

International Association of Chemical Thermodynamics

IACT



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Osaka, Japan

Sunday 30 July 2023, Time: 16.30 to 17.30 JST

Board Members and Counsellors Present at the Meeting:

Chair	Prof. Martin Trusler
Chair Elect	Prof. Kazuya Saito
Secretary	Dr. Kenneth Kroenlein
Treasurer (acting)	Prof. Martin Trusler
Board Members	Prof. Margarida Costa Gomes Prof. Eric May
Counsellors	Prof. Watson Loh Prof. Brian Woodfield

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Prof. Trusler presented the agenda, which was accepted.

Apologies were received from Prof. Luis Alejandro Galicia-Luna, Prof. Sergey Verevkin, and Prof. Walter Chapman.

2. Minutes of the 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

The minutes from the 2022 Board of Directors Meeting, held virtually, were approved by unanimous consent. Any issues arising from those discussions were addressed later in the agenda.

3. Constitutional Amendments and Bylaws Changes

The following amendments had been proposed and approved via email vote prior to the meeting:

- Minor typographical changes
 - Page 1: Change Article 1 to Article I, following the rest of the document.
 - Page 1: Remove a hyphen.
- Page 2: Add language to section I.2.11 to allow for variance in meeting cadence due to external issues.
- Page 2: Change "their" to "the Directors" for clarity.
- Page 2: Add language for the end of the Officers' terms, identical to the language for the end of the Directors' terms.
- Page 3: Remove references to Counsellors. This will have the effect of reducing the Board size by 5, and remove members of the Board who are not directly elected by the Membership.
- Page 3: Allow for IACT meetings to be conducted virtually.

Concerns were raised that the total Board size was unclear due to the complex interaction of Directors and Officers, so the following additional element was added:

- Page 3: The Board will therefore consist of at most 10 members.

The amended constitution will be presented to the Membership at the IACT Business Meeting, with voting to be performed via secret ballot through Google Forms. Voting will close after 30 days, on September 1, 2023.

The following Bylaws changes were discussed, having been previously distributed via email to the entire Board:

- Minor typographical changes
 - Page 6: Change Article 1 to Article I, following the rest of the document.
 - Page 7: Superfluous period after "30th"
 - Page 11: Remove Rob Chirico's now-defunct e-mail address.
 - Page 12: Add a comma after "i.e."
 - Page 12: Add a period after "none".
 - Page 13: Superfluous link to PDF generation site
- Remove references to Counsellors:
 - Page 6: Remove Section I.7
 - Page 7: Title of Article II
 - Page 7: Remove Section II.3, renumber following sections.
 - Page 7: Remove comment about non-voting members complementing Counsellors.
- Page 13: Update date and revision number

The changes to the Bylaws were agreed to by unanimous consent, subject to approval of the constitutional amendments by the Membership.

It was established that no additional election of officers would be necessary, with Prof. Trusler transitioning to Previous Chair and Dr. Kroenlein continuing to serve as Secretary following the Business Meeting.

4. Treasurer's report

Prof Trusler presented the present state of the IACT accounts. The current balance is £4851.98. Financial outlays for the account were 2 Junior Award winners, membership dues for IUPAC, webhosting fees for the IACT website, and partial support for the Rossini Lecture.

Support from Elsevier has been a traditional source of income, providing support for the Junior Award. There was substantial discussion of reinstating a registration levy, invoicing ICCT for fixed costs, identifying additional sponsors, and potentially removing IACT financial involvement in prizes. Simplifying accounting and maximizing the sustainability of the IACT financial model were identified as priorities of any change.

Substantial changes to financial strategy were tabled until the next Board Meeting, pending the results from outreach efforts.

5. Site for 2027 Conference

The process for identifying potential sites for the 2027 conference was discussed. There was uniform agreement that a Business Meeting should be held near the end of year to discuss potential candidates, with a call for proposals to be issued at the Business Meeting. A consensus deadline for proposals of October 31, 2023 was identified. Dr. Kroenlein would prepare a submission form to help guide submissions.