

**IATUL Board Meeting**  
**Monday, December 12, 2022**  
**12:00 – 4:00 CET**

**Attending:**

- Anna Walek, President (AW)
- Charles Eckman, Vice-President (CE)
- Gerda Winkler, Treasurer (GW)
- Donna Bourne-Tyson, Secretary (DBT) (via Zoom)
- Lars Egeland (LE) (via Zoom)
- Jill Benn (JB)
- Kate Robinson (KR) (via Zoom)
- Ujala Satgoor (US) (via Zoom)
- Rita Pape (RP)

**Invited guests:** Kara Jones; Liliana Luchi (via Zoom); Xinwan Li (via Zoom); Monika Kozakiewicz (MK) workshop leader.

**Regrets:** Michelle Blake

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

AW welcomed new colleagues to the meeting and invited each to say a few words. MK introduced the workshop session for later on the agenda.

**2. Approval of Previous Minutes**

2.1. \* Minutes of October 5, 2022, Board Meeting and \* Minutes of June 14, 2022 General Assembly - approved with no amendments.

**3. Business Arising (not covered elsewhere below)**

*3.1. Letter to Russian members and support for Ukrainian Library Association – follow up*

AW and CE outlined the proposed offer of some financial support for the Ukrainian Library Association and asked for Board feedback. KR suggested highlighting the work of the SIGs and welcoming their involvement with these. It was noted that the Russian members were excluded from the SIGs whilst the situation in Ukraine continues. The Board were supportive of the proposals and a special scholarship programme (travel grant) enabling a person from Ukraine to participate in the conference in the Emirates was agreed.

**Action:** Call for a travel grant for Ukraine (RP)

*3.2. Revisions to the constitution -- \*membership categories, Board composition and term of office – for Board approval*

DBT introduced revisions to the constitution for Board ratification, prior to bringing it to General Assembly for approval. Major changes include:

- 3.2.1. the inclusion of potential member institutions for University and Academic Libraries to those not awarding PhDs as Associate and Ordinary members,
- 3.2.2. alignment of Board member appointments with the General Assembly,
- 3.2.3. extending the number of board members to secure more holistic geographic representation.

DBT was thanked for her work with this and the amendments were all agreed, with a slight revision to the number of Board members as it was suggested that this should be amended so the Board could include \*up to 10\* members rather than it being an absolute number.

**Action:** Approval of proposed changes after the next board meeting. Documents to be sent to members one month before the general assembly (February) (AW, RP)

### 3.3. *Discontinuation of SIG ALICE, and creation of new SIG \*proposal for board approval*

US introduced the topic of how best to engage with capacity building in emerging countries and the value proposition of SIG ALICE. US had consulted with other groups and recognised the need for CPD for the profession worldwide given emerging trends and new focus for institutions and regions. She proposed a reimagining of SIG ALICE and its remit.

AW asked about the scope of the SIG given its focus on emerging/developing countries. It was agreed that this is open to interpretation and needs some careful thought. KJ suggested the Research4life scope may be useful when defining the scope of this area. JB suggested that engaging with members in the identified countries would be the most helpful approach. CE suggested a SIG with a focus around CPD that could support members in all countries and bridge any differences. This was supported by US to support our members as we move to become smarter libraries and smarter practitioners. KR suggested that CPD should be a golden thread through all the SIGs. CE asked where the gaps may be with the existing SIGs. AW highlighted that this links to the next agenda item.

It was agreed to disband SIG ALICE as requested by the group and the members were thanked for their significant contribution and their exemplary work. The Board expressed a desire to focus the new IATUL strategy on the best ways to build on the achievements of SIG ALICE and their engagement and participation with all countries and all regions. They also expressed a hope that the members of SIG ALICE would engage with IATUL's new strategic initiatives and emerging topics.

**Action:** Prepare communication and official position before the GA + GA agenda item

### 3.4. *New SIG proposal – education of library professionals*

AW suggested a new SIG topic that may be of importance for the members and that this may be an area of discussion for our members as the strategy forms.

## 4. **President's Report**

### 4.1. *Strategic Planning*

AW summarised the strategic planning exercise for the Board for later today and the Workshop for members tomorrow.

## 5. **Treasurer's Report**

### 5.1. *Financial update – \*third quarter 2022*

GW presented the financial update demonstrating that membership subscriptions are healthy and that income is higher than expected expenses. RP was thanked for her work with this. CE confirmed that the deficit from the Miami conference would be met

by his Library, this was received with grateful thanks. It was suggested that this would ease the new commitment to support the Zurich seminar.

#### 5.2. *Membership fees increase for approval to recommend at General Assembly*

The last revision of these fees was in 2018 and it was considered that a small increase would be appropriate, to rise from Euro260 to Euro280 in 2024. JB and CE suggested that, given the rise in costs and the carbon impact of long-haul travel, the digital and regional benefits of IATUL membership should be emphasised. There was also a request for the naming of the 'Fall' Seminar to be re-thought with the southern hemisphere in mind. KJ suggested that sharing some information around the income and expenditure of IATUL at renewal time would be useful. AW suggested that this would be an opportunity to outline the benefit package too. CW suggested that a timely letter from the President would further support this.

#### **Actions:**

- Add a vote to increase the fee to the GA agenda,
- Prepare a description of the benefits of being a member of IATUL,
- Prepare a message about the types of seminars expected by IATUL,
- Prepare a letter from the President

### 6. **Membership Report**

#### 6.1. *Update on \*numbers*

DBT reported that we welcomed 25 new members this year. Cancellations (38) were due to an audit of paid members dating back a number of years. She observed that the change in membership criteria will support our membership numbers going forwards.

#### 6.2. *Changes to process for collecting outstanding membership dues*

RP was thanked for her work, patience and tenacity with requests for membership. DBT highlighted that there seemed to be an appetite for individual memberships, especially from Associate Director level.

**Action:** scope of individual memberships to be considered by the Board and any changes to be proposed at the GA.

### 7. **Board matters**

#### 7.1. *Self-review of the Board - review \*survey from previous meeting & discussion of alternative review methods*

Results of surveys from previous meetings were raised and whether the assessment might be changed to encourage responses about the meetings and topics. In the meantime, Board Members were encouraged to complete the survey after each meeting. JB suggested that the frequency should be revisited, potentially moving to an annual review. KR suggested that the questions may be extended to consider what value our meetings add for our members with a question such as 'how has our work today benefitted our members?' AW welcomed more ideas around this from all Board Members.

#### 7.2. *EDIA and IATUL – discussion re: potential need for policies for gender balance, anti-racism, potential ideological or political conflict with host countries and implications for selection of hosts*

AW expressed a need to communicate with members and others around our values and to be transparent and inclusive while remaining 'culturally neutral'. She proposed that a statement be prepared for the General Assembly and to support the Hosts of future conferences and seminars.

Reference was made to correspondence between a UK librarian and IATUL and KR offered to share her response with Board members.

**Action:** Kate to share the (anonymised) correspondence

The Board held a wide-ranging discussion offering views around a number of issues that this agenda item raised. The development of guidelines for the Board's consideration and guidance for those hosting were also suggested and supported. The distinction where discrimination in evidence in cultural norms was also raised.

**Actions:**

- Prepare the content of the statement before the GA
- Revise and suggest changes to the event host guide

### 7.3. *IATUL Office Update*

RP presented an update from the IATUL Office.

## 8. **Conference and Fall Seminar Updates**

### 8.1. *Miami 2022 – Update*

CE referred to the papers on HiDrive and was thanked for his work making the Conference such a success for attendees.

### 8.2. *Fall Seminar 2022 – Update*

AW outlined the difficulties experienced by the Zurich hosts with numbers for the Seminar and expressed her gratitude that this Seminar was taking place. The Board discussed the difference between the Seminar and the Conference as well as the relationship with Sponsors and were pleased that the Seminar was going ahead.

### 8.3. *UAE 2023 – Update*

The fees for the UAE conference were discussed and a reduced fee for neighbouring countries was suggested. KJ updated the Board on progress with the Conference. The call for papers has been extended and there is a focus on keeping costs down wherever possible. The programme is in development and speakers are being confirmed. Discussions and questions focussed on budget and practical arrangements.

## 9. **Grants and Awards**

### 9.1 *Conference Travel Grants – Update*

It was reported that applications are already being received.

**Action:** Voting at the next Board meeting

### 9.2 *Irmgard Lanckenau Poster Prize – Seeking committee members for 2023*

Volunteers were asked to make themselves known at the next Board meeting

**Action:** The composition of the evaluation team will be appointed at the March Board meeting

### 9.3 *International Study Programme 2024 - Call for applications*

this is on track and will be coming in the new year.

**Action:** RP and KR

## 10. **Communications**

### 10.1 *Newsletter*

Deadline for receipt of content coming shortly.

### 10.2 *Website relaunch –CPO progress*

Board members were asked for opinions on the new website, the retention policy for news, the interactive map, the proceedings and the poster prize winners.

**Action:** RP to make the agreed changes

**11. Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**

*Information Literacy (SIG IL)*

*Research Data Management (SIG DATA)*

*Library Space (SIG Space)*

*Metrics and Research Impact \*(SIG MaRI)*

SIGs were thanked for their Reports.

It was agreed that SIG Chairs should be invited to a Board meeting in 2023.

KJ will replace DBT as the Board member for SIG MaRI

A call for a Board volunteer for the Space group was sought.

**12. Any Other Business**

LE, DBT and JB were thanked for their service and wished well for the future. A call for two new Board Members (Europe and Asia Pacific) would be updated.

**13. Date of Next Meeting** – to be fixed by Doodle Poll

**14. Board orientation & strategic planning workshop**

\*documents loaded in IATUL HiDrive