

General Assembly 2024

Minutes

19th December, 2024

Location: Zoom

Attending: Anna Watek: President (AW), Chuck Eckman: Vice President (CE), Gerda Winkler: Treasurer (GW), Kate Robinson: Secretary (KR), Rick Anderson, Michelle Blake, Caine Chennatt, Lamia Eid, Isabelle Eula, Jianbin Jin, Kara Jones, Vijay Kumar, Xinwan Li, Mathew Moyo, Caroline Pang, Rita Pape, Beth Russell, Liqiong Lan Sichuan, Alexander Sussman, Tatiana Usova.

Apologies: Diane Job

1. Opening of the General Assembly

AW warmly welcomed IATUL members to the General Assembly, thanked colleagues for their attendance and introduced the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The meeting voted to approve the agenda, with 16 votes in favour, none against and one abstention.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly

The meeting voted to approve the minutes of the EGA, held on 25th September 2023 online, with 15 votes in favour, none against and three abstentions.

4. President's Report

AW shared a summary of the last year's activity for IATUL, highlighting new partnerships, Special Interest Groups, activities and strategies. In particular:

- the new strategic plan, developed in partnership with members of the Association, allowing IATUL to define projects and proposals which will contribute to the development of the Association for the coming years,
- interesting and valuable events that have been organised and co-organised, including conferences, workshops, seminar and a summer school,
- a grant that has been obtained through a collaboration with IFLA.

AW further reported that the organisational health and financial condition of the Association is very good and that IATUL enjoys a consolidated international position and recognition, including partnerships with measurable benefits and prospects.

AW announced that she would be handing over responsibilities to the next Executive Board, having served IATUL both as Secretary and as President. She expressed her heartfelt thanks to all IATUL members, partners, participants and sponsors with whom

she had the pleasure and honour to work with for the benefit of the Association and wished IATUL and all its members continued success for the future.

AW referred to the success and significance of the five special interest groups (Leadership, Research Data Management, Metrics & Research Impact, Information Literacy and Space) and the benefits they bring to IATUL. Members were invited to join the new SIG, SIG-Leadership, and to follow the activities of all the SIGs through IATUL's social media and website.

Conferences and events in 2023/4 were referenced, including the 2023 IATUL conference in the UAE, the 2023 Seminar in Türkiye, the 2024 conference and post-conference Leadership event in New Zealand and the upcoming 2025 conference in Shanghai. Other events and initiatives were highlighted, including the co-organisation of the World Forum on the Future of Academic Libraries and the EATEL Summer School on Technology and Enhanced Learning.

5. Membership Report

KR presented the Membership report and confirmed that IATUL currently has 251 members from 63 countries worldwide. The full member list is available [here](#).

6. Treasurer's Report

GW presented IATUL's financial report, including the 2023 returns, income, fees and expenditure as well as the financial audit and 2024 budget. It demonstrates IATUL's financial sustainability, responsible stewardship and how it provides value to members and responds to their fiscal circumstances.

In looking at the income and expenditure, GW highlighted the lack of income from the hybrid 2022 Miami conference, providing the opportunity for IATUL members to come together but held as the world was recovering from the pandemic, and thanked Miami University and CE for shouldering the deficit from this. While general inflation and finances remain unstable, IATUL membership fees have not been increased for years. This has been possible due to IATUL's solid financial reserves. Administrative costs have risen, including investment in technical infrastructure. This was balanced by a decrease in travel and other expenditure.

Regarding the Audit, all records were checked and found to be complete, with no discrepancies or objections. GW presented the proposed 2024 budget. While expenses are predicted to rise, the 2023 Dubai conference realised a profit of approximately E50,000. GW expressed IATUL's thanks to the hosts, Zayed University and the American University of Sharjah.

7. Board Matters: Approval of Board Members of amendments to the Constitution

KR introduced the proposed changes to the Constitution, to clarify the voting rights and Board eligibility of Ordinary and Associate members. Minor changes to Article 4(b) reflect the conduct of the business of the Board and 4(e) and Article 9 clarify who is eligible to stand for election to the Board and the terms of office. The amendment to Article 8 (a iv)

is to clarify what is already the responsibility of the GA. A slight change to terminology in Article 10 updates the Constitution to more inclusive language.

The GA voted unanimously with 17 votes to accept the changes to the Constitution.

8. Election of members of the Executive and Board members

AW proposed three new Board members, in line with IATUL's aim of representing the diverse regions of the world:

- Rick Anderson, Brigham Young University (Americas)
- Jin Jianbin, Tsinghua University (Asia/Pacific)
- Mathew Moyo, North-West University (Africa/Middle East)
- Diane Job, University of Birmingham (UK/Europe)

The meeting voted to approve the new Board members, with 16 votes in favour and one against. There were no abstentions. AW congratulated the new Board members.

AW introduced the proposed Executive Committee, whose responsibilities are both legal and financial for IATUL:

- Kate Robinson, President (1st 3-year term, having served 2 years as Secretary)
- Kara Jones, Vice-President (1st 3-year term)
- Gerda Winkler, Treasurer (2nd 3-year term as Treasurer)
- Caroline Pang, Secretary (1st 3-year term)

The meeting voted to approve the new Executive Board members, with 14 votes in favour none against and three abstentions. AW congratulated the new Executive Board members and those continuing their service.

AW extended her thanks to those leaving the Board:

- Chuck Eckman
- Xinwan Li
- Anna Watek

AW invited all those mentioned to say a few words to introduce themselves. Those forming the new Executive welcomed the opportunity and thanked Anna for her service. New Board members also introduced themselves and expressed their enthusiasm for their new roles with IATUL. Outgoing colleagues spoke warmly of their time with IATUL and thanked Anna for her contribution and service. AW extended her thanks to all those involved with the Board during her tenure, recognising the contribution of both Board members, the IATUL Office and IATUL members and thanking them for their support.

Before closing the meeting, AW invited all present to the next General Assembly, to be held during the 45th IATUL Annual Conference in Shanghai, and to participate in IATUL events in the coming year.

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