

International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA)
General Meeting
W. Barentz Maritime School, Terschelling, The Netherlands, June 14, 2018
MINUTES

Item 1: Opening, Welcome, Apologies for Absence & Approval of Agenda

ISISA President Godfrey Baldacchino welcomed everyone to this “General Meeting,” held with each (mostly biennial) conference. All conference attendees are members by virtue of their conference registration.

REGRETS: From the Executive, we’ve received apologies from members Graeme Robertson, Clyde Sakamoto, Dana Lewis-Ambrose, Stephen Royle, and Marina Karides. Godfrey introduced the other Executive members who were in attendance: Vice-President Beate Ratter, Treasurer Rosie Alexander, and general members Laurie Brinklow and Elaine Stratford.

Godfrey added “Recognition of service rendered” to agenda. MOVED by Stefano Malatesta, 2nd by Jim Randall, to approve the agenda with the addition. CARRIED.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes of last ISISA General Meeting (*Held at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, Australia, 7 July 2017*)

Last year’s meeting on Kangaroo Island was an exception from the normal biannual schedule. The minutes from that meeting can be found [here](#). Godfrey highlighted items from the minutes.

MOVED by Adam Grydehøj, 2nd by Jennie Teasdale, adoption of the Minutes. CARRIED.

Item 3: Any Matters arising from the Minutes

Godfrey asked if there were any Matters arising from the Minutes; there were none.

Item 4: President’s Report

Godfrey spoke to highlights of the last four years. These included the creation of our own website and communications between conferences. To that end, we are looking for people to help circulate info on Twitter (#IntSISA); Sitze Norder volunteered. We have a Facebook page and a six-monthly Newsletter for members only, which Anna Baldacchino has been editing since 2012. Anna urged us to send articles, photos, book reviews, news of other conferences, stories of island adventures, even our experiences at this conference, with photos, for publication. The next deadline is June 30. Her e-mail address is abaldacchino59@gmail.com.

Several years ago, ISISA endorsed [Island Studies Journal](#), which published its inaugural issue in 2006 with Godfrey as the founding editor. Adam Grydehøj has

been Executive Editor since October 2016. The journal's institutional home is the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. Godfrey urged people who presented papers here at this conference to think about submitting them to *ISJ*.

We have an active listserv through Yahoo groups managed by Bruce Potter; you can sign up here: <mailto:ISISA@yahoogroups.com>.

ISISA diverts 90% of its resources to student scholarships to attend these conferences. This year we gave out 10 scholarships in partnership with our Australian hosts. If you wish to donate to the scholarships, please do so; with €500 or equivalent, you can also dedicate a scholarship to someone.

The amendment to the statute under discussion today (see Item 6) relates to scholarships. We now have 24 life members and offer an unbeatable deal to our membership (\$200 US per lifetime membership).

We have officially registered as a "friend" of [GLISPA](#). We should explore partnerships with other organizations.

MOVED by Valia Papoutsaki, 2nd by Jouke van Dijk, to move the adoption of the President's Report. CARRIED.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report

Rosie Alexander presented her Treasurer's Report, which she has added to the Kangaroo Island report from 2016-2017.

She noted that the two reports show consistency in income and expenses.

We have brought in £1200 from membership; income over expenditure (scholarships of £1,500 paid out for the Lesvos conference) just about balances out. One scholarship was financed by a private member's donation in 2017-18.

In 2017-18, we made a charitable donation of £800 to the Barbuda Recovery Fund, in the wake of the hurricane that completely devastated that Caribbean island.

Our balance sheet shows an overall decrease of £1,100

She pointed out that the "Ex treasurer's mistake" shows up two years in a row; these have both been corrected.

Overall, our accounts appear healthy.

MOVED by Rose Marie Azzopardi, 2nd Valia Papoutsaki, that we adopt the Treasurer's Report as presented. CARRIED.

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Item 6: Proposed amendment to ISISA Charter

(Article VI, new sub-article 3):

During those calendar years when an ISISA 'Islands of the World' Conference is *not* taking place, the ISISA Executive welcomes requests for collaboration and/or support from like-minded associations who are keen on organising an 'island studies' conference, workshop, project or similar activity. Such requests may include supporting a number of scholarships meant to help students financially to attend such an activity. An acknowledgement of support from ISISA is expected from the event organizers. The ISISA Executive will consider each such request on a case-by-case basis and at its full discretion.

Godfrey invited discussion. The question was asked: are these meetings international or national? Godfrey replied that we have not specified this on purpose as it is important to keep options open. The question was asked: are there any risks to our finances? Godfrey replied that we will entrust decisions on financial outlays to the Executive. MOVED by Jon Pugh, 2nd by Pantellina Emmanouilidou, to adopt the above amendment. CARRIED, with one abstention.

Item 7: Nomination and Election of ISISA Executive Committee Office and Ordinary Members

Godfrey presented the slate of 9 candidates for nine positions; a secret ballot was not felt necessary. The nine candidates were acclaimed and declared elected by the general assembly. Godfrey introduced the new members: Adam Grydehøj, Stefano Malatesta, Jonathan Pugh, and Nenad Starc.

Item 8: Upcoming ISISA Conferences

We have accepted a proposal from Dr. Nenad Starc to hold a conference in Croatia, with dates yet to be determined. We are on the lookout for organizations on the ground who are willing to host conferences, in particular for 2024.

Islands of the World XVII: 22-26 June 2020 (*Presentation by Bojan Fürst, Director of Knowledge Mobilization at the Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Policy and Development, Memorial University, St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada*).

Bojan thanked the organizers of this conference: he noted that his team has big shoes to fill. Bojan gave some background on Memorial University (MUN) and the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). The University, with 18,000 students, was built around cooperation with the entire province. Newfoundland is inhabited by approximately 470,000 of "the friendliest people on earth." NL is very connected to the rest of the world, historically and transportation-wise. Memorial is among the leaders in Canada in publicly engaged scholarship: Bojan noted the organizing committee's desire to bring the local residents into the conference. The theme is

“Islands Connections.” He noted that the committee is open to ideas from the membership; please e-mail him at bfurst@mun.ca.

Godfrey then facilitated the formal handover from Leeuwarden and Terschelling to St. John’s; Jouke vn Dijk, Gerard Persoon, and Klaas Deen handed over the ISISA flag and wooden logo to Bojan, with Jouke noting: “Take care of it because it’s very important that you bring it to the next conference.”

Item 9: Any other matters

Executive decided that we needed to honour one of our members, and invited Beate Ratter to the podium.

She began with the question: What do Peter Meincke and Grant McCall have in common? They are both Honorary Members of ISISA. This accolade is awarded from time to time to those who make significant and notable contributions to ISISA and island studies. Beate read the nomination for Dr. Huei-Min Tsai of Taiwan, who has organized two of our conferences and has sat on the Executive for several terms. She accepted with the comment: “Once you come in, you won’t get out!”

Godfrey finished the meeting by thanking the Leeuwarden Cultural Capital of 2018, Oerol, Waddenacademie, the Universities of Leiden and Groningen, KITLV, province of Fryslân, Council of Leeuwarden, and the Maritime Institute; the people who have been working tirelessly on our behalf, in particularly the troika of men who have been the minds and the motors of this conference: Jouke, Klaas, and Gerard; and behind every wise man there is a (equally wise) woman, in this case another troika: Hanneke Bramer, Thea Smit, and Sjerpy Moeyersoons-Joustra. Thanks to the team who provided food, technical support, and photography. We thank you for coming, and hope you will take wonderful memories and ideas for new projects, and hope to see you all in Newfoundland in 2020.

Godfrey adjourned the meeting.