**Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2011**

**13:00, August 26, 2011**

**Bratislava Room, Congress Centre Madrid**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

DELEGATES

Se Won Suh, (President), Korea                                            [sewonsuh@snu.ac.kr](mailto:sewonsuh@snu.ac.kr)

Pinak Chakrabarti, (Vice President), India                              [pinak@boseinst.ernet.in](mailto:pinak@boseinst.ernet.in)

Alice Vrielink, (Secretary/Treasurer), Australia                       [alice.vrielink@uwa.edu.au](mailto:alice.vrielink@uwa.edu.au)

Michell Guss, (Past President), Australia                                [m.guss@mmb.usyd.edu.au](mailto:m.guss@mmb.usyd.edu.au)

Mark Spackman, (Trustee), Australia                                     [mark.spackman@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mark.spackman@uwa.edu.au)

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Duong Ngoc Huyen, Vietnam                                               [swonghuyen@mail.hut.edu.vn](mailto:swonghuyen@mail.hut.edu.vn)

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Steve Wilkins, Australia                                                      [Steve.Wilkins@csiro.au](mailto:Steve.Wilkins@csiro.au)

Ray Withers, Australia                                                        [withers@rsc.anu.edu.au](mailto:withers@rsc.anu.edu.au)

GUESTS

Sine Larsen, (IUCr President), Denmark                               [sine@kemi.ku.dk](mailto:sine@kemi.ku.dk)

APOLOGIES

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**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The meeting commenced at 13:00 Professor Se Won Suh welcomed all to the Council Meeting.

Dr. Maqsood (Pakistan) reported that Pakistan will hold their first crystallographic meeting in Pakistan in October with the support of IUCr.

It was noted that the list of Council Members requires updating.

Se Won announced that his university has decided to block incoming e-mails from gmail accounts. Therefore it was requested that members refrain from using gmail e-mails for future correspondence with the AsCA executive and that they notify the executive of alternative e-mail addresses.

**2. REPORT ON IYCR 2013 AND IUCr 2014 – SINE LARSEN (IUCr PRESIDENT)**

The AsCA council welcomed Professor Sine Larson, IUCr President, to the meeting. Prof Larsen thanked the organizers of the 2010 AsCA meeting for a very successful conference held in Busan in November 2010.

Prof. Larsen reported on the plans to have 2013 proclaimed as the International Year of Crystallography (IYCr). A proposal will be made to UNESCO by Abdelmalek Thalal, Chair of the Moroccan Crystallographic Society. In addition a proposal has been prepared and will be presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Prof. Larsen will distribute this proposal so that it can be used by other members in discussions with their individual governments for further national level support.

Prof. Larsen emphasized the important of all the IUCr Journals and publications. A meeting with the Executive Committee on the Journal Commission was held prior to the IUCr Madrid meeting. The Journals Commission are noting the increasing demands for access to the IUCr journals and are noting the changes in how people of accessing the journals. In this light the Commission are studying various ways to deal with controlling how people are accessing the journals online. Furthermore more systematic methods are being developed to improve communication between the executive committee and review committees for each journal. The Commission is also studying the possibility of making all the journals open access.

Prof. Larsen reviewed the aims of the IUCr and emphasized the use of these aims to develop further aims for the proposed upcoming International Year of Crystallography:

* Provide a framework for Laue and Bragg centennials celebrating the birth of modern crystallography
* Increase public awareness of crystallography and the way it underpins most technological and medical developments in modern society
* Promote education in crystallography and its links to other sciences
* Involve the numerous large-scale facilities worldwide in the celebrations of the IYCr
* Intensify the program “Crystallography in Africa” and create similar programs in other parts of the world lacking adequate education in crystallography.
* Foster international collaborations between scientists worldwide.

Prof. Larsen discussed the successful Logo Competition for the IYCr and introduced the new logo. Further developments for the IYCr were also discussed:

* Create a new website
* Organize educational material, especially geared towards high school students, e.g., the development of a textbook in multiple languages focused on introducing high school students to crystallography in multiple languages.
* Establishing science festivals where crystallography will be introduced to the general public

Individuals who wish to develop an activity or event promoting crystallography in 2013 should seek financial support for seed money from the IUCr. These activities should focus not on scientific meetings but rather on public awareness activities. Information regarding submission procedures and aims will be made available on the IUCr website.

Prof. Larsen emphasized the role of the regional crystallography associates and the link to national crystallographic committees within each region towards the activities at the IYCr. It is anticipated that these committees could assist in extraction and organization of material suitable for dissemination and teaching in crystallography. Furthermore these regional organizations could also play a role at providing suitable material at national meetings, exhibits at science museums and science festivals. It was suggested that the regional organizations could appoint a contact person to act as the link to the IUCr - IYCr committee.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Council Meeting, held on November 2, 2010 in Busan, Korea, were circulated via e-mail by Mitchell Guss after the Council Meeting. Ray Withers proposed it be approved. Jim Simpson seconded the motion.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Professors Alice Vrielink and Mark Spackman prepared a statement of finances and presented this to the Council. The trustees of the AsCA account are Professors Mark Spackman, Alice Vrielink, and Charlie Bond all at the University of Western Australia.

*AsCA UniCredit account balances:*

 On call savings account 03614822: AU$5.37 (down from $17.10 in last report)

Term deposit account 379021923: AU$165,684.26 (up from $139,327.29 in last report)

*Combined balance is* *AU$165,689.63*(up from AU$139,327.29 in last report)

Notes: In the previous financial year (July 2010 to June 2011), the accounts earned AU$7,298.24 in interest. The interest rate on the term deposit account is currently 4.65% (down from 5.0% p.a. in last report), with monthly rollover.

*Payments Received:*

* AU$500 from Academia Sinica, Taipei (2011-2013 dues)
* AU$1000 from Society of Crystallographers in Australia & New Zealand (2011-2013 dues for Australia)
* AU$1000 from Indian National Science Academy (2010-2012 dues)
* AU$16,796 from AsCA2010 profit (including Korea dues of AU$600 for 1995-1999 and AU$500 for 2011-2013). To save the paperwork, a debit of US$4,392 to Korea was not actually transferred in support of early career scientists attending AsCA’10. The net income from the AsCA2010 meeting was therefore AU$15,696 plus US$4,392.

\*Figures taken on August 3, 2011. All assets are currently in cash in Australian dollars – none in shares.

The report was formally accepted by the AsCA Council.

Prof. Se Won Suh was recognized for the excellent way the Busan meeting was run which resulted in an increase in the net balance of AsCA funds.

It was noted that currently the fees to IUCr for the second term (2012-2014) for the group of five countries (Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) are being paid by Australia and Japan.  A suggestion was made that this could be changed such that IUCr fees be paid for directly by AsCA.

**5. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE AsCA 2012/SCANZ MEETING & BRAGG CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM**

Professor Ray Withers presented the progress towards the 2012 AsCA/SCANZ (Society of Crystallography in Australia and New Zealand) meeting to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from December 2 – 5, 2012. Professor Steve Wilkins described the Bragg Centennial Symposium which will be held at Elder Hall, University of Adelaide from December 6 -7, 2012.  Will include some events for school kids and will include a tour of various places frequented by the Braggs in Adelaide.  The meeting rooms to be used in the Convention Centre for the Plenary Lectures, the Biological Sessions and the other Concurrent Sessions were presented as well as the space to be used for the Exhibition Area.   A draft of the scientific program was presented which include 16 microsymposia.  There will be Keynote lectures for each of the 3 days of the AsCA/SCANZ meeting.  In addition an overview of the program schedule was presented.  The proposed registration fees and budget for the meeting are as follows:

* AU$475 Regular early bird, AsCA/SCANZ only, Student AU$325
* AU$550 Standard, AsCA/SCANZ only, Student AU$375
* AU$570 AUD Regular early bird, AsCA/SCANZ & Bragg
* AU$650 AUD Standard, AsCA/SCANZ & Bragg
* AU$100 AUD Regular early bird, Bragg Symposium only
* AU$125 AUD Standard, Bragg Symposium only
* AU$110 AUD Conference Dinner
* Total conference expenses AU$270,000
* Total conference income AU$280,000
* Budget assumes AU$80,000 in local sponsorship

It was noted that, in order for the meeting to break even an attendance of ~ 330 delegates to both AsCA/SCANZ meeting and ~400 delegates to the Bragg symposium are needed.

The conference organizers are currently working on a website and further updates will be posted there.

Possible travel routes to the meeting were presented.  Major international airlines all fly direct to Adelaide from Singpore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Auckland.

A variety of accommodation is available:

* Student accommodation from AU$50 per person, per night St Marks / Lincoln College
* Shared 4 Star, 2BR apartments from AU$120 per person, per night OAKS Embassy & OAKS Horizons Apartments
* 3 Star economy hotel accommodation from AU$140 per night Mercure Grosvenor Hotel Adelaide
* 5 Star hotel accommodation from AU$230 per night Inter-Continental Hotel Adelaide

All accommodation is within close walking distance to conference venue. More details and options will follow when the website goes up.

It was reported that SCANZ will be underwriting the entire meeting and, if a profit eventuates, it will be divided evenly between AsCA and SCANZ.

Professor Steve Wilkins also gave an overview of the plans for the Bragg Centennial Symposium.  He included a list of some of the invited speakers:

            Professor Dam Louise Johnson (Oxford)

            Professor Tony Kelly (University of Cambridge)

            Professor Brian Matthews (University of Oregon/ University of Adelaide)

            Professor John Jenkins (Author of the Braggs’ biography)

            Professor Thom Mason (Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

            Professor Antony Cheetham (University of Cambridge)

            Professor Anders Liljas (University of Lund)

Professor Larsen suggested that delegates who are members of AsCA could be offered a discount in the registration fees.  However, Prof. Guss noted that AsCA doesn’t have individual membership.  SCANZ does have such individual membership, however it was pointed out that offering discounts to SCANZ members would be considered discriminatory.

**6. PROPOSAL FOR THE AsCA 2013 Meeting**

Professor Altaf Hussain (Bangladesh) presented a brief overview of a bid to host the 2013 AsCA meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh.   The presentation included a variety of proposed venues for the meeting, a listing of the financial support available for the conference, possible travel routes to Dhaka, hotel accommodation in Dhaka and a proposed budget.  The draft registration fees for the meeting are as follows (based on attendance of ~600 delegates):

* Full participant - €300
* Student participant - €120
* Accompanying person - €100

Prof. Duong Ngoc Huyen (Vietnam) also presented a brief overview of a bid to host the 2013 AsCA meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. The presentation included an overview of prospective venues in Hanoi, possible flight routes and hotel accommodations available and budget and registration fees (based on attendance of ~400 delegates):

* Full participant - US$300
* Student participant - US$175
* Accompanying person – US$100

A vote was taken as to which country would host the meeting.  The outcome of the vote was:

Bangladesh - 15 votes

Vietnam - 8 votes

Based on these results it was decided that the 2013 AsCA Meeting would be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.  Prof. Hussain thanked all council members for electing Bangledesh for the 2013 meeting.  He will act as chair of the local organizing committee.  Prof. Atushi Nakagawa (Japan) will act as the Chair of the Program Committee but has requested assistance in areas outside of his immediate field of research (protein crystallography).  Prof. Hussain will present a full progress report on the meeting organization at the 2012 AsCA Council Meeting in Adelaide.  [Prof. Nakagawa was later replaced with Prof. Takashi Kamiyama as the Chair of the Program Committee.]

**7. PROPOSAL FOR THE AsCA2015 AND AsCA2016 MEETINGS**

A proposal to hold the 2015 AsCA meeting in Kolkata, India was discussed. Professor Pinak Chakrabarti will present a detailed proposal at the 2012 Council Meeting in Adelaide.

Vietnam will present a proposal to hold the AsCA2016 meeting.  Other countries interested in hosting these future meetings should present their bid at the 2012 Council Meeting in Adelaide.

**8. BUSINESS ARISING**

A)   Suggestions for AsCA’s contributions towards the IYCr 2013

o    Publish AsCA Newsletter at the AsCA homepage

o    Establish Scientific Interest Groups within AsCA.

Currently AsCA does not have any interest groups but it was thought that somesuggestions for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) may be taken.  In this vein, AsCA could take a lead role in organizing schools and workshops in potential SIG areas.  If someone is interested in forming a SIG, they should make a formal proposal to the Executive Committee, which would then be discussed at the next Council meeting.

o    Introduce “Corporate/Organization” members

This would require a change in the constitution and it was suggested that some amendments to the constitution could be made enabling corporate membership.  It was decided that some terminology must be put together with the membership category changes (as separate amendments) and presented to the members in advance of the next council meeting for a vote.

o    Establish Prizes such as “Ramachandran” Prize and “Kato” Prize

It was suggested that AsCA sponsor some prizes or a medal (e.g., AsCA Medal).  A suggestion was also made that AsCA could ask a Corporate Body to sponsor an award. Individuals should give some thought to this idea and it be further discussed at the next AsCA Council Meeting.  This will be an agenda item at the meeting.

B)   Minutes of the 2007 Council Meeting

Professor Ohashi raised concerns regarding the minutes of the 2007 AsCA Council meeting, in particular the changes of the membership countries and the entitled votes.  Prof. Suh listed the current membership as Australia, Bangladesh, China, Taiwan, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia & Sri Lanka.  If a country forms a national association they are required to inform the AsCA Executive as to who their AsCA Council members will be.  Also, any changes to the nominated Council members should be communicated promptly to the AsCA Executive.

Regarding the membership, changes in the category structure require formal approval in the constitution. Appropriate wording reflecting these changes are required and must be distributed at least 6 months prior to the next AsCA Council so that a vote can be taken to approve the changes.

The following wording is proposed to take the place of Item 4a in the constitution:

**(a) The Association shall be administered by a Council consisting of Councillors from each member country. The number of Councillors from a country/region** **and the voting power given to each Councillor shall be in accordance with the membership category, as follows,**

**Membership Category Number of Councillors Votes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 1 | 0 |
| B | 1 | 1 |
| C | 2 | 2 |
| D | 3 | 3 |
| E | 4 | 4 |

**Corporate/Affiliation 1 0**

**The Councillors representing each country/region** **shall be appointed by the National Committee affiliated with the International Union of Crystallography or, in its absence, by the Crystallographic Society of that country/region. If neither of these bodies exists, the member shall be co-opted by the Executive from among the practicing crystallographers in the country.**

The above table reflects country/regioncategories and the associated number of votes.  It does not reflect any fee structure as fees should not be part of the constitution since they may be changed more regularly and hence do not need to be constantly changed in the constitution.

C)   Annual fees for the AsCA Regional Group

The IUCr annual fee (CHF1000) for the Regional group of 5 countries (Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) has been paid for by Japan and Australia per year for the last 3 years (2009-2011).  The generosity of this was acknowledged but it was also recognized that this should not always fall on the shoulders of the same countries.  Prof. Withers proposed that AsCA pay this for the next 3 years (2012-2014) from AsCA funds.  Prof. Haller seconded this motion.  All were in favor.

D)   AsCA Website

Currently the AsCA website is housed at the University of Sydney, however it was suggested that it be moved and possibly located as part of the IUCr site. In addition, the home page must be rebuilt and extensively upgraded.  It would be good if it were rebuilt in English and using modern easy to maintain web development software.  Prof. Chakrabarti will discuss this with a web developer that he knows in India.  To this effect, he will obtain some idea of the cost of rebuilding the website and present it to the Executive for approval.  Prof. Haller suggested that if we set aside a section of the webpage for education, we might be able to get funding for this development from IUCr.  Brian McMahon at IUCr could be approached regarding whether they would host the site.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

It was proposed that Item 4b in the Constitution be changed from:

**(b) The Council shall elect a President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of those three members elected.**

 to

**(b) The Council shall elect a President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of those three members elected as well as the** **immediate** **Past President.**

To reflect the addition of the immediate Past President as a member of the Executive Committee.

There was no further business.  The meeting was adjourned at 16:25.  The next Council Meeting will be held during the AsCA2012 Meeting in Adelaide in 2012.