5 people too much? 1 enough? Web functions? Social media? …)). It was noted that MG is doing significant work that the Secretariat might do, which needs to be considered.

It was suggested that we might still keep other options in mind, such as a move to the US, if IFE does not work out. However, it was noted that there may be significant implications if such a move is made, with respect to charity status, ability to move funds, taxes and the like. If at all possible, remaining in the UK has many benefits.

**Committee Action:** PvH will pursue short and long term options.

11. **Committees for the 13th Symposium**

While we are three years out, PvH noted the need to get a sense of who is interested in chairing various committees, with the hopes that we have volunteers. BW is in place as local chair, but others needed.

AT noted that we adopted a co-chair approach to have institutional memory, which was why BMer was involved this time, and suggested BMer take on role next time.

BMer noted concern with tasks and simultaneous deadlines, which makes it very difficult, and suggested a different breakdown of responsibilities, such as between managing submittals and reviews, papers into publication, and actual scheduling of sessions.

BMer agreed to assist PvH with identifying people and defining roles and responsibilities. PvH asked program chairs to write down the process so we have the institutional memory. EG noted that the Symposium Planning Committee for this symposium suggested splitting roles – planning committee and publication committee – and has documents, experiences, advice they can share.

BW noted another critical issue is that issues associated with the venue will play a role, so there needs to be clarity on role the Local Committee (Waterloo), Program Committee and Management Committee all play.

PvH agreed that local chairs need to know their role and what they are permitted/expected to focus on. A flowchart of interactions will be helpful. He noted that we need to have committees in place 2 years in advance, at the latest (sooner the better).

There was discussion of flow between Easychair and FSJ, and BMer noted that Easychair is not so easy. Also, timing of awards was also an issue – some awards go with a required paper, which means the timing might be off – thesis award winners in particular.

There was some discussion as to whether we should think about the timing
of final decisions on journal publication versus pressure on final timing – philosophical decision on risk of a few presentations without publications.

It was questioned whether Elsevier is willing to publish again. It was noted things have gone smoothly, and when asked informally they did not say no.

**Committee Action: Members to inform PvH if interested in serving on 13th Symposium Committee.**

12. **Arrangements for the 13th Symposium**

BW gave a presentation on the plans for the 13th Symposium (see Annex Report 3). It was noted that up to 500 people could be accommodated, in up to 5 parallel sessions, in the Engineering building. Various accommodation options exist at the university and nearby.

BW posed the question as to whether an extra half day added to the schedule, to facilitate the Symposium Banquet at Niagara Falls, would be of interest. The half day is needed due to the 2-hour bus ride to the Falls. This would mean giving up a half day during the Symposium or extending to a full day on Friday.

CF noted that we already struggle on Friday morning, so that is not particularly good. For the 11th Symposium, they considered something similar and rejected the idea.

PvH noted that it is difficult to predict who will actually attend. BMer noted that we may get an indication for a large number of attendees, yet many may not show. This is a risk so far in advance.

**Committee Action: Declined option for Niagara Falls area banquet and associated extra half day for the Symposium.**

13. **10th Asia-Oceania Symposium on Fire Science and Technology**

PvH noted that this presentation was given in the General Membership Meeting so no additional presentation was needed.

**Committee Action: Plan to attend a Committee Meeting to be held in conjunction with AOSFST in Taiwan in October 2018.**

14. **3rd European Symposium on Fire Safety Science**

PvH noted that a university in Germany may want to host a future ESFSS Symposium.

AC noted that there is interest from France as well, and asked about its relationship to IAFSS.

BMer was involved in the program of the 2015 event organized by George Boustras in Cyprus. The latter operated with an endorsement from IAFSS, but not as part of IAFSS.

GR suggested that the Vice Chair Europe/Africa should be involved, since two entities are interested. PvH agreed that would be helpful input.

EG reinforced the issue that IAFSS just endorses / supports. He also noted that the organizers of the Human Behaviour in Fire symposia series will be approaching IAFSS regarding support as well, and that the intent is to have qualified papers published in journals.

BD observed that AOSFST sees itself as working under auspices of IAFSS.
– ESFSS may look to do this as well. BMer noted that the difference is that there is no single European group with any responsibility for this.

YW observed that people may be under impression that both are organized by / part of IAFSS, and may not realize there is a separation. This can be OK if all goes well, but perhaps not if there are issues.

15. **Election of Chair of the Nominating Committee**

PvH proposed to follow the tradition that Past-Chair of IAFSS will be Chair of the Nominating Committee, and thus nominated BD. This was seconded by BMea.

BD noted his interest to serve, but noted he will await guidance from the Strategic Planning Committee on gender, diversity, equal opportunity, young IAFSS and the like.

AT noted that he would like to be involved when the Nominating Committee is formed.

16. **Date of next meetings**

Prior to considering dates for the next Committee Meeting, PvH noted that BW requires feedback on dates for the 2020 symposium. The options are last week in April, second-to-last week in August, or last week in August. There was much discussion of pros and cons, with several conflicts with both dates, both with academic schedules and with the International Combustion Institute meeting, to be held first week of August 2020. It was requested that BW ask if any options are available in June 2020.

**Committee Action:** BW is requested to go back to the university to ask about potential for June 2020. If not possible, the last week in April had the fewest conflicts.

PvH then moved on to the next Committee meeting, noting the earlier agreement to hold a Committee meeting at the time of the AOSFST Symposium in Taiwan (October 2018), and the intention of holding a Committee meeting associated with Interflam, which is likely July 2019.

**Action:** Committee to plan on next meeting at AOSFST 2018, October, Taiwan; Interflam, UK, nominally July 2019; and the Sunday prior to the 13th IAFSS Symposium in Waterloo.

17. **AOB**

MG reminded members that Agendas and Minutes are posted on line. MG also noted that minutes and agendas of the executive committee should be sent to the management committee prior and after meetings so we can comment and keep up to date, not just the website. PvH replied that was a good idea and would be followed through with.

**Action:** Secretary to circulate minutes and agendas of the Executive Committee to the Management Committee prior and after meetings so the Management Committee can comment and keep up to date.

18. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 22:00.
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
Areas of further discussion

• Strategy document with general guidelines
• Membership drive
• FB and communication policy
• Young IAFSS and Equal opportunities
• Nomination procedures
• Educational committee

• Symposium feedback
WHERE ARE WE?

Waterloo
ONTARIO

Provincial Parks - Algonquin

Ottawa - Canada’s Capital City

Toronto

Niagara Falls
Waterloo Region

- Located about an hour west of Toronto, in the Tri-City area.
- Home to two universities, Wilfrid Laurier and Waterloo, as well as Conestoga College
- Diverse in culture and rich in history from Mennonite Farmer’s Markets to micro breweries
University of Waterloo

- Founded in 1957 – now with over 36,000 students
- One of the top Universities in Canada
- Leaders in innovation
- Top tier Engineering, Computer Science and Math
Fire Safety Science

- Fire Research Group: est. in MME Department in 1991
- $5.6 M UW Live Fire Research Lab in 2000
- Fire Safety Graduate programs est. 2007
- Education and advancement of fire safety science
University of Waterloo Campus
Science Teaching Complex

- Plenary Room to seat 500
- Break out rooms for 100-150
- Large screens and excellent AV
- Starbucks on main floor
Federation Hall

Welcome Reception
Lunches
Poster Reception

Seats 400

Alternate Venue
- banquet
Activities

In Waterloo & Tri-City

- St. Jacob’s Farmers Market
- Uptown Waterloo
- Waterloo Park
- Laurel Creek Conservation Area
- Elora Gorge
- Breweries
- Victoria Park
- African Lion Safari
- Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory
- KW Symphony

Near Waterloo

- < Two hours from Toronto
- Two hours from Niagara Falls
- < One hour from Stratford
- Within two hours of Buffalo and three hours of Detroit, USA
- Within six hours of Ottawa
- Within one hour of Collingwood
- Hiking the Bruce Trail on the Niagara Escarpment
- Many parks and trails

IAFSS Conference 2020
Transportation to Waterloo and In Waterloo

To Waterloo

- Rental Cars from airport
- Airway Transit, Wright Limo, Boulevard Limo or other shuttle bus services
  - door to door
  - airport to campus
- Train to downtown Toronto, then VIA rail or GO buses Waterloo
- Arrange a Coach Bus from Pearson to hotels for IAFSS 2020

Once in Waterloo

- Drive
- Walking from hotels near campus
- Good bike paths
- LRT (to be complete 2018)
  - Improved train/bus access to Waterloo anticipated as well
- GRT transit
  - frequent buses
Hotels & Accommodations in Waterloo

- St Jacob’s Hotel Complex
  - four different hotels
  - located North of the University
  - next to St. Jacob’s Farmer’s Market and Outlet malls
  - several other hotels and B&B accommodation minutes away
  - can run campus shuttle to and from these hotels each day

- Delta Hotel
  - south of the University
  - next to Waterloo Park
  - minutes from Uptown Waterloo
Holiday Inn - St. Jacob’s
$119/ night

Homewood Suites by Hilton - St. Jacob’s
$149/ night

Courtyard by Marriott - St. Jacob’s
$126/ night

Delta by Marriott - Uptown Waterloo
$179/night
Accommodations - UW Residences

Ron Eydt Village

MacKenzie King Village
Possible Conference Events

Niagara Falls
✦ One of the 7 World Wonders
✦ Tour of the falls
✦ The region is known for wineries
✦ Winery Tour followed by Banquet

Elora Gorge
✦ Elora Gorge is a Conservation area North of Waterloo
✦ Hiking, swimming and a sandy beach
✦ BBQ at the Gorge

Oktoberfest
✦ German food, music and drinks
✦ Uncle Hans

Brewery Tours
✦ Many breweries in Waterloo
✦ Food & drink at brewery
### SATURDAY - MaCFP WORKSHOP

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### SUNDAY - WORKSHOPS

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### MONDAY - DAYTIME

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### MONDAY - NIGHT

**Options:**
- BBQ at Elora Gorge
- Micro-Brewery/ Distillery Tour
- Mennonite Tour

### TUESDAY - DAYTIME

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**TUESDAY - NIGHT**

Options: BBQ at Elora Gorge, Micro-Brewery/Distillery Tour, Fire Laboratory, Perimeter Institute, Mennonite Tour

**WEDNESDAY - DAYTIME**

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<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Science Teaching Complex</td>
<td>500, 5@150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 11:05</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05 - 12:55</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>500, 5@150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55 - 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Fed Hall</td>
<td>5 minutes walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Science Teaching Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 - 15:30</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>IAFSS Members Business Meeting</td>
<td>Science Teaching Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00 - 19:00</td>
<td>IAFSS Management Committee</td>
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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

Possible Women in Fire Safety Science

**THURSDAY - DAYTIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Science Teaching Complex</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 9:40</td>
<td>Invited Lecture #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 - 11:25</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:25 - 12:40</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Science Teaching Complex</td>
<td>500, 5@150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:40 - 2:45</td>
<td>Boxed Lunch &amp; Bus to Niagara</td>
<td>STC - Niagara</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 -</td>
<td>Tour of Niagara Falls</td>
<td>Niagara Falls</td>
<td>-6 presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Banquet at Winery</td>
<td>Niagara</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Award Ceremony</td>
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**THURSDAY NIGHT**

**FRIDAY - DAYTIME**

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<td>Science Teaching Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 9:40</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40 - 13:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Fed Hall</td>
<td>5 minutes walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:45 - 15:00</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>500, 5@150</td>
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<td>15:00 - 15:30</td>
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<td>15:30 - 16:45</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Science Teaching Complex</td>
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SPONSORS

- To be determined
- Financial support from sponsors
  - NFPA, FM Global, NRC, Jensen-Hughes already approached
  - Generally indicated to contact max. 2 years ahead of date
- Organizational support
  - NRC, SFPE, IAFSS
  - UW Catering and Event Services
Arrangements Committee

- Members
  - Cecile Devaud
  - Jean-Pierre Hickey
  - David Torvi
  - Beth Weckman

- Organizational support
  - MME Staff
  - Susanne Keppler
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

WELCOMES YOU TO THE 2020 IAFSS CONFERENCE