

Minutes of the ISISA General Meeting, 25 & 26 August, 2010, Bornholm, Denmark

Meeting opened 6.10 p.m. at Bornholm Folk High School

Meeting Chair: Grant McCall, President of ISISA

Attended by 62 individuals including 13 Executive Committee members.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence

Denbeigh Armstrong, Ko Changhoon, Eric Clark, Mark Hampton, Iain Orr and Prem Saddul

Item 2: Acceptance of Minutes of last General Meeting

The Minutes of the last General Meeting at Islands X (2008) Jeju, South Korea, were posted on the ISISA e-mail group in January 2010.

Proposed: Godfrey Baldacchino

Seconded: Stephen Royle

Approved unanimously

Item 3: Matters arising from Minutes of last General Meeting

There were no new matters arising.

Item 4: Treasurer's Report

A financial report for the inter-conference period 2008-2010 prepared by Mark Hampton showed total funds (as of August 2010) stood at £12,141 84 (Reserve Account £10,855.51, Current Account £1,195.48, Petty Cash £90.85). Notes on these accounts listed income pending from Univ of Hawaii Maui College of US\$8,000 (£5,187.57) from 2006 conference surplus as well as members subscriptions collected at Bornholm and expenditure pending in form of honorarium sums due to Denbeigh Armstrong and Ray Burnett as previously agreed at the online Executive Committee meeting.

Moved for Acceptance: Cal Douglas

Seconded: Elaine Stratford

Approved unanimously

Item 5: Secretary's Report

Beate Ratter reported that both a summary and full version (44 pages) of Minutes from the online Executive Committee meeting 23-26 April 2010 had been prepared and circulated prior to the General Meeting.

Moved for Acceptance: Clyde Sakamoto

Seconded: Huei-Min Tsai

Approved unanimously

Item 6: President's Report

Grant McCall urged members to consider and think about possible venues for future ISISA conferences and to contact members of the Executive Committee for advice and help with making any future bids.

Motion of Appreciation: Grant moved that Denbeigh Armstrong's particular dedication and hard work in helping the ISISA Programme Committee to organise the XI conference should be acknowledged.

Approved with acclamation

Item 7: Proposal for Islands XII in 2012

The representatives (Karl Dawson, Dana Lewis-Ambrose & Jasmattie Yamraj) from H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, British Virgin Islands, gave a detailed and visual presentation of their bid to host and organise the next conference from 28 May – 1 June 2012 for an estimated 350 delegates with the proposed theme “*Globalisation: Islands Adapting to Change*”. Information about pre and post conference activities, college facilities, accommodation, travel, costs and desired outcomes were outlined and subsequently supported by detailed handouts. Five questions arose from members of the audience.

Moved for Acceptance: Cal Douglas

Seconded: Bruce Potter

Approved with acclamation

Item 8: Proposed Amendments to the ISISA Charter

A suite of 5 proposed amendments along with comments and suggested revisions were made available in the conference handbook given out to all delegates upon registration (see Footnote). At the Opening Session, Grant McCall urged all members to read these proposed amendments before attending the General Meeting. When introducing this agenda item, the President made explicit reference to the fact he was happy for each amendment to be discussed and voted upon separately rather than being moved as a single motion. There was no such request from the floor so a vote was called to approve all 5 amendments by a show of hands.

Result: 22 For, None Against; 14 Abstentions – Motion carried

The President also moved two supplementary motions that were seconded by Bruce Potter, namely

- i) that the 2010-2014 Executive Committee canvas membership opinion about changing the name of ISISA to **International Society for Island Studies and Affairs** thus accomplishing the removal of “small” from the name, but preserving the ‘brand’ ISISA
- ii) that the 2010-2014 Executive Committee explore the association of the Island Studies Journal (ISJ) as the official journal of ISISA

These supplementary motions were passed unanimously.

Item 9: Nomination of Office bearers and Executive Committee members

The Joint Secretaries issued 3 calls for nominations on the ISISA e-mail group and set a final deadline of 15 August 2010. Taking into account proposed amendment 4 to the ISISA Charter would, if approved, lead to an additional officer post of Vice President being created and the Executive Committee would consist of not less than six and not more than nine members, the following list of people were nominated and seconded before the deadline:

President – Grant McCall
Vice President – Godfrey Baldacchino
Secretary – Graeme Robertson
Treasurer – Stephen Royle
Publications Editor – Clyde Sakamoto
Beate Ratter
Elaine Stratford
Chris McMurray
Huei-Min Tsai
Mark Hampton
Ray Burnett

When this list of proposed nominations was presented at the meeting for approval various concerns, observations and resultant practicalities were voiced by the audience:

- a) the 11 people were all of a certain ‘vintage’, the 5 actual office bearers were male and a better age/gender mix would be desirable to balance experience with new ideas
- b) the outgoing XI conference organiser (Steen Schonemann) and incoming XII conference organiser (Dana Lewis-Ambrose) would need to become supernumerary members of the Executive Committee in order to enable 4 non-office bearers to make the total up to nine
- c) a new post of Website manager (a position previously held jointly with Publications Editor by Denbeigh Armstrong) would further reduce non-officer bearers to three
- d) a secret vote would be required anyway because there were 11 nominations and the Executive Committee was restricted to 9 with amendment 4 having just been approved
- e) another anomaly related to membership fees having being waived at the Jeju conference and not knowing how many people attending this meeting had since paid to become members and thus were entitled to vote

As a result of the above and further animated discussions, Grant McCall put forward a procedural motion that a new list of nominations should be created and voted upon in a secret ballot. He further clarified that

the positions of Publications Editor and Website Manager should be combined into a Communications Officer post; that additional nominations could be made from the floor; and an Advisory Council be established to support the newly elected Executive Committee. This motion was accepted and nominations for each position on the Executive Committee began:

President Sole nomination Grant McCall – duly elected
Vice President Two nominations Godfrey Baldacchino & Beate Ratter – GB duly elected after voting
Secretary Two nominations Laurie Brinklow & Graeme Robertson – GR duly elected after voting

At this point the meeting was adjourned as most participants wished to leave and go on the forest walk and reach the venue for the Gala dinner in time.

Meeting reconvened 11.15 a.m. the following morning at the Scala cinema Gudhjem with 48 attending and formal elections continued:

Treasurer Sole nomination Stephen Royle – duly elected.
(SR publicly thanked his predecessor, Mark Hampton, for all his longstanding work undertaken for ISISA)

Communications Officer Sole nomination Clyde Sakamoto – duly elected

There were nine nominations for the remaining four places on the Executive Committee and those with a star * were the ones duly elected through secret ballot:

Rose Marie Azzopardi
Laurie Brinklow*
Ray Burnett*
Mark Hampton
Beate Ratter*
Elaine Stratford*
Joie Taylor
Guglielmo Tita
Huei-Min Tsai

There are thus 9 people on the new ISISA Executive Committee plus Steen Schonemann and Dana-Lewis Ambrose as co-opted ex officio members in their respective capacities as immediate past and forthcoming organizers of our biennial IOW conference.

The five unsuccessful candidates then went on automatically to form the core of the new ISISA Advisory Council for which the President then called for further nominations from the floor. The following people were proposed and seconded:

Eric Clark
Cal Douglas
Jorn Fricke
Luciano Minerbi
Chris McMurray
Bruce Potter
Prem Saddul
Cigdem Sahin

There are thus 13 people on the new ISISA Advisory Council.

Item 10: Any Other Business

Ray Burnett put forward the following supplementary motion seconded by Godfrey Baldacchino, namely: In order to take forward as a matter of priority, the expressed desire of the meeting to advance member participation and to expand and develop the membership (with specific regard to gender, age, regional,

academic/non-academic, and disciplinary representation, etc), this meeting instructs and mandates the appropriate office-bearers to:

- a) circulate the list of current members and of lapsed members as soon as possible after this meeting;
- b) execute the agreed consultations on the name of the association and its governance, constitution and membership participation as soon as possible after this meeting; *and following that*
- c) prepare and circulate a draft new constitution;
- d) prepare and arrange an online extraordinary general meeting within 12 months of this general meeting in order to report back on the above matters.

Approved unanimously with two abstentions

Godfrey kindly requested members of the audience to leave their immediate written comments and suggestions about the conference with the organisers and that a fuller post evaluation form might follow from CRT to provide the BVI organisers with valuable feedback.

A short clip from the promo film about the Bornholm conference was shown to the audience and the final version will appear on the CRT & ISISA websites.

Steen Schonemann, CRT Director, formally closed the conference. Grant McCall, on behalf of the ISISA Executive and delegates, expressed sincere thanks to Steen and the CRT team, many volunteers and sponsors for organising such an interesting and memorable conference on Bornholm. There was warm applause from the audience and group photos then followed outside the cinema.

The General Meeting closed approximately 12.15.
Minutes provided by Graeme Robertson, ISISA Secretary

Footnote

The five proposed amendments as they appeared in the conference handbook:

Amendment 1

Article IV. Membership

Existing:

Founding Members shall be those individuals, entities, organisations and institutions who join either at the 1994 Okinawa meetings, or before the end of 1995.

Suggested Revision:

This Clause should be deleted from the Charter. As it is not numbered, there is no need for a re-numbering of the clauses before and after it.

Amendment 2

Existing:

Dues shall be set by the Executive Committee. For Founding Members, they are US\$20.00 per annum. The Executive Committee may provide a reduced rate for special categories of member.

Members may pay dues up to six years in advance to guarantee the current rate.

Suggested Revision:

Dues shall be set by the ISISA Executive and are US\$20.00 payable at any ISISA conference, providing membership until the next ISISA conference, typically in two years' time.

Life membership in ISISA is available to prospective or current members for a once-only fee of US\$200.00 payable at any time, and following the approval of the application by the ISISA Executive.

Amendment 3

Existing:

Termination of membership takes place when a member is more than 12 months in arrears in dues payment.

Suggested Revision:

Termination of membership takes place when a member has not paid a subscription for more than two ISISA conferences, or by resignation in writing by that member, duly sent to the ISISA Secretary.

Amendment 4

Article V. Organisation

Existing:

- A. The ISISA Membership shall be the governing body of the organisation. It is composed of all members in good standing.
- B. The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than six members, including the President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the daily running of the organisation, but is subordinate to the Membership.

Suggested Revision:

- A. The ISISA Membership shall be the governing body of the organisation. It is composed of all members in good standing.
- B. The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than six and not more than nine members. These include the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, along with up to four elected Ordinary Members. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the daily running of the organisation, but is subordinate to the Membership at the General Meeting. "Consulting Members" may be nominated at the General Meeting and may be co-opted at any time by the Executive for special purposes.

Amendment 5

Article VI. Duties of Officers

Existing:

The President or nominee shall preside at all meetings of the Association.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the daily operation of ISISA and may co-opt other members.

The President and Executive Committee members shall be elected at the ISISA General Meeting and shall serve for four years.

Suggested Revision:

The President, Vice-President or nominee shall preside at all meetings of the Association.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the daily operation of ISISA and may co-opt other members.

The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Ordinary Members shall be elected at the ISISA General Meeting and shall serve for four years.