

IACS General Assembly

July 14, 2018 | 5-6pm EST

Minutes drafted by Jennifer Hinnell.

Minutes checked and approved by Hannah Little and Jordan Zlatev.

1. Administration

- Todd Oakley called the meeting to order at 5pm.
- Todd Oakley was elected to chair the meeting.
- Jennifer Hinnell was elected to keep minutes. Hannah Little and Jordan Zlatev were elected to check the minutes.
- Eve Danziger & Peer Bundgaard were elected to count votes.

2. President's Report (Todd Oakley)

- The board has met four times since the last IACS conference (3 official, 1 unofficial meetings).
- The board dealt with a change of venue for IACS3. It was originally planned for Case Western Reserve University. However, the travel ban in the USA affected the comfort of the board in having the conference in the USA. The board president expressed appreciation to Jamin Pelkey and Peter Coppin and the Ryerson/OCAD organizing team for stepping in and hosting IACS3.
- Membership and conference fees have now been combined so that they are both paid at the same time. The board hopes to continue this integrated payment model, though it depends on the host country/institution as well.
- The board is in favour of including plenary speakers at junior ranks at subsequent conferences. This will not be formalized, but the board invites the membership to make suggestions for junior plenary speakers over the phase of conference planning.
- The president reminded the membership that it would be optimal to have more than one candidate run for president and more than one candidate for hosting the next IACS conference to ensure a democratic process.

3. Treasurer's report (Kristian Tylén)

- The treasurer's report occurred via prepared video.
- The report covered the period from June 22, 2016 to June 22, 2018
- The treasurer reviewed income and expenses over that period and reported a deficit of -€475. Given the earlier account balance, this results in an account balance of €4305 on June 22, 2018.

4. Report of the Editor-in-chief of Cognitive Semiotics (Peer Bundgaard)

- Regarding the journal's indexing and impact factor: Peer will get figures one year from now.

- The Editor noted that 1-2 years ago they had experienced a deficit of quality submissions. The editors expressed that, despite their hesitations around the practice, they published their own papers in order to complete full editions of the journal. This is no longer a problem; they have had enough quality submissions more recently.
- This year for the first time the journal introduced special issues. There will be one per year. The first special issue was edited mainly by Jordan Zlatev. They invited proposals for special issues and dossiers (2-4 articles on specific topic). Participants were also encouraged to submit papers presented at this conference.
- The journal has changed from print and online dissemination to only online. Todd apologized for not communicating this adequately to the membership.
- Peer noted that the journal was relaunched in 2014 thanks to subsidies that were received from Danish institutions meant to cover the first 3 years. The publishers have now agreed to finance the publication of the journal.
- Todd outlined that the journal is not strictly part of the organization; the editorial board of the journal and governing board of IACS are separate groups. Todd noted that requirements for communication between editors and the governing board should be clearer. Todd suggested that, in order to facilitate discussions between the journal and the association, IACS could consider having the editor in chief of the journal serve as an ex-officio member of the board. This would likely need to be amended in the constitution. Todd is willing to discuss how to handle that change with the new board if they choose to amend the constitution. Todd suggested that, in the mean time, the editor of the journal could be invited to participate in certain IACS board meetings informally. Todd suggested an alert via email could also communicate to board members and the general membership when a new issue of the journal comes out.
- There ensued a short discussion on two issues: (1): tying journal subscription to society membership, and (2) whether the journal should be online only or include a print version. The discussions are summarized here.
- On the merits of combining membership and the journal subscription:
 - Göran Sonesson referenced a discussion with de Gruyter. Their fear is that including journal with membership would push the fee to increase steeply.
 - Peer Bundgaard highly recommended keeping them separate but agreed that the boards should communicate better with each other.
 - Regarding communication, Göran Sonesson noted the value of having newsletter that could include an announcement of each issue of the journal.
- On the recent decision to move to online-only publication of the journal:
 - Todd explained that the publishing industry is getting their metrics from downloads.
 - Irene Mittelberg noted that when she found out there would be no print version she was disappointed. Furthermore, she noted her disappointment in the quality of the PDF rendering of the online version of her recently-published article in the journal (print is too small and figures are not a good size and are unclear). Others echoed her position.
 - Several people suggested that most prestigious journals have both modes of dissemination, though others disagreed. Peer Bundgaard disagreed with the notion of a negative effect on the journal of being disseminated online only.

- Jordan Zlatev asked whether the membership present at this General Meeting could indicate preferences on these two issues through a show of hands. Vote results were as follows:
 - In favour of binding membership to journal subscription: 11 yes, 19 no.
 - In favour of print vs. online-only dissemination of the journal: 25 for print, 8 for online-only.
- It was agreed that both discussions be tabled for the next board to take up and explore. Regarding the print vs. online dissemination, the board should follow up with de Gruyter or another publisher. It was agreed that the incoming board should explore options around combinations of journal subscriptions/membership. Different societies have used different models.

5. Proposed conference site for IACS4

- Irene Mittelberg presented a proposal from the RWTH University in Aachen, Germany. KU Leuven would cohost (Geert Brône, Kurt Feysaerts and Paul Sambre).
- No other options were put forth.
- Todd Oakley announced that the next IACS conference will be in Aachen, Germany in 2020.

6. Nominations for IACS Office

- De facto members of the board:
 - Todd – past president
 - Irene – next IACS conference host
- President
 - Göran Sonesson
 - Esther Pascual
- Governing Board
 - Kristian Tylén
 - Jamin Pelkey
 - Jordan Zlatev
 - Hannah Little
 - Peter Coppin
 - Georgios Stampoulidis
 - Sara Lenninger
 - Donna West
 - Esther Pascual
 - Göran Sonesson
- The membership voted.
- The new board will be announced at IACS banquet on the same evening.

7. Adjournment

- Todd moved the meeting be adjourned. Jennifer Hinnell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:08pm EST.