

General Assembly 2023

Minutes

Tuesday, March 14th, 2023

Time 15.15-16.15 UAE time (Gulf Standard)

Location: Multipurpose Hall 2 Zayed University Dubai Conference Centre

Number of members present: 25; 3 non-members

Regrets: Charles Eckman, Rita Pape

1. Opening remarks

AW opened the General Assembly and welcomed members and attendees.

2. Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was approved (17 hands raised, no objections).

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the General Assembly held on Tuesday June 14 2022 in Miami USA were approved (17 hands raised, no objections).

4. President's Report

AW introduced herself and the members of the IATUL Board.

4.1 Board Matters:

Outgoing Board members: AW thanked Donna Bourne Tyson, Jill Benn and Lars Egeland for their time and contributions to the Board. Liliana Luchi had, regrettably, needed to stand down from the Board and the Chair thanked her for her engagement and willingness to support IATUL.

Approval of Board Members: Caroline Pang Soo Ling (22 hands raised, no objections) and JK Vijayakumar (22 hands raised, no objections) were elected to represent the Asia Pacific and the Americas, respectively.

AW reported that IATUL is also calling for nominations for an IATUL Board member for Europe.

4.2 Change to the constitution. KR introduced proposed changes to the Constitution to broaden the scope of membership. It was clarified that Ordinary Membership was open only to Libraries or to a unit that has the functions of the Library but is not called the Library.

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Associate membership would be open to other units if the Library is not a member or if there is not a Library (21 hands raised, no objections).

4.3 AW reported that a new, updated website will be presented to members within the next few weeks and that the Board is exploring new technological options for circulation and sharing of the newsletter.

5. Membership Report

KR presented the membership report. IATUL has 232 members from 62 countries. So far in 2023 there have been 6 new members, 2 cancellations and 12 memberships have expired due to non-payment of fees over a 3-year period. A question was raised regarding membership numbers over the last 10 years and the Secretary agreed to investigate this.

6. Treasurer's Report

GW presented the financial report, highlighting the goals in dealing with IATUL finances of:

- Financial sustainability
- Providing value to members
- Responsible stewardship
- Responsive to fiscal circumstances of members

The Report provided an overview of Returns, Income and Fees & Expenditure, the Financial Audit, and the 2023 Budget, as approved by the Board. GW provided the following detailed information, illustrated by accompanying slides.

6.1. Returns, Income and Fees & Expenditure:

6.1.1. The income for 2022 was 59.148 euros, this included the income from the first IATUL online-conference in Porto and membership fees. This was 15.961 euros more than in 2021. The previous year's income from the 2020 Annual Conference was missing in 2021 as there was no 2020 IATUL event because of the pandemic. For this reason, the IATUL total assets were higher in 2021 than in 2022. IATUL had 133.852 Euros total assets at the end of 2021 and 124.879 Euros at the end of 2022.

6.1.2. The administrative costs in 2022 amounted to 47.738 euros. This was nearly 2.000 Euros more than expected due to additional technical interventions incurred in the transition from the IATUL Office from the Technical University of Munich to CPO Hanser. GW noted that this was balanced by a lower than anticipated spend on travel and other costs where 75.847 euros of the planned 85.250 euros were spent.

6.2. Financial Audit:

6.2.1. GW confirmed that the Report covers the period from the 1 of January to the 31 of December 2022 and was carried out by the tax consultant Josef von Ranke from the office of Löffler & Partner in Munich and sent on the 6th of March, 2023.

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6.2.2.GW shared the following quote from the Report: *“The balances of the accounts and the deposits of securities are in accordance with the records. The receipts were checked completely and there were no objections. The kept records were complete, true and made in time. Each entry is sufficiently commented and for each entry a receipt exists. The receipts are stored properly. The auditing of the records yielded no discrepancies or objections.”*

6.3. 2023 Budget:

6.3.1.The budget planning for 2023 was noted as consistent with the previous year in most budget positions, despite generally rising costs. The exception being a necessary increase for the preparation of a new website for IATUL. GW reported that the IATUL Board has approved the following expenditure:

30.000	Personnel costs
16.300	Internet hosting, office infrastructure plus new website
1.000	Admin Fees
2.500	Financial audit/tax declaration
2.000	Software Zoom HiDrive
672	IFLA Membership
1000	Promotional materials
1000	Contingencies

6.3.2.GW further reported a projected budget total of 53.972 Euros for the administration with an additional 19.500 Euros for travel expenses of the IATUL Board and the conference host of the next year, and 20.000 for events and initiatives, bringing a total expenditure of 93.472 Euros. The considerable losses of the Miami conference were noted due to the hybrid nature of the event and the effect of the pandemic on travel, and thanks were expressed to the University Libraries of Miami and, most especially, IATUL Vice President Chuck Eckman who had fully covered these.

GW concluded her report by reporting that IATUL has healthy finances overall and has reserves. The General Assembly noted the Report of the Treasurer.

7. SIG Activities & Initiatives

AW thanks the SIGs for their work and invited members attending the Conference to the SIG sessions, to be held later in the conference. All members were invited to familiarise themselves with the work of the SIGs and to consider SIG membership. AW announced that this year we may introduce new topics and potentially new SIGs.

A question was raised about the discontinuation of SIG ALICE. US clarified that the SIG had requested this. US then reported on the recommendation of SIG ALICE to suspend their activities and shared their work and achievements with the GA: *“Since its inception in 2017, SIG ALICE (Advancement of Library Services in Emerging Countries) focused concertededly on strengthening library practice in Cambodia through a series of webinars for library staff and a peer coaching programme for Cambodian library directors. However, while the SIG enjoyed a measure of success with its contact activities in Cambodia, it was challenged by*

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volunteer fatigue, attracting new members, lack of continuity for their identified programmes and sustainability. Upon the recommendation of the SIG members, the Board is reconceptualising the mandate and broadening the scope of the SIG. I would like to acknowledge the many library directors and professionals who participated in the SIG activities and the team - Veronika Diem, Dianne Cmor, Rany Ly, and Bethany Wilkes - for their efforts and contributions to SIG ALICE. The Board will keep you informed of developments”.

8. Strategic Planning

AW introduced the process for strategic planning. This builds on the work in Zurich where the Board participated in an initial horizon-scanning process, shared with conference delegates as a workshop the following day. AW highlighted the strategic planning sessions both at this conference and online during the next few months. The outcomes of the strategic planning are intended to inform the SIGs and the future direction of IATUL’s work.

9. Any Other Business

AW invited IATUL members to the next Seminar, to be held in Izmir in Türkiye in September 2023, with more details to be shared in the closing session of the Conference. Members were also invited to apply to host future events for the next 2 years.

A question was raised about what SIGs may be forthcoming. AW confirmed that this was not yet decided but that expressions of interest from the members were also welcomed.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Assembly will be held in 2024.

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