



Minutes of IAFSS General Business Meeting (Draft)

University of Maryland
15.00 – 17:30, Thursday, 23 June 2011

NOTES

Present

Craig Beyler
Carole Franks
Jose Torero
Tuula Hakkarainen
Anthony Hamins
Ai Sekizawa
Nicholas Dembsey
WK Chow
Yuji Hasemi
Margaret McNamee
Patrick van Hees
Bart Merci
Charley Fleischmann
Ed Galea
Vyto Babrauskas
Dieter Brein
Bogdan Dlugogorski
Christopher Wieczorek
Arnaud Trouve
Björn Karlsson
Takey Tanaka

Guests

Dougal Drysdale
Nian Liu

New members

Rita Fahy (co-opted)
Guillermo Rein (co-opted)

1. Apologies

No Apologies for absence received

2. Welcome to new members of the committee and vote of thanks to the retiring members

Craig Beyler outgoing chair welcomed Professors Hakkarainen and Galea as new members of the committee and welcomed Prof van Hees as a full members rather than a co-opted member.

3. Election of Chairperson

Although there is no formal requirement for regional rotation of Officers in line with this practice the new Chair should be taken from Asia/Pacific. Nomination of Bogdan Dlugogorski had been proposed by WK Chow, seconded by Patrick van Hees . Vote taken and unanimously Bogdan Dlugogorski voted in.

Bogdan Dlugogorski took over chairing the meeting and thanked Craig Beyler for his excellent leadership of the IAFSS over the last 6 years.

4. New Officers' Appointments

Vice Chairs:

V-Chr Americas: **Anthony Hamins** proposed to stay in post for second term. Seconded by Charley Fleischmann – voted unanimously

V-Chr Asia/Pacific: **Ai Sekizawa**, proposed to move from Secretary. Seconded by Craig Beyler – voted unanimously

V-Chr Europe: **Jose Torero** proposed to stay in post for second term. Seconded by Christopher Wieczorek – voted unanimously

Treasurer: Christopher Wieczorek proposed to stay in post for second term. Seconded by Charley Fleischmann – voted unanimously

Secretary: Margaret Simonson McNamee proposed. Seconded by Patrick van Hees – voted unanimously

Executive Committee Members:

Arnaud Trouve proposed to stay on for second terms as outgoing conference host. Seconded by Jose Torero – voted unanimously

Charley Fleischmann proposed as incoming symposium host. Seconded by Craig Beyler – voted unanimously

The place on the Committee left by Fred Mowers' resignation was discussed - **Rita Fahy** was proposed to be co-opted by Craig Beyler as a she represented the NFPA which hasn't been represented since John Hall departed from the committee and the field of Human Behavior would be represented. Seconded by Bjorn Karlsson– voted unanimously

Rita Fahy joined the meeting.

As Jack Watts had decided to give up the Editorship of the Newsletter it was proposed that Gulilermo Rein move from Assistant Editor to Editor and in this regard it was proposed that he was co-opted on to the Committee. – voted unanimously

Guillermo Rein joined the meeting.

5. 12th Symposium location 2017

Prof van Hees left the meeting due to conflict of interest.

There was a long discussion about the merits of each of the bids from Lund, Ulster, Cantabria and Rouen. This was wide ranging and included aspects of costs, whether the country had hosted the event before – as with the UK and France - and the merits of giving encouragement to the host university.

A vote was taken:

1st Vote

Belfast 0 : Lund 14: Rouen 0: Santander 9

2nd Vote

Lund 14: Santander 9

Therefore the bid went to the **University of Lund which would host the 2017 symposium.**

Prof van Hees joined the meetings and was congratulated. A proposal was made to move the Symposium forward to 2016 but this was dismissed due to the clash of dates with Interflam and 2017 was retained as the year for the 12th IAFSS.

Prof van Hees stated that June was the preferred month due to the University calendar.

6 . Report on Web Community Development

Terry Fay reported to the committee that new developments would be taking place on the website so it could be fully integrated with all aspects of the association – newsletters/blogs/forums/payments etc. In the light of these developments it was suggested that a sub-committee be set up to look at issues of policy and governance.

It was decided that a **Technology Sub-committee** would be set up drawn from members of the Association with interests in on- line technology and would be **chaired by Guillermo Rein and co-chair Ed Galea** who would report back to the Executive Committee in the first instance. Terry Fay would be the main liaison.

7. Federated Research

Amanda Robbins developed the presentation she had made in the Business Meeting earlier about the Federated Research tool she has been developing. Dr Babrauskas stated that he thought that there should be some prioritizing about what should be included in the in the portal. He would be willing to give advice about sources of research.

Dr Robbins asked everyone to go to the site and give her feedback about what was missing or criteria for search etc: <http://www.fire-information.net/wiki/tiki-index.php>. Information/feedback can be sent to fire.information.net@gmail.net or Amanda.Robbins@branz.co.nz.

Craig Beyler thanked her for her work and she had done so far and this was an excellent start. The IAFSS would be supporting the work as much as it could.

8. Report on Fire Safety Journal

Prof Torero passed his thanks onto Dr Brabrauskas and Prof Hasemi for their work as Assistant Editors.

He apologised for the long delay in the publishing of papers which authors had been experiencing. This was due to the pre-screening which was necessary and the double or triple submissions which has become a problem.

Several Committee members aired concern about the way in which the journal had been revamped and the editorial board forcibly “retired”. Prof Torero said he hadn’t been consulted on many of these issues. There was discussion about the Fire Safety Journal remaining as the official journal of the IAFSS if it was going to take this dismissive stance. Dr Beyler stated that he was disconcerted that the Journal was operating without an Editorial Board. Prof Torero stated this would change and an Editorial Board would be reinstated at some time in the future. There is a need to update the agreement with Elsevier. Jose agreed that he would take these issues up with the publisher Elsevier and report back to the Committee in due course.

9. AOAFST Update

Prof Chow stated the next AOSFT would be take place in Heifai, China in 2013. Dr Fan was head of the Symposium Committee but Prof Naian Lui would chair the host committee.

10. Summer 2011 debrief of 10th Symposium Operations

Dr.Hamins reported that he was satisfied with the way the Symposium had been organised and the he was keen to have a Lesson Learns dialogue and asked all the Committee to send him feedback.