



## Minutes of IAFSS General Business Meeting (Draft)

University of Maryland  
14:15-15:20, Thursday, 23 June 2011

### **NOTES**

As there were 501 members, a Quorum of 50 had to be reached in order for the meeting to take official votes. Carole Franks (Secretariat) and Christopher Wieczorek (Treasurer) did a head count in the room – where members held up their hands. Over 80 members were counted. Minutes of the previous meeting at Karlsruhe were accepted (Prof. Dougal Drysdale pointed out an error with the title of the Fire Safety Journal and this would be amended). Minutes proposed for acceptance by Dr. John Hall and seconded by Dr. John De Ris. The Vote was carried out and the Minutes was Accepted.

### **(1) Chairman's' Report**

The meeting was opened by Craig Beyler and he reported the following:

#### **A New Award**

A new Award was initiated and it is to be called the Drysdale Award. This would be given by the Chairman to a member of the Association that had shown exceptional service to the Association. The first Award would be made at the Symposium Dinner.

#### **Open Access of Papers**

Craig Beyler reported that in the Management Meeting of Sunday 19th June a vote had been taken and passed which would mean that for a trial period of a year (starting date to be decided) that Open Access would be given to all the Symposium Papers – at present only abstracts were freely available and papers were open to members only.

Craig Beyler asked the community in general to think about repository of papers into the IAFSS databank.

### **Newsletter**

Craig Beyler reported that under the leadership of Jack Watts the Newsletter had been expanded and this was in part due to a network of Assistant Editors. Dr. Watts would be retiring in his role of Newsletter Editor and he would be replaced by one of the Assistant Editors, Guillermo Rein.

### **Education Committee**

Craig Beyler stated that the Education Committee had been re-invigorated and would be moving forward on projects headed by Bjorn Karlsson.

### **Apologies for the Voting on Committee Members**

Craig Beyler stated there had been an oversight on the way the listing had been done for the Committee Members (it should have been alphabetical) this was agreed at the last Business Meeting at Karlsruhe. This would be rectified.

Dr. Beyler stated he had enjoyed the last 6 years as Chairman and felt that there had been a lot of achievements – the peak of members 501 (as of 17th June) which was the highest number of members ever and that amount of papers that were electronically available for on-line searching including the Fire Safety Science, AOFST, and FRS Notes.

Mike Spearpoint and Chris Lautenberger as scrutineers reported that the vote had taken place for new members in April and that the following members were appointed to the Management Committee:

Voice vote was held and no opposed votes were cast.

The following were elected to the Management Committee for the period 2011-14:

Dr. V. Babrauskas, USA , Dr. C. Beyler, USA, Dr. Prof. Brein, Germany, Prof. WK Chow, Hong Kong, China , Prof. N. Dembsey, USA , Prof. B. Dlugogorski, Australia, Dr. R. Fahy, USA, Prof. C. Fleischmann, New Zealand, Prof. E. Galea, UK , Prof. G. Hadjisophocleous, Canada , Prof. T. Hakkarainen, Finland, Dr. A. Hamins, USA, Prof. Y. Hasemi, Japan, Dr. Y. He, Australia, Dr. B. Karlsson, Iceland, Dr. B. Merci, Belgium, Prof. A. Sekizawa, Japan, .Dr. M. Simonson McNamee, Sweden, Prof. J. Sun, China , Prof. T. Tanaka, Japan , Prof. J. Torero, UK, Prof. A. Trouvé, USA, Prof. P. van Hees, Sweden , Dr. C. Wiczorek, USA.

In looking forward, Dr. Beyler stated that there would be coming changes in Digital, Publicity for the membership and what the Association stood for should be better presented and that membership benefits should be enhanced. In this regard, there were negotiations underway with the Fire Technology Journal to have free e-access for IAFSS members.

### **(2) Treasurers Report**

Christopher Wiorcek gave the report for the last 3 years. In summary, the Association financial was in good shape. He reported that in the vote at Sundays Management meeting that the investments held at UBS would be put into a different account which would save on fees but would safeguard the investments as before.

### **(3) 2014 Symposium**

Charles Fleischmann gave a presentation to the Business meeting of the facilities for the next Symposium, which will be held at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. The provisional dates will be late January early February 2014

### **(4) IAFSS Auditors and Scrutineers**

A call was made for volunteers for the above posts.

Auditors: Brian Lattimer and Beth Weckmann were proposed by Dr. Bob Bill – Voted and carried.

Scrutineers: Christopher Lautenberger and John Hall were proposed - Voted and carried.

### **(5) Digital Community Development**

Terry Fay from Hughes Associates reported on the work that he had been doing with the website and the developments planned to take the website onto a more sophisticated platform with more functionality. This would include improved payments system but also incorporate new media such as You Tube, forums, blogs, and blog spot and perhaps an on-line Newsletter.

### **(6) Federated Research Tool**

Amanda Robbins gave a presentation on Federated Research, which she had been developing whilst on secondment at NIST. She asked all members to go to the website and start to search on for Fire Research articles. It would be a new portal to search for information rather than a repository for information. It would be a Google based system. Go to [www.fire-information.net](http://www.fire-information.net). All feedback – good and bad – should be sent to Amanda at [Amanda.Robbins@branz.co.nz](mailto:Amanda.Robbins@branz.co.nz) or [fire-information-net@gmail.net](mailto:fire-information-net@gmail.net).

### **(7) Fire Safety Journal**

Jose Torero gave a summary of work at the Fire Safety Journal (official IAFSS Journal) as he had taken over the Editorship from D. Drysdale 18 months ago. He reported that a New Associated Editors had been appointed based on Topic type rather than regional editors which had been the previous model. He hoped for quicker turn-around of papers.

Meeting was closed at 3.20pm