MINUTES IAFSS Membership General Business Meeting
Held in conjunction with the 11th IAFSS,
University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Venue: Main Lecture Theatre
Date: Thursday, 13.30-14.45

As there are 343 full members (October 2013), a Quorum of 30 must be reached in order for the meeting to take official votes. A quorum of 30 was reached.

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence to the General Business Meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (23rd June 2011)

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Maryland 2011 were distributed by the IAFSS Secretariat on the 11th February, in preparation for the General Business Meeting in Christchurch. Carole Franks motioned to accept the Minutes as distributed. This was seconded by John Hall and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

3. Chairman’s report

Bogdan Dlugogorski gave the Chairman’s report, see Appendix 1.

4. Treasurers report

Christopher Wieczorek gave the Treasurer’s report, see Appendix 2.

5. Elections of IAFSS Committee

Apologies were given that the ballot was issued late. The procedure was conducted as in the bylaws in all other respects.

Members of the new Management Committee (as elected): Prof Luke Bisby (UK), Prof W-K Chow (Hong Kong, China), Prof Bogdan Dlugogorski (Australia), Dr Rita Fahy (USA), Prof Charles Fleischmann (New Zealand), Dr Jason Floyd (USA), Prof Ed Galea (UK), Professor Michael Gollner (USA), Prof George...
Hadjisophocleous (Canada), Dr Tuula Hakkarainen (Finland), Dr Anthony Hamins (USA), Dr Yaping He (Australia), Dr Björn Karlsson (Iceland), Prof Brian Meacham (USA), Prof Bart Merci (Belgium), Dr Guillermo Rein (UK), Prof Ai Sekizawa (Japan), Dr Margaret Simonson McNamee (Sweden), Prof Jinhua Sun (China), Prof Takeyoshi Tanaka (Japan), Prof Jose Torero (Australia), Dr Arnaud Trouvé (USA), Prof Patrick van Hees (Sweden), Dr Christopher Wieczorek (USA)

6. 12th IAFSS Symposium

A report was given on the plans for the 12th IAFSS Symposium in Lund by Patrick van Hees and Daniel Nilsson. The hosts of the 11th Symposium were thanked for their efforts and example and all were cordially welcomed to the next symposium.

7. 9th and 10th Asia-Oceania Symposium

WK Chow gave a report concerning the results of the 9th and planning of the 10th Asia-Oceania Symposium, see Appendix 3.

There was a comment concerning duplication of publications. Many of these conferences are important for dialogue between colleagues. If we require perfectly original work this would be expected to have an impact on participation. At the same time it is important for the status of the events that the work is not simply something that is represented from another forum. There are no explicit guidelines at present concerning what is acceptable and what is not, but this is clearly an important issue that will be monitored. Potentially guidelines will be put together to assist decisions concerning whether work is sufficiently original to be acceptable for these events.

8. Appointment of two Honorary Auditors of the Association

Daniel Alvear and Anna Stec were proposed from the floor and accepted unanimously by vote.

9. Appointment of Two Scrutineers of the Association

Chris Lautenberger and Jennifer Wen were proposed from the floor and accepted unanimously by vote.

10. Proposed Alternations to the Bylaws

Three alterations were suggested to the bylaws (red text shows proposed changes/additions), see Appendix 4:

1: Clause 13(ii) was changes to broaden participation in the Nominating Committee:

(ii) At least twelve months before the scheduled completion of the Committee’s term of office, the Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of a Chairman and four six other members (two from each of the three regions: Americas, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia-Oceania). The Chairman and at least one two other members of the Nominating Committee shall be members of the Committee.

The suggested changes were accepted unanimously by vote (<30 members present)
2: Clause 13(vii) was added to reflect the tradition of a balanced Management Board:

(vii) The Committee shall select its members so that there is a balance between the three regions: Americas, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia-Oceania as far as possible. Nominally this corresponds to 8 members from each region although a variation by two members (up or down) is permissible.

After a long discussion and efforts to change the original text to better reflect the tradition the vote from the membership was tied. It was agreed that regional balance is an important reflection of the inclusiveness of the society and should be retained but that the suggested text was not sufficiently screened in advance to remove potential problems. The suggestion was referred back to the Management Board for further consideration and possible suggestion again (in a revised form) at the next General Business Meeting in Lund.

3: Clause 13(viii) was added to resolve a tie in ballot results (should they occur) when electing the Management Committee for IAFSS in the future:

(viii) In the case of a tied ballot a byelection will be held of the tied candidates. If the tie has not been resolved after the byelection the Committee member will be chosen at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

The change was accepted unanimously by vote (<30 members present = Quorum) as written.

See Appendix 5 for a new 2014 version of the Bylaws. These will also be posted on the Association website.

11. IAFSS Website

Special thanks were extended to Terry Fay (Hughes Associates) and Michael Gollner (University of Maryland) who have done such a wonderful job on the website.

Note that the Association now also has Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Welcome to visit the website and other social media!

12. AOB

No other business. The meeting was closed and all welcomed once again to the next meeting in Lund!