

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES (IATUL)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2005,

12.00 Tuesday 31 May 2005, Université Laval, Quebec City

Minutes

1. Opening of the General Assembly

The President, Gaynor Austen, opened the General Assembly and welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes of the last General Assembly

Minutes of the last General Assembly of IATUL held at the Krakow University of Technology on Tuesday 1 June 2004 were approved.

4. President's Report

IATUL had maintained and extended its services to members during 2004-2005, our 50th year of operation.

The highly successful 25th conference had been hosted by the Krakow University of Technology in May/June 2004. The location of the conference enabled many librarians from Central and Eastern Europe to join for the first time with librarians from around the world to consider "Library Management in changing environment". The social programme introduced all delegates to many aspects of Polish culture.

The 26th conference, hosted by Université Laval, in Quebec, Canada in May/June 2005, will examine "Information and Innovation" in a wonderful French-Canadian environment. The President thanked the enthusiastic organising committee, under the leadership of Marcel Dagenais, for what promised to be a most interesting conference.

Meetings of the IATUL Board were held at Krakow in June during the 25th conference, and at Porto in November, which enabled the Board to inspect proposed facilities for the 2006 Conference. In conjunction with the November Board meeting, a one day "IATUL Iberic Seminar" was held for local librarians from Portugal and Spain. More than 30 people attended a very successful event which addressed issues relating to access to research information.

Financial management for IATUL has been managed by the Technological University at Delft since 1998, first by Leo Waaijers and now by Maria Heijne. However, changes to the organisational structure at Delft means that the Library will not be able to continue this role from the end of 2005. On behalf of IATUL the President recorded the gratitude of the Association to the management and staff of TUD Library for this work. Tony Evans a previous IATUL President was also thanked for his continuing work as honorary auditor.

IATUL maintains a healthy financial reserve which the Board has been applying to particular projects intended to facilitate collaboration amongst its members, and to encourage conference attendance and Association membership within developing countries. In 2005, the IATUL Travel Grant program assisted six librarians from India, Iran, Poland, Romania and Slovakia to attend the Cracow conference. A new project, initiated by Board member Reiner Kallenborn, is the Cross-border Cooperation Project, which offers financial support to projects involving collaborative activities between IATUL members in different countries.

Although the financial reserves remain considerable, the Association is currently running a deficit budget for its operational expenses. The Board has considered this matter and proposes to address this through a revised membership fee structure, submitted for consideration at the 2005 General Assembly. This structure, if adopted, will increase the annual income from membership fees, whilst maintaining a reduced membership fee for member libraries in countries with lower GDP.

The Association continues its active Current Awareness services for members. IATUL Alert was issued regularly throughout the year by IATUL's Webmaster, Barb Ewers, while Board member, Murray Shepherd, has continued his excellent email information service via the IATUL Discussion list.

IATUL continues to work with UK not-for-profit company, Eduserv, to provide preferential subscription rates for online databases and software. To date this service has not been well publicised or well used by members. The President met with Eduserv officers in Bath in July 2004 to develop a new strategy for promoting this service to members.

During the last year, an exercise to "clean up" the membership database has been undertaken, with member addresses and contact names being updated, and lapsed members contacted regarding their intentions. As a result a number of lapsed memberships have been cancelled. Ten new members joined IATUL during the 2004/5 year, including our first member library from Armenia, the Gladzor Management University Library. Current IATUL membership stands at 241 libraries in 42 countries.

5. Proposed new fee structure

The President introduced a proposed new fee structure which had been agreed by the Board. This was based on the UNESCO Scale of Assessments (see <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001309/130907e.pdf>) and was currently the method used by IFLA. IATUL fees have remained unchanged at €107 for over 10 years. At the same time the Association has substantially increased its activities and range of services. An increase in membership fees was necessary to maintain IATUL as a vibrant Association. Cases of particular hardship could always be addressed separately. Libraries in those countries whose current UNESCO assessment is at 0.251 or greater would pay the standard fee. Those in countries whose UNESCO assessment is at 0.250 or below would pay a fee of 50% of the standard rate. The proposed new fees would be €150 for Ordinary and Associate members in band 1 and €75 for members in Band 2. The proposal was carried nem con.

6. Financial report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the President presented the budget, and the Honorary Auditor, Tony Evans, commented on it. The financial position remained healthy with a considerable sum invested. Returns on this investment had improved over the previous year. The separation of the investment account from the operational account gave the impression that the budget was in deficit. Whilst this was true on paper, in fact IATUL reserves were substantial. The reduction in membership income The President moved the adoption of the Financial report and this was carried.

7. Report by the Honorary Auditor

IATUL accounts had been examined and the Honorary Auditor had found them to be a true and accurate record of the financial state of IATUL as at 31 December 2004. He noted that there was a comparatively large sum of money in the bank earning low interest and advised that this should be transferred to an account which earned a higher rate of interest.

The Honorary Auditor welcomed the extension of IATUL's project work. He cautioned that reserves should not fall below the figure of twice the annual income.

8. Amendment to the Constitution

IATUL has become increasingly a world wide organisation with strong membership bases in the USA, Canada and Australasia. At the same time the operation of the Board has become more complex. For these and other reasons, the current Constitutional requirement for the Board to consist of office holders plus "three other persons" has been found to be unduly restrictive and difficult to manage. The President and IATUL Board recommended that Section 6 of the Constitution of the Association be amended as follows:

The words "three other persons" be replaced by the words "at least three other persons". The new clause reads:

6. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer (the foregoing being the Officers of the Association), the Immediate Past President, who shall serve in that capacity for a period of one year, and at least three other persons to be elected by the membership. Members of the Board shall be elected for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for immediate re-election to one additional term. The Board of Directors shall elect the officers of the Association.

The amendment was agreed *nem con.*

9. Board membership and posts (GA)

Four nominations for Board membership had been received. After some discussion the Board agreed that Alice Trussell and Sohair Wastawy should be invited to join the Board.

The President thanked all current members of the Board for their commitment to the Association. The first Vice President, Lee Jones from Linda Hall Library, will be stepping down from the Board after this meeting. Lee instigated and fostered our Travel Grant Scheme as well as hosting our Conference in 2002, and the President paid tribute to his contribution to IATUL. He will be replaced as Vice President by Maria Heijne. The Secretary, Judith Palmer from the University of Oxford, will be relinquishing this role after the November Board meeting, whilst still remaining as a member of the Board. She will be succeeded by Paul Sheehan, of Dublin City University. Michael Breaks' official role as Past President on the Board is completed at this meeting. However, Michael has kindly agreed to continue his involvement as Board member assisting Ana Azevedo with planning the Porto Conference, and also continues to represent IATUL at meetings of ICSTI (the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information). Another former Board member, Sinikka Koskiala, has continued to assist the organisation in the weeding and organisation of its archives, presently held at Oxford.

10. Report on Website developments (GA)

In response to new information sharing needs, new pages were added to the site, specifically the IATUL Notice Board, IATUL Seminars and EduServ Dataset Offers.

A full restructure of the site is required, but this is being delayed until a discussion is made about future management of the site.

In order to provide Board members and conference organisers with consistent design elements, a CD is being compiled of standard artwork for designing and producing IATUL publications.

This year coordination between the Treasurer and the Web Coordinator regarding membership details has greatly improved due to the efforts of all. It has been recognised that the web membership database should be combined with the Treasurer's database so there is a single membership database. The new model needs to be web based with flexible searching and reporting options and security controlled access for Board and administrators.

Due to changes to QUT software and internet access, difficulties were experienced with email lists and the discussion list several times during the past year. QUT Information Technology Services have been informed of the particular needs of IATUL and similar problems should not recur.

11. Future conferences

a) 2006 Conference

Plans for the 2006 conference were well underway. Ana Azevedo is leading the planning team for the next conference, which will be held at Porto, Portugal, 21-25 May, 2006. As many librarians from Portugal, Spain and Latin America as possible would be involved. Initial plans had already been made to establish a Programme Committee and an Operating Committee. A presentation on the 2006 Conference would be made prior to the Closing ceremony.

b) Forthcoming Conferences in 2007, 2008

The President announced that Stockholm would be the venue for the 2007 conference. Board member Marianne Nordlander would work closely with Gunnar Lager at the Royal Institute of Technology. The Board hoped that Auckland might be the venue for the 2008 conference.

12. Any other business

- a) The President announced that Tony Evans had made a generous donation to the work of IATUL. Wishing to ensure that younger people were able to attend the IATUL Conferences, Tony Evans had promised to give £500 each year for the next 3 years to assist in bringing a young person under 35 to the conference.
- b) Jay Bhatt had circulated a paper outlining liaison activities between IATUL and ELD(ASEE).

13. Vote of Thanks

All present joined Gaynor Austen, the President in a vote of thanks to Claude Bonnelly and his staff for hosting the 2005 Conference at the Universite Laval.

14. Conclusion

The General Assembly was concluded and would be reconvened at the University of Oporto, Oporto on a date yet to be determined.

Judy Palmer
22 June 2005