



**General Meeting of the IASPM**  
**Canberra, Australia**  
27 June 2019

CS = Catherine Strong (GM Chair)  
FF = Franco Fabbri (IASPM Chair)  
SM = Sílvia Martínez (IASPM General Secretary)  
MGQ = Marta Garcia Quiñones (IASPM Treasurer)  
JP = Jacopo Conti (IASPM Membership Secretary)  
AVK = Antti-Ville Kärjä (Member at Large)  
AW = Ann Werner (Member at Large)  
KK = Kimi Kärki (Publications Officer/Webmaster)  
LOC = Local Organising Committee  
EC = Executive Committee

## **Agenda**

### **1. Call to order**

- Election of the General Meeting chair
- Approval of the agenda
- Election of the auditors
- Election of volunteers for electoral counts
- Approval of the 2017 minutes

### **2. Executive Committee Report:**

- Chair's report
- Membership Secretary report
- Treasurer report
- Web/Publications report
- Member at Large report
- Member at Large report on IASPM and the Swedish tax law
- Approval of the EC report
- Approval of the Treasurer report

### **3. IASPM@Journal Report**

### **4. Amendments to the Statutes and to the Rules of Procedure (see Appendices II & III of the EC Report)**

- Amendments proposed by the EC
- Amendments proposed by Eric Weisbard

### **5. Proposal to form a basic position statement or guideline for inclusivity, representation/diversity, and accessibility at IASPM events [by Tami Gadir and Catherine Strong]**

### **6. Next International Conference:**

- Presentation of the Oslo proposal
- Presentation of the Daegu proposal

### **7. Election of the 2019-2021 Executive Committee**

### **8. AOB**

## **1. Call to order**

Franco Fabbri (FF): "We acknowledge and celebrate the first Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and pay our respect to the elders, past, present and emerging"

### ***Election of the General Meeting Chair***

FF opened the 2019 General Meeting at 8:10, invited Catherine Strong (CS) to act as Chair of the meeting. No objections from the floor.

### ***Approval of the Agenda***

CS asked for Agenda's approval. Geoff Stahl (GS) approved; Dave Shumway (DS) seconded it. The agenda was approved.

### ***Election of the auditors***

CS moved to the election of auditors. As no nominations were received in advance, CS called for auditors to check the treasury report and the accounts. Shelley Brunt (SB) and Catherine Hoad (CH) volunteered. CS called for a vote to approve the auditors. SB and CH are approved as auditors by the floor.

### ***Election of volunteers for electoral counts***

CS asked volunteers for electoral counts. Matt Brennan (MB) and Dave Shumway (DS) volunteered. Approved by the floor.

### ***Approval of the 2017 GM Minutes***

CS asked for the approval of the 2017 General Minutes, available on the IASPM website. She asked if there were any comments or amends. No comments by the floor.

CS had an amendment to make: she noted that throughout the document Ed Montano is only referred to by initials, his name doesn't actually appear in the document. She asked that to be changed. There were no objections: the changes and the minutes were approved.

## **2. Executive Committee Report 2017-2019**

Sílvia Martínez (SM) read the Introduction to the General Report by the Executive Committee (EC):

"This Executive Committee's period of office has gone through two very distinct periods. From the previous General Meeting in Kassel to June, 2018, the Committee's activity went at a slow tempo. We met three times by Skype and began the tasks assigned within our statutes: we began work on organising this congress; we worked jointly with other academic societies (participating in the joint ICTM conference in Beijing), etc. That first year also brought dizzying moments such as a hacker attack on our website, and the calvary involved in changing signatories to our bank account.

However, after a period of uncertainty, in July 2018 Julio Mendivil, the chair elected at the Kassel GM, announced his resignation because of personal and health problems. Following the procedure established in the Statutes, the EC looked for a new chair. Franco Fabbri accepted our proposal and has led the Committee during this second year. The details of our activity can be found in documents accessible on the website. The minutes of the eleven Executive Committee meetings held over these last months, I believe, testify to the elevated pace of tasks carried out in the last year of the EC's term of office.

Below is a series of reports that summarise the main activities carried out by the current EC, which comprises the following persons: Franco Fabbri (Chair), Marta Garcia Quiñones (Treasurer), Jacopo Conti (Membership Secretary), Kimi Kärki (Web/Publication Officer), Antti-Ville Kärjä (Member-at-large), Ann Werner (Member-at-large), and Silvia Martínez (General Secretary)".

### ***Chair's report***

FF read the Chair's report:

"I was appointed as Chair of the Executive Committee on August 16th, 2018, according to article 9.4. of the Statutes, after Julio Mendivil's resignation. My report, therefore, is only partial, covering the period between my co-optation and the General Meeting in Canberra. It was only a ten months assignment, but a lot of work, for which I have to thank all other members of the Executive Committee.

I was Chair twice before, in 1985-1987 and 2005-2007, and – also as a member of the EC with different capacities – I took part in the organisation of some International Conferences: Reggio Emilia (1983), Montreal (1985), Accra (1987), Rome (2005), and Mexico City (2007). In all of those instances, the main task of the EC was to organise the next International Conference, including programming. In those years (even in 2007) IASPM was a smaller association than it is today, and much smaller in the 1980s. There were about fifty attendees in Reggio Emilia, and the total number of members was only slightly larger; attendees from outside Africa were less than twenty in 1987, and the total membership was in the range of few hundreds; even for Rome and Mexico the Executive Committee was able to handle conference programming, without the need of a specific committee.

In recent years this wouldn't have been possible, not just because of an increase in conference attendance (actually, both Rome and Mexico City were among the most attended in IASPM's history, with more than 300 participants each), but especially because other tasks of the Executive Committee, which is the association's governing body, grew considerably. We have now some 1300 members around the world, organised in 16 branches (plus a handful of individual members unrelated to existing branches); IASPM has a journal, whose economic and organisational survival has to be ensured; our web and mailing services – the well-known IASPM List, of recent 'please remove me' fame – have to be taken care of (for example, we were subject to a hacker attack, and had to pay for technical assistance in order to have the website online again); and we have to provide funds for travel grants and other subsidies, like funding provided to the newly established South East Asian branch: an action we recommend to the incoming EC, as a form of support for new branches. And this doesn't just mean collecting membership fees, but also ensuring efficient and flexible payment methods, suitable for different parts of the world. My colleagues will deal about such details in their reports. But I have to add another point.

IASPM is now thirty-eight years old. During this time, it has been administered by many different Executive Committees, whose task was to put decisions or mandates issued by biennial General Meetings into practice. It can be imagined that at some point those decisions or mandates accumulated, forming geological strata of tasks that in some cases could not be brought to conclusion, for various reasons: 1) because they were impossible; 2) because they were unclear; 3) because they didn't comply with IASPM's Statutes or Rules of Procedure; 4) because they needed more than the two years of an Executive Committee's term, and needed to be re-started by the next one; 5) because legal or technological conditions had changed in the meanwhile; 6) because of any combination of the above.

This burden of sedimented tasks has been sometimes, during my ten months office, overwhelming. I will only mention a couple of examples, which will be dealt with by my colleagues with better details, if they wish so.

Almost immediately, when I was co-opted, I realised that we had an issue with our main office. It became visible because we had to change signatories for our bank account, and the relevant forms requested to indicate our office, and give proof of that information. We had none (in terms of a 'proper' certificate). Our website indicated that our main office was at the IPM in Liverpool, so we asked for a document that could certify an agreement between IASPM and the IPM for that purpose. We were told that it could be in one of the boxes of IASPM documents archived in Liverpool. To make the story short, we were able to discover, in the end, that a mandate to come to such an agreement between IASPM and IPM had been issued by the General Meeting in Turku, 2001, but the task had never been carried to an end by any of the Executive Committees from then to date. So, the current Executive Committee had to contact the IPM again, and in the end was able to propose a draft of that agreement, which is now being discussed by the two parties. The agreement, according to the original mandate, also includes reference to IASPM's Archives, to be located in Liverpool: as I said, a few cardboard boxes containing old material, like brochures, bulletins, posters, letters etc., have been sitting there, unopened, since 2001.

My warning is that mandates issued by General Meetings are dangerous, unless it is clearly specified which conditions apply, how much time is required to perform each task, and the task's feasibility has been thoroughly examined. It's so easy to give mandate to the Executive Committee to find another bank, outside the UK, and possibly an ethical bank (it happened at the GM in Kassel), without any knowledge of changes in fiscal and financial laws, and without even considering that ethical banks usually work with ethically-oriented institutions. Are we? Our Treasurer will comment about this. But also, we have to be aware that our Statutes and Rules of Procedure are rather complex documents, and that we have to check that decisions taken at General Meetings comply with our existing bylaws. Otherwise, any Executive Committee will have to face possible contradictions, and will sometimes be put in the condition of not being able to perform its tasks. As a final example, I am quoting a decision taken in 2017 to include a member of the Local Organising Committee into the Executive Committee, a decision which was in sharp contrast with the norm that Executive Committee members have to be elected by the General Meeting (unless in case of death or resignation of a former member): to be effective, that decision had to be accompanied by a change in the Statutes, which then needed to be presented a month in advance, and approved by a qualified majority. As a consequence of this and other inconsistencies, one of the tasks we undertook during our mandate was to propose changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, which will be presented for approval during the GM in Canberra.

Finally, I would like to thank members of the Local Organising Committee, the Academic Committee, and fellows in the Executive Committee, for making this event

possible and, especially, for creating the conditions for prolonging IASPM's life. Someone, after twenty years from now, will be able to verify if decisions taken today were put into practice, finally. Thank you."

CS asked for any comments on the Chair report, and none were expressed. The Chair's Report was approved by the floor.

### ***Membership Secretary Report***

Jacopo Conti (JC) read the Membership Secretary report in a video recording:

"This last year of the four I've worked as Membership Secretary has been the hardest one, for sure. And yes, I'm referring to the issue about the International Mailing list you are certainly aware of.

But first, let me thank all my colleagues in the EC, and particularly Marta García Quiñones for her help particularly with new subscribers and travel grants. I hope she will deal with them in her report, because I will focus mainly on the mailing list. Anyway, if this year's travel grants represent – I think – the biggest amount of money ever given by IASPM for travel grants, we have to thank her for her competent and efficient management of our bank account.

Now, let me explain what happened with the mailing list for the last – I hope – time.

At the beginning of May I took advantage of a calm moment at work to do what I wanted to do since I was appointed as Membership Secretary in 2015: subscribe all IASPM members to the mailing list and remove all members who haven't renewed their membership since 2017 (included). You are probably not aware that when I was appointed as Membership Secretary there was NOT a full list of all members around the world, and nobody has ever explained to me how the mailing list works. Plus, I think that 2018 was the only year since I was in the EC that ALL branches updated us with lists of their members – and for that, I thank again Marta. So, I thought I had the opportunity to leave the mailing list in a better shape than I found it.

Managing the whole mailing without an updated list of current and old members isn't easy, as you might understand. In the second half of April I removed a couple of hundreds of old members (from many years back: some I contacted years ago and never answered, others I just found). Some of them asked me why I removed them: almost all of those who asked renewed their membership. Some of them were shocked to know that they had to be current members to be in the list. Then, in the first half of May, I added members from those branches that for whatever reason never asked me to add or remove anyone. In twenty days, I added around 700 people. Let me remind you that what I did is what every Membership Secretary has ever done since the mailing list was created: adding and removing members to the mailing list. Since this year, membership secretaries didn't ask permission for that, because being part of the international mailing list was considered one of the main advantages of being a member of IASPM. But I was wrong, because I didn't consider the fact that the sensibility about privacy and mailing lists had changed in the last years.

So, in a little less than a couple of weeks, one hundred and thirty members left the mailing list. Unfortunately, the spam that filled the list led old members to ask me to be removed too.

In order to avoid that in the future, we of the EC – and I thank Marta again for her help – have prepared a form that all new members (just the new ones) from around the world will have to compile to be subscribed to the mailing list, giving us the permission to subscribe them. Local treasurers will give or send them those forms when they subscribe. In the future, no-one's privacy will be violated by being

subscribed to the mailing list; and in order to avoid future spamming, I am trying now to place at the bottom of all the messages sent through the mailing list a link to the automatic un-subscription procedure. Anyway, if my mathematics is right,  $700 - 130 = 570$ , so the most of those I added, remained in the list. Plus, the most of those who didn't renew their membership in the last 24 months are not in the list anymore. Again, if my mathematics is right, now the international mailing list is a 35% more populated than it was before – and it is never been so populated. As of today, we have 1417 Mailing List subscribers.

I also have to thank Franco Fabbri for helping me creating a file with all subscribers from around the world that I will give to my successor (the famous missing list I mentioned at the beginning), and for the document he proposed to the IPM, which hosts our mailing list: now, one representative from the IPM has access to it, but only for technical purposes and not to add or remove members without informing the EC, as it happened in the past.

In these four years I've had the pleasure to get in touch with many competent people, and I'm grateful for that. I've also had the pleasure to get in touch with many incompetent people, but I guess that's life.

I am sure that with a bigger Mailing List and clearer rules, the IPM the next Membership Secretary will do a better work than mine, so that I will be listed among the incompetent people I mentioned before (in case there were any doubts).

Thank you very much. Enjoy the rest of the conference. Good luck"

CS asked for comments on the report.

CH thanked Jacopo Conti (JC) for dealing with the shenanigans of the last couple of months.

Steve Waksman (SW) asked if the EC is going to revisit the policy of the mailing list. He didn't think half the people whose memberships have lapsed should be checked off the list. He considered that one of the values of the list is that it's almost like an archive of members past and present. He thought that there's some value in allowing people that aren't current members to still be part of the discussions.

Martha Ulhôa (MU) seconded that. In the Latin American branch they have a similar situation and they are not so strict with taking people off the list.

MGQ replied that as a treasure she considers that the list is for members. She doesn't consider to have been too strict: they have not taken so many people out immediately, and members had the opportunity to renew the subscription. She explained that the honorary members category, which allows elder IASPM members to remain on the list could be created in the branches. These honorary members should be counted on the membership list as a special category, but without making hundreds of them, just those who you want to honour and who deserve that. MU will ask to create this category in the Latin American branch.

John Mullen (JM) considers that it is fine to be not too strict, but that people have to know that the list is for members.

SW observed that in the US branch there is a lot of fluctuation of memberships, and that if they are going to be relatively strict about membership, there should be at least a one year grace period.

As no motion needs to be taken, CS asked for the approval of the Membership Secretary report. The report was approved by the floor.

### ***Treasurer Report***

MGQ read the Treasurer report:

"One year ago, I contributed to the Executive Committee annual report a summary of the main activities and challenges that I had encountered during my first year as Treasurer. I reported then on the difficulties we faced with the change of signatories (actually, we had two changes of signatories, since Franco Fabbri had to replace Julio Mendivil on the account after his resignation in July 2018), the problems we had with the PayPal account, which were luckily solved in June 2018, and the search for banking alternatives to the Co-Operative Bank, following the mandate of the Kassel General Meeting in June 2017. The report can be read online, on our website, and so I am not going to repeat what I explained there. Instead, I will focus on three main topics: 1) the state of the collection of annual fees, 2) the details of the accounts for these last two years and the financial prospects for the rest of 2019, with a mention to travel grants, and 3) an update on the unsuccessful attempts to find some banking alternatives to the Co-Operative Bank.

#### ***(1) Collection of fees***

As you all know, annual fees coming from our 16 branches, and to a much lesser extent from a changing number of individual members, are IASPM only source of income. The annual process of collecting fees is usually managed by the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer, since it is actually a double process involving the updating of membership, which is the base for calculating the fee, and the payment of the fee. However, it relies on the branches' Membership Secretaries and Treasurers, who handle the collection of annual fees from their members. It is in fact a key routine for guaranteeing the survival of our organization, and its success depends on good communication between the two levels that constitute IASPM between conferences (i.e., the branches, the Executive Committee). Thus, any effort put into making this communication as fluid and easy as possible will never be wasted.

In general, I must say, in my term responsibility has been the norm at all levels and through all branches, though occasionally office transitions may have caused interruptions in communication, or financial problems may have emerged for different reasons. When something like this happens, I think it is essential that no branch be left to fend for itself. Working always in that direction, and with the invaluable collaboration of the branches Treasurers and Membership Secretaries, I can say today that we currently have no pending arrears and that all branches (except the European Francophone branch, which at the moment has some banking issues that are proving difficult to solve) have already contributed their 2018 annual fees. I would like to thank the Treasurers and Membership Secretaries of all the branches for their collaboration, and I would like to mention especially the outgoing Treasurer of the Japanese branch, Akitsugu Kawamoto, who has sorted out membership lists and paid arrears from 2015 on. Certainly, the process of updating membership and collecting fees could be improved and facilitated if a centralised membership system were implemented, as it was proposed and considered years ago, though this goes beyond my competences as Treasurer. But I would give a solid recommendation to consider that.

#### ***(2) Accounts***

As some of you may know, in December 2017 the Co-Operative Bank closed the USD account that was linked to our main GBP account, since the bank does not offer foreign currency accounts any more. This unexpected turn made the management of the accounts a bit more complicated, as our fees are calculated in USD and many branches operate in EU currency. More importantly, the closing of the USD account has left us exposed to the probable fluctuations of the GBP in the uncertain context of Brexit, which so far have been very limited, though. Obviously, this is closely related to the question of opening a new bank account, on which I will say more later. Our PayPal.co.uk account is currently in USD, though.

Here I am presenting to you and the auditors two types of reports: profit and loss reports for 2017, 2018, and 2019 (the last one only until 31 May), and statements of financial position for those three years (again, the last one only until 31 May); besides, a budget for the rest of this year, that is from June to December 2019, and a foreseeable statement of financial position at 31 December 2019. The concepts that are included are the usual ones: as I said before, our revenues come entirely from annual fees, and in the expenses section you will also find the usual concepts: the IASPM@Journal, the website, travel grants for attendance to this conference, a part of the Executive Committee travel expenses, though at least two members have got funding from their institutions, banking fees, and minor administrative expenses, like postage and translations.

The main difference from previous years is that for this conference we have spent more on travel grants, circa 25,000 USD, and also, as our Chair said before, on a grant for new branches, 1,500 USD. This level of expense is, however, very reasonable, since according to the budget I present, which takes into account the expenses to be made until the end of the year, at the end of 2019 we will probably still have more than 50,000 USD in cash, summing up the Co-Op Bank account and the PayPal account. It is fair to recognize that the more generous spending policy takes advantage of the conservative approach of previous Treasurers, which accumulated the financial cushion that we still have today. An economy based on the collection of annual fees is always fragile, and financial cushions are necessary, indeed. Nevertheless, I think that the current state of our finances should probably allow for the funding of new projects in line with our foundational aims. As IASPM officers we must be diligent in collecting annual fees, but it is also important that the whole organization sees that this money is used in a meaningful way, and all members have a sense of what that money is for.

### ***(3) Banking alternatives***

As reported previously by the Chair, one of the main challenges faced by the Executive Committee has been trying to establish an address. For instance, the problem that we had with PayPal for years, and which led to the blocking of the account (functioning again since June 2018) had to do with our Swedish registration, which they wouldn't accept, even if we have been registered in Sweden since the beginning. Also, the Co-Op Bank asked in 2018 for a clarification of our addresses, though in the end they just let the question fade away, and never explained if the documentation we provided was satisfactory or not. These episodes led us to the realization that, though this fact is only rarely mentioned, IASPM is not an international organization that happens to be registered in Sweden. Rather, we are a Swedish organization that happens to have the word "international" in its name, and which is international because of its branch structure. On the other hand, we do not have an office in Sweden. We have tried to solve this, but Ann Werner will report later about the steps we have taken, since this was dealt with mainly by her.

Taking this into account, that is our Swedish legal status, and the mandate we had from the Kassel General Assembly to explore the possibility of opening a



(preferably ethical) bank account outside the UK, it seemed reasonable to look for a Swedish bank, ideally a bank with high ethical standards that could offer accounts in USD or EU. In brief, this option wasn't fruitful, and I didn't even manage, not even with the help of our Swedish Member-at-Large, Ann Werner, to make an appointment with any bank. Later on, I have contacted a few ethical banks, like the Spanish branch of Triodos, and I have been in conversation with Spanish Banc de Sabadell, for which Ann Werner and I collected the required documentation to open a bank account for non-residents. Unfortunately, the legal advisors of the bank didn't want us as customers. Other members of the Executive proposed other options in Finland, in Italy, to no avail. At this point my understanding is the: 1) IASPM is not an attractive customer for banks, since our credit turnover is quite low, 2) IASPM international structure may seem not clear enough and may raise suspicions of money laundering, which also damages our potential as banking customers, 3) it is becoming increasingly difficult to have access to banking services outside the country where an organization is registered, and even there it can be difficult, too, 4) European ethical banks do not generally offer accounts in USD, are very much oriented to serving their communities, and thus are not normally prepared to tend to the needs of an international organization as IASPM.

I am not suggesting that we should abandon the search for banking alternatives outside the UK, on the contrary, but it has been very difficult for me and the rest of the Executive Committee, and I can only hope that the next Treasurer be in a better position to solve this. Meanwhile, if Brexit happens without an agreement, the GBP goes down or wild, and we want to take our funds to a safer place, we have a multicurrency TransferWire account which could be used for this purpose. It is not exactly a banking account, but in principle we could move the money there.

As I wrote in the annual report, during my first year I received the constant support of the former treasurer, Emilia Barna, for what I cannot thank her enough. I am quitting the position today, and I intend to follow Emilia's example and give my successor all the support that he or she may need. I would like to say that it has been a real honour to serve on this board. It has also been occasionally an emotional rollercoaster; everything is solved by email or on Skype meetings nowadays, which of course saves a lot of time. Yet, working remotely is also sometimes confusing, and definitely much less interesting from a human point of view. Thank you".

CS opened this up for discussion.

SB asked about the number of travel grants issued, which is 19.

SB asked about the acronym "AC" on Statement 6. MGQ replied that the amount of the Academic Committee had not been spent because Rosa Reitsamer RR did not attend the conference.

SB asked if the registration fees were included in the counting for the AC and EC expenses. MGQ replied that it had been included only for travel and hotel, but not for everybody.

DS asked if the EC has considered a US bank. MGQ replied that yes, that she considers some US banks rated very high on the list of ethical banks, but it was very difficult to manage it from Barcelona. DS proposed that the new EC explores this possibility.

The auditors, SB and CH, asked for some time to review the documents attached to the Treasurer's report, and then come up to the GM with any questions that they might have.

CS asked to postpone the approval of the Treasurer's Report. It will be voted later.

### ***Web/Publications Report***

Kimi Kärki read the Web/Publications Report:

"In autumn 2017, I gradually got hold of most of the passwords required to carry out my duties as the web publications officer, as they mainly focus on IASPM's online presence. Unfortunately, due to the passing of previous officer, Ed Montano, part of the information was never transmitted. To be specific about this, the access to the Journal files was previously restricted to me, and I don't mind, I'll come back to that later. But also, a whole sum of the previous conference proceedings was not accessible for me, and it remains that way. The next year, 2018, also started with a challenge, as the IASPM main website was hacked. After several unsuccessful attempts to clean up the infected parts of the Wordpress code personally by me, a company (WP Fix It) was hired to do it. After two weeks of additional measures, the site was backed up and the web activity has been running normally since the end of March 2018.

I have been in a not very frequent contact with the Chief editor of the IASPM@Journal, Koos Zwaan, and his team, to coordinate joint work between the EC and the editorial team, and to offer any help needed with the journal website. The journal has been running normally, luckily. In the early 2019 Zwaan contacted the EC to inform that he was stepping down as a chief editor by the Canberra conference in June 2019. Also, Bernard Stenbrecher (assistant editor) and Sarah Raine (reviews editor) are stepping down, so the Journal now needs those positions to be filled, as well as some Editorial board members. Rupert Till posted a call about this to IASPM email list on June 7, 2019, and about the journal meeting at Canberra, which took place earlier. Hopefully new capable people will be found to replace the resigning ones.

Under the new European data protection law, the IASPM is obliged to publicly declare through a data protection document how it manages its members' data. To fulfil this mandate, I drafted, with the help of the rest of the EC, the IASPM Data Protection Policy, asked for the comments and revisions from the EC, and subsequently published via the website and the Society's mailing list, in order to reach all its members. The DPP is now online, as well as the IASPM Register of Systems, which is another required document. Both are accessible via the IASPM website at

<http://www.iaspm.net/iaspm-data-protection-policy/>  
<http://www.iaspm.net/iaspm-register-of-systems/>

I would like to thank the rest of the EC for their valuable comments on this document. The DPP will also be taken into account when new members register to IASPM email list — a form has been created to collect this data, and will be available to local branch membership secretaries.

Because the recent surge of removal messages was already explained, I will not go through this in detail. But the situation returned to normal after some days, and I think it is safe to conclude the list was not hacked.

The next task will be to ask the local branches to submit updated newsletters on the main site. The current newsletters, only available from some of the branches, date to 2016. So that's something I'm going to be contacting the branches about, if they are willing to submit new reports for the international website as well. It is not compulsory, but it will be very nice to have data from the local branches.

As always, popular music research related news will be posted by me (if requested) to the email list and the website main newsfeed. I will also collect the interesting news posted by others and include them to the website. This update takes

place roughly every two weeks or so. Please note that the most important current issues are usually attached to the beginning of the blog style news feed, as virtual 'sticky notes' (for example the documents that have been provided today), and the rest of the posts follow scrolling down, from the latest to oldest. Basically, you can review my web publishing history by going to the website and looking through that. Thank you"

CS asked for any comments on the Web/Publications report.

Antti-Ville Kärja (AVK) remarked an error in the spelling of the surname 'Stenbrecher'. It should be "Steinbrecher" and KK fixed it.

### ***Member at Large Report***

Antti-Ville Kärja read the Members at Large report:

"My main duty as Member-at-Large in the IASPM Executive Committee 2017–19 involved acting as the liaison between the EC and the Local Organising Committee of the XX Biennial Conference in Canberra. This was executed mainly via electronic mail, and included also taking part in person in the LOC meeting during the IASPM-ANZ conference in December 2018 in Hamilton, Aotearoa New Zealand (with external funding). The task itself was straight-forward enough, even if occasional delays and misunderstandings caused minor inconvenience. In addition, the guidelines for conference organising adopted at the 2017 GM proved to be too rigid in my experience and created an unnecessary basis for further confusion instead of constructive dialogue. What I found more problematic nevertheless was the initial uncertainty over my duties, as none were defined at the 2017 General Meeting and it took almost four months within the EC to confirm them (due to reasons that became later apparent with the resignation of Chair Julio Mendivil). Personal crises are understandable, yet the situation revealed structural deficiencies within the EC as in the absence of sanctioned deputy leadership meetings were delayed and decision-making compromised. In my experience, this also affected the LOC undeservedly and reflected poorly upon my tasks. Therefore, I would urge the GM to make sure the duties of Members-at-Large are clearly defined as the people in question are elected.

Alongside liaising, as an EC member I assumed an active role in preparing the call for presentations for the XX Biennial Conference and in revising the association's statutes and rules of procedure. Regarding the latter activity, I expressed a dissenting opinion within the EC concerning the requirement to have a Swedish resident in the board, as it violates the principle of keeping academic positions of trust open to all members regardless of their nationality or place of residence, and as the requirements set by the Swedish Tax Agency can be met by appointing an authorised signatory for the purpose (as stipulated in the IASPM Statute 9.3.2). Thank you"

CS commented that, as one of the people of the Local Committee (LOC), AVK was invaluable and a very important point of contact and trust, and he performed that role incredibly well. Samantha Bennett (SB) thanked AVK for his time and effort and for meeting with the LOC in New Zealand.

FF commented about the Swedish Member at Large issue that was reported many years ago in the proceedings of the Grahamstown Conference. He thanked AVK for having searched through this problem. FF mentioned that there is a conflict between an oral tradition with the Swedish Tax Agency (a Company or Association registered in

Sweden must have a Swedish resident as signatory for tax and this person must be a member of the board) and the written law (you couldn't find this requirement in any legal document).

CS asked to hold the discussion until Ann Werner's report.

### ***Member at Large Report (by Skype connexion)***

Ann Werner (AW) read another Member at Large report:

"When trying to find a way to give IASPM an official address in Sweden, in order to simplify banking and other official business, it was thought that a practical solution might be to at least have an official IASPM address in Sweden. Our official address there has always been the personal address of the Swedish Member-at-Large (when there has been one), which may not seem very professional to bankers. To this end, we contacted the Department of Cultural Studies at the University of Gothenburg and asked them to sign an agreement allowing us to hold our official address there, an agreement that did not come to fruition. In October 2018 the need for an official address was solved by obtaining a PO-box address in Sweden, managed by Member-at-Large Ann Werner. The PO-box allows the IASPM to be officially seated in Sweden and have an official address.

In respect to fiscal questions, it is to be noted that on September 15, 2017, the Swedish tax agency granted IASPM the right not to declare income or pay taxes until 2022. This means that before the end of 2021 the IASPM must apply again for exemption from declaring income and paying taxes in Sweden, the country where the IASPM is registered. Up to that date, the IASPM does not have to declare any income or pay any taxes. It was also during the spring of 2019 clarified that in the eyes of the Swedish Tax Agency IASPM is a Swedish organization with international collaborations. This requires the IASPM to have a board member living in Sweden, able to communicate in Swedish, and to have a Swedish "seat". This seat can be an address, and the contact point doesn't have to be Swedish, just have to live in Sweden. If these requirements are not fulfilled the Swedish Tax Agency can void our status as an organization with an organizational number. These are required to do financial transactions in the IASPM name. Just a brief comment here: the fact that they can void our status doesn't mean that they necessarily will. First, they will have to discover it, and then they will have to act on it. Thank you".

CS thanked Ann for the report and opened the floor for discussion.

Matt Brennan (MB) and JM asked if someone asked the Swedish Tax Agency to provide us with a written reference. FF and MGQ replied that this reference doesn't exist.

AW (by Skype) replied that they are not a law but the rules of the Swedish Tax Agency, the organisational numbers, and collecting taxes, etc. It is not a law, it is how they operate and if IASPM don't accomplish this requirement they can decide it is not a Swedish organisation anymore. Steve Waksman (SW) commented that in the US, a lawyer would have been hired.

MGQ said that she didn't see any problem with having a Swedish Member at Large on board. AVK said that this is an issue about the basic principles of having academic positions of trust, which by definition cannot be tight to any personal qualities, including nationality, and he continued to present his dissenting opinion on this matter. Rupert Till (RT) said that if Sweden is a country that is willing to allow us to do

money transactions, tax free, then it is reasonable for the tax office to require a specific person, who speaks the language that they communicate in. He considered this just a practical function that is necessary and that it seems that it is a good idea to continue with this kind of route. AVK replied that he agreed but that it needs to be defined clearly what other responsibilities arrive on this person then and he suggested that it needs to be a further discussion about what it actually entails, if it will be a regular board member, or an ex-official member, or a technical aid, or any kind of authorised signatory. CS commented that these questions seemed very fundamental, but given we don't know the answers, she asked if anybody wanted to propose an action.

SW came back to the early suggestion of consulting a lawyer. AW (by Skype) replied that she did consult with a lawyer from the Swedish Tax Agency. She was not forward or against the Swedish Member at Large, but her opinion was that it would be a lot of work to try to change this because the Swedish Tax Agency could decide what they want about our taxes and our organisational number. MU seconded the position of AW and explained that she would not risk the current requirement and end up paying taxes to the Swedish Tax Agency. Matt Brennan suggested that our resources as an association are limited and we have to consider the most efficient option, and asked for a concrete motion.

CS suggested that until this actually becomes an issue, in terms of the person in that role, we put it on the back burner. Daniel Lehy (DL) seconded.

CS asked for the approval of the EC Report. Approved by SW, seconded by Robert Fry (RF).

### **3. IASPM@Journal Report**

RT presented the IASPM@Journal Report on behalf of Koos Zwaan:

"My name is not Koos Zwaan, because he cannot be with us today, I am going to read his report and take the questions that you have. My name is Rupert Till, I am one of the board members of the IASPM Journal. The IASPM Journal (IJ) is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year as an open-access online peer-reviewed publication and, apart from a gap year in 2012, has consistently published two issues per year. The IJ editorial board is celebrating its 10th anniversary since the first board meeting in Liverpool in 2009, and the journal will see its first decade of published issues in 2020.

The Editorial Board meets with the available Advisory Board members once every two years at the biennial IASPM conference. In between these meetings, several operational editorial team meetings have been conducted via Skype, most of the communication and decision processes with the editorial board members have been conducted through the auditable mailing list. All publication decisions and processes regarding submissions are recorded and logged within the PKP online journal system (OJS).

The current editorial team is listed here, it is available at the IASPM Journal website.

Leaving the team during 2017-2019 have been Hillegonda Rietveld (who left shortly after the Kassel Conference) and Koos Zwaan, who will leave as soon as we can find a hand over. As Assistant editor Bernhard Steinbrecher (who left in 2018) and me, Rupert Till, and Tobias C. van Veen (2019) are leaving this year after this conference. So many thanks to all of those who participated in the committee.

The existence of the IASPM Journal relies heavily on the contributions by the editorial team. Hundreds of hours are voluntarily contributed by our colleagues in order to make a regular, free, open-access good quality peer-reviewed academic journal possible. The current editor therefore wants to extend his gratitude to everyone who made a contribution to the journal, and in particular those leaving or who have left the editorial team over the last couple of years.

At the time of writing of this report, a new Chief Editor, new members of the Editorial Board, an Editorial Assistant and a Review's editor are sought to provide the journal with new energy and to ensure its future.

During the last two years, a number of notable things have happened behind the scenes, first of all, the editorial team streamlined the work flow and created a general publication schedule. Together with the full editorial board, we have also streamlined and improved the style guide and article template as well as fine-tuned the copy-editing instructions. More recently, thanks to the effort of editorial board member Rupert Till, the Journal has applied for indexing with Scopus, which, nowadays is indispensable for a serious academic journal. As part of this application, a "Journal Ethics" section was added to the website. Also, as requested and largely prepared by IASPM member Jacopo Tomatis, the journal has applied for a rating in the Italian Agency for Research Evaluation (ANVUR). Both applications are still in process.

The published issues with the full editorial teams for each issue are listed, as well as future issues that are currently in preparation.

In 2017-2018, *Pop Life: The Popular Music Biopic*, volume 2: *Practice-Led and Practice-Based Popular Music Studies*, a volume on *Gender Politics in the Music Industry*, and an open issue were published. Issues on preparation for publication: "Pop Music Festivals and (Cultural) Policies" and another open issue.

Some ideas have been put forward by individual board members as possible future special issues. These will have to be decided upon during the editorial board/advisory board meeting during the upcoming IASPM biennial conference in Canberra, Australia.

Thanks to Koos Zwaan as he is leaving. Does anybody have any questions about the Journal? If you don't mind me editorializing a little, we had a good response to the call for editorial board members, but we still need a chief editor. We have not a single person applying for the chief editor of the Journal, and it's difficult to see how the Journal could continue without a chief editor. We can ask some of the people who applied for the editorial board. If you know anybody who is interested and has the experience to be chief editor for the IASPM Journal, then please encourage them to apply. Please, spread that call, widely. Also, we invite all of you to submit your research to IASPM Journal at any time. There is a constant open call, so all of you are free to publish your work and to invite other members of your branches and people you know. We've also put a call out for reviewers. All IASPM members can become reviewers for the Journal, it is a good thing for your CVs, and you will only be asked to review on subjects that you are experienced in. So, please, go online and register for that."

DS asked if the editor in chief has any support of the organisation. RT explained that there are 2 assistant editors who handle the more practical elements of the Journal and have worked very efficiently to support the Journal, and 6 to 7 members of the editorial board. It was suggested that branch members could also get involved,, which RT considered a great idea. DS asked if it would be possible for an organisation like IASPM to give financial support and RT replied that IASPM already provided some financial support (about 6% of IASPM budget goes to the Journal)

CS thanked the comments and moved to the next point.

#### **4. Amendments to the Statutes and to the Rules of Procedure**

FF presented the amendments to the Statutes proposed by the EC:

1st- Point 3.2: 'The functions of the Association include organising regular conferences, at least biennial' (included 'at least biennial').

2nd- Article 4, point 4.2: "Institutional membership is open to all non-profit-making organizations, institutions and associations interested in any aspect of popular music. It is also open to international non-profit-making organisations whose purposes are connected with those of the Association, as well as to branch committees of such organizations" (before, 'international organisations').

3rd- Article 4, point 4.4: "Individuals who have made exceptionally distinguished contributions to the work of the Association may, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, be elected Honorary Members by the General Meeting" (added point)

4th- Point 5.1.: "A branch of the Association may be formed when at least five of the Association's members resident in the same country or, where cooperation between countries is more feasible, when five or more members in such a group of countries, agree to do so" ('nation' instead of 'countries').

5th- Point 8.1. "All members are entitled to attend the General Meeting". Added proposal: "The General Meeting has a quorum when there are members of the Association present. In order to calculate the number needed for a majority the quorum will be equal to the number of members attending when the General Meeting is opened"

6th. Point 8.3: "The General Meeting is presided by a nominee of the Executive Committee". Added proposal: "Two attendees of the General Meeting are elected to verify the minutes. The minutes shall be delivered by the secretary of the meeting within two weeks after the meeting, and the minutes shall be verified within two months after the meeting"

7th. Point 9.2: "The Executive Committee consists at least of a Chairperson, a General Secretary, a Treasurer/Membership Secretary, a Publication Officer". Added proposal: "and a representative, elected by the General Meeting, of the members in charge of the organisation of the next biennial conference" (recommendation from Kassel GM that was in contrast with the existing statutes)

8th. Point 9.6: "Members of the Executive Committee may belong to other academic organisations and even serve on their boards. However, they must declare their membership at the beginning of their term and will abstain from taking part in any discussions that may result in IASPM concluding agreements or co-operating with the academic organisations or institutions of which they are members" (added point)

9th. Point 10 deleted (on this point there was a motion to be deleted in Grahamstown, and for some reason the action wasn't approved)

CS asked for any comments on the amendments.

DS said that the point 9.6 sounds draconian and suggested to change "abstain from taking part in any discussions" for it "abstain from taking part in voting". MU asked for clarification in order to assure that this point referred just to members of the board. FF replied that this only applies for the EC and that it is and just for the sake of clarity and transparency. Votes for the new amendment ("abstain from taking part in voting"): 42. 0 against, 2 abstentions.

Kevin Holm-Hudson (KHH) asked if the quorum mentioned in point 8.1 should satisfy a number of the members present. FF replied that it is very difficult to put a figure or percentage there and that we just to assure that the 2/3 quorum is calculated on the members attending when the General Meeting is opened. Jocelyne Guilbault (JG) noted that it is very difficult to guarantee the attendance of 2/3 of participants in the Conference. SM clarified that the quorum refers to the attendance to the General Meeting, not to the whole conference.

44 people approved the changes to the statues, and there were 4 abstentions. CS pointed out that the GM must finish in half an hour, and moved to the amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

FF presented the amendments to the Rules of Procedure proposed by the EC:

1st- Point 1.2: "...biannual conference". It is currently "biennial conference"

2nd- Point 2.1.2: "...Each member attending the General Meeting cannot represent more than one institutional member and two non-attending individual members". In the previous version a member could only represent institutional or individual members.

3rd.- Point 2.2.1: "The Executive Committee decides by a simple majority of expressed votes. Each member has one vote". Added sentence: The committee has a quorum when two thirds (rounded to the closest integer) or more of its members are present, including the Chair".

4th.- Point 2.2.2: "The Executive Committee may use telecommunications to hold meetings and consultations if such means are more feasible than meeting in person". We deleted the following sentence: "If voting proves necessary on such occasions, members of the Executive Committee shall confirm their votes in writing and send them, duly signed, to the General Secretary". It is highly impractical if you have Skype meetings.

FF observed that there are more changes in points 3.2. and 4., but they are not in the document we circulated because this version ends at 2.3.7. CS said that the changes in point 3.2. and 4. will have to hold out until the next General Meeting.

CS asked for the approval of the amendments of the Rules of Procedure until point 2.3.7. No objections, no abstentions. Approved by the floor.

CS moved to the amendments proposed by Eric Weisbard (EW), a proposal to move the EC election from the GM to an online electoral system. Given the time constraint, CS asked to discuss and vote that general proposition before looking at the details. FF agreed.



SW said that it will be a positive change. Rupert Till said that in the UK/Ireland branch they have explored this, but there are risks with the online voting system. FF commented that probably nobody would be against voting online in the social media age, ;but, on the other hand, it must be verified if the people who vote are members. At the moment it is very difficult to have a synchronised list of actual members, as JC explained. FF suggested to move this point to the next general meeting, and in the meanwhile to appoint a group of people who study it and provide a solution. And if we get it, at the next conference we can vote for a change to the statutes. GS seconded the suggestion of a committee to work on this and present it on the next general meeting.

MGQ said that we cannot consider that without considering before a centralised membership system.

CS asked for voting to establish a committee to study the idea of a centralised membership system, and, as a result of it, an online voting system. GS seconded. No votes against, no abstentions. Motion approved by the floor.

## **5. Proposal to form a basic position statement or guideline for inclusivity, representation/diversity, and accessibility at IASPM events [by Tami Gadir and Catherine Strong]**

Tami Gadir (TG) said that she had just noticed conversations going around in various academic organisations and institutions about representational issues, and she thinks that in a very international association like ours we have different understandings of what representation means, and at local branch events. She considers that IASPM needs some kind of formal position statement or a guideline that ensure our events to be accessible and inclusive. She asked to create a working group with people from different branches and contexts that could write a basic position statement in the IASPM perhaps to be published on the website and on the local branches' websites.

FF opened the floor to discussion. Bernhard Steinbrecher (BS) suggested exploring similar statements by other organisations. CS explained that the proposal is simply asking that a small working body will be established to come back to the next general meeting with a formal coherent statement people can vote. Matt Brennan seconded it.

FF asked for the approval of this proposal. No votes against, no abstentions. Proposal approved by the floor.

CS moved to the next point of the Agenda, the next international conference, and invited both candidates to present their proposals.

## **6. Next International Conference**

### ***Presentation of the Oslo proposal***

Kyle Devine and Hans T. Zeiner-Henriksen presented a proposal to host the XXI IASPM Biennial Conference in the Department of Musicology at the University of Oslo, fully supported by the IASPM Norden Branch. A document with all the details was sent to the EC and posted on the website on May 22.

### ***Presentation of the Daegu proposal***

Hyunjoon Shin (HS) presented the proposal for the XXI IASPM Biennial Conference in Daegu, South Korea, supported by various official institutions in Daegu and the IASPM Korean Branch. Also in this case, a full and detailed proposal was sent to the EC and posted on the website on May 22.

CS asked for any comments or questions.

RT asked to clarify whether the conference in Daegu would take place in June. HS replied that probably it would be in July. DS noted that most people would prefer June. HS said that the semester schedule ends in June, but that they will be very happy to negotiate the dates.

Phil Hayward (PH) pointed out that biennial conferences in Asia have been neglected in the past with the exception of Japan in 1997.

SW asked if it was possible to vote one as the next conference (2021) and the other be the next after the next one (2023). Kyle Devine replied that if Oslo were voted second, the proposal must return to their departmental board and basically re-propose things when the next call becomes available.

CS asked if the Daegu proposal had similar constraints. HS replied that they kept their proposal.

CS thanked for the reports and called a vote for each option for the 2021 Conference. The results were:

OSLO: 14 votes

DAEGU: 43 votes

Daegu was approved as the venue of the XX Biennial Conference in 2021.

## **7. Election of the 2019-2021 Executive Committee**

CS declared all the EC positions opened. As we are running out of time and there were only enough people nominated to fill the positions, CS informed that all nominees are elected.

Following the precedent change in the point 9.2. of the Statutes, also a representative of Daegu Conference is needed to join the EC. HS informed that Keewoong Lee (KL) will be the member of the EC.

The Executive Committee for 2019-2021 is:

*Chair:* Rupert Till

*General Secretary:* Beatriz Goubert

*Membership Secretary:* Bernhard Steinbrecher

*Treasurer:* Simone Krüger Bridge

*Publications Officer:* Kimi Karki

*Members at Large:* Andrea Dankic and Catherine Strong

*Daegu Conference Liason:* Keewoong Lee

## **8. AOB**

Before the AOB, CS asked the auditors to comment on the treasurer's report and move to approval.

Catherine Hoad (CH) commented the issues discussed with MGQ:

- the costs for the Academic Committee versus the Executive Committee
- the costs of the EC travels
- the significant increase in travel grants associated with the Canberra conference versus the costs associated with grants in Kassel
- the money for the new South East Asia branch and other new branches
- the current right for grant allocation for future international conferences (if finances allow)

In terms of recommendations:

- some clarification around the cost of the web posting versus the maintenance
- they recommended that costs for the Academic Committee versus costs for EC be atomised separately
- they considered the high costs for EC travel, and noted that in future there might be a discussion around executive travels
- recommended that, if possible, the current rate of the cost of travel grants be maintained, if the finances allow and after recommendation of the treasurer

CH and SB approved the treasurer's report, and thanked Marta for all of her work.

CS asked the floor for any other business. No other businesses raised and CS declared the General Meeting concluded at 10:45am.

**10:45am end of the GM**

***END NOTE (by SM): Following the point 8.3 of the Statutes (approved in this GM), these Minutes shall be delivered before July 11th to two attendants, who should verify them. This time the Minutes will be verified by Geoff Stahl and Martha Ulhoa. The minutes shall be verified before 28th August 2019.***