

MINUTES OF THE IFSEM GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA ON WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2002 at 3.30 pm

Present

IFSEM Executive Committee - Professors A Howie (President), A Maunsbach (Vice President), D Cockayne (General Secretary), A Engel, M Yacaman, C Carter, H Lichte, E Wisse, and Mr R Cross

[Apologies Professors Colliex, Shiojiri and Egerton]

Member Delegates - Professors B Griffin, A Spargo (Australia); P Schattschneider (Australia); J van Landuyt, D Schryvers (Belgium), W de Souza, G Sollorzano (Brazil); R Gauvin (Canada); H ye (China, Beijing); O Milat (Croatia); P Hozak (Czech and Slovak Republic); G Nihoul, J Thibault, J Putaux, S Marco (France); H Kohl, J Mayer, R Reichelt, J Zweg (Germany); Z Kristof (Hungary); G Rath (India); R Sperling, E Skutelsky (Israel); M Catalano (Italy); S Iijima, K Takayanagi, C Ide, K Furuya (Japan); H-C Lee (Korea); D Rios Jara (Mexico); L Ginsel, H Koerten (Netherlands); K Goldie (New Zealand); M Zabel (Poland); A Tholen, K Pihakaski-Maunsbach, H Hebert (Scandinavia); M Yeadon (Singapore); M Ceh (Slovenia); M Witcomb (South Africa); J Gonzalez-Calbet, M Luisa No (Spain); R Gotthardt, K Pulfer (Switzerland); J-J Kai (China, Taipei); P Vanittanakom (Thailand); S Daglioglu (Turkey); R Brydson, P Echlin, J Hutchison (United Kingdom); R Anderson, S McKernan, T Kelly, C Lyman (USA); G Gonzalez (Venezuela)

Associate Member Delegates – Professors K Hovnanyan (Armenia), A Ghallab (Egypt), A Ivanov (Latvia), B Matienco (Moldova).

Regional Member Delegates – Professor M Ng (CAPSEM), J Carascosa (EMS), G Solorzano (CIASEM)

Observers – the General Assembly accepted the presence of Professor W Baumeister (EMS), Dr W Hax (Trade), E Fischione (Trade), Dr Gao (Vietnam) and Professor L Peng (China) as observers.

1. Opening Remarks:-
The President welcomed delegates.
2. Minutes of the General Assembly of 1998
The Minutes of the General Assembly of IFSEM in Cancun in 1998 were accepted as correct.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes:-
The General Secretary reported that the required agreement between IFSEM and the Organising Committee of ICEM-15 had been put in place. The General Secretary reported that strenuous efforts had been made to obtain the details of the finances of the Dublin European EM Meeting of 1996, but without success.
4. Report on ICEM-15:-

Mr Robin Cross gave an overview of ICEM-15 to date. He thanked IFSEM for its assistance with the planning for the Conference; he reported that at 4 September there were 913 scientific delegates, 235 trade delegates and 53 accompanying delegates (total 1201 delegates). He reported that the Conference would make a profit, and that it expected to be in a position to subsidise scholarships for ICEM-16, or initiate an education trust, with approximately US\$15,000.

The President congratulated Mr Cross and his colleagues on the excellence of the Conference.

5 Vote Transfer :-

The General Assembly agreed to transfer the second votes of Canada and of Italy to their single delegates present.

6 Appointment of Tellers :-

Professor E Wisse and Mr R Cross were appointed Tellers. The list of official voting delegates was verified by the General Secretary against the posted list. There were 56 official voting delegates with 2 carrying additional votes (see 4 above), giving a total number of possible votes of 58.

7 Admission to Full Membership :-

The General Secretary reported that Armenia had applied for Full Membership of IFSEM. He reported that the Executive Committee had considered the application, and recommended its acceptance, effective from 1 January 2003. The application was accepted, with Armenia to have 1 vote.

8 Site for ICEM-16 :-

The General Secretary reported that China (Beijing), Japan, Australia and the USA had submitted bids for ICEM-16, and had made presentations previously to the delegates. At the first round of voting, the result was China (25), Japan (22), Australia (7), USA (4). Australia and USA were excluded from the second round by agreement, and the second round of voting resulted in Japan (30) and China (28). Sapporo, Japan was therefore selected as the venue for ICEM-16. The President reminded the Japanese delegation that an agreement between IFSEM and the Organising Committee had to be put in place.

9 Elections :-

The General Secretary listed the current Executive Committee membership and the vacancies that existed.

President: There were two nominations for President (Professors Cockayne and Iijima). The Japanese delegation, with the agreement of Professor Iijima, withdrew the nomination of Professor Iijima, so that he could concentrate upon the organisation of ICEM-16. Professor Cockayne was declared elected unopposed. He thanked the delegates, and he thanked Professor Iijima for his kind gesture.

General Secretary: The General Secretary advised that three nominations had been received for General Secretary (Professors Carter, Cockayne and Ng), and that

Professor Cockayne's nomination was now withdrawn because he had been elected President. Professor Carter was then elected with 35 votes, with Professor Ng receiving 23 votes.

Ordinary Members: As a result of the above elections, there were now 5 vacancies on the Executive Committee. The General Secretary reported that, by the deadline, only two nominations had been received (Professors Ng and Takayanagi) and so these two were declared elected unopposed. The Executive Committee had taken advice from members, and had nominated Professors Baumeister (Germany), Ciampor (Slovak Republic), de Souza (Brazil), Erlandesen (USA) and Vanittanakom (Thailand) for election. The General Assembly then elected Professors de Souza (45), Vanittanakom (33), and Baumeister (31) to the Executive Committee for 2003-10. Professor Ciampor received 30 votes and Professor Erlandesen received 29 votes.

10 Report on IFSEM Activities

The President reported on IFSEM activities over the past 4 years. He listed the many conferences and meetings which he and other members of the Executive Committee had attended, representing IFSEM. He referred to the close liaison between the Executive and the Organising Committee of ICEM-15, and particularly the 2 visits of the General Secretary and the Vice President to Durban as part of the planning process. He made particular mention of the efforts to have young scientists supported through scholarships for ICEM-15. He commented on the work of IFSEM in fostering microscopy in the less well-developed countries, and in preparing documents for consideration at this Congress on Trade representation and on a name change.

11 Discussion on Widening the Reach of IFSEM

The President reopened the discussion from the 1998 General Assembly concerning the need to involve all forms of microscopy, and especially scanned probe microscopies, in the activities of IFSEM. There was general agreement on this point, with discussion about how this might be best achieved.

12 IFSEM Constitution

Name Change - The General Secretary gave the background to a paper that he had sent to all members on a possible name change for IFSEM, in which the word "electron" would be dropped. He said that this proposal came from a discussion at the 1998 General Assembly, at which a "straw" vote indicated a majority of delegates to be in favour of this proposal. That General Assembly had directed Executive Committee to bring a paper on this proposal to the 2002 General Assembly, and this paper was before the Assembly. The General Secretary had checked with ICSU that this name change would be acceptable to ICSU.

In the discussion which followed, a number of delegates reported that the number of members in their societies was falling. There was also wide agreement that involving other microscopies in the meetings of IFSEM would have benefits. Professor Howie argued that to improve attractiveness of meetings to other microscopies, the wide range of microscopies needed to be present throughout the entire scientific programme of the meeting. Professor Catalano argued that the decision should wait

for more Societies to change their names, but Professor Gauvin believed that IFSEM should give a lead. Professor Nihoul said that France had changed its name 10 years ago, and that if IFSEM changed its name now, it would make scanned probe microscopies look more favourably on the activities of IFSEM. Professor Hozak urged the need to broaden interactions; Professor Kai said that in Taipei, China, the name change had not resulted in problems. Professor Echlin could see many advantages and no difficulties in changing the name. Professor Anderson reported that the SPM meeting of 2006 would be the last SPM meeting of its kind, and he thought that this offered an opportunity to IFSEM. Professor Daglioglu and Professor Iijima said that their countries had changed their names, in some cases with considerable opposition. Professor Takayanagi moved that the question be put to the vote

A vote was taken, and the General Assembly voted, with 37 in favour and 16 against, to accept the name change, with the name to be the International Federation of Societies of Microscopy abbreviated to IFSM. Further discussion about the name and acronym for the IFSM Congresses resulted in a vote being taken, resulting in acceptance of the title International Microscopy Conference (IMC) with the numbering to continue (i.e. the 2006 Congress to be IMC-16).

Trade Representation

The General Secretary summarised a paper which had been sent to all members, in which the proposal was made for the trade to have representation in IFSM. This document had been developed and considered by the Executive Committee, after extensive discussion with the trade. Dr Werner Hax and Mr Fischione were invited to speak to the proposal. They emphasised the role played in the microscopy community by the trade, and they urged the delegates to vote in favour of this proposal. After considerable discussion the General Assembly decided by a majority vote to change the constitution so that

1. a new member of IFSM should be included within IFSM - the IFSM Trade Group (ITG).
2. the ITG should be a full member of IFSM, with a number of voting rights set by IFSM from time to time.
3. there be a trade membership position on the IFSM Executive Committee. Nominations for this position are to come from the ITG to the General Assembly.
4. the sustaining membership fee of ITG on IFSM be set by IFSM. IFSM would set and collect this fee from the ITG, and all those companies which had contributed to the ITG fee would be members of the ITG (and no others would be members).

It was agreed that the necessary changes to the Constitution to allow for these changes should be agreed by post.

To implement these decisions, Dr Hax and Mr Fischione agreed to develop a constitution for the ITG, in discussion with the IFSM Executive. The General Assembly decided that this constitution should be in place within two years, and it

was agreed that once this ITG constitution was in place, and not before, the ITG could take up its position on the Executive Committee of IFSM.

After further discussion, the General Assembly decided by a majority vote that the annual IFSM membership fee for the ITG should be US\$7500 for 2003-6, and that the ITG should have a maximum of 3 delegates (votes) (to be determined), and that this fee should commence once the ITG representative was invited onto the Executive Committee.

The General Secretary undertook to send to members for discussion a revised draft Constitution to cover these points.

13 IFSEM Finances

(a) The General Secretary's Financial Report The General Secretary had distributed copies of the financial report for the four years to 31/12/01. He noted that the total IFSEM assets (held in two accounts) were US\$50,186.41 at 31/12/01, and US\$57,616.25 at 31/6/2002. This is an increase from US\$47,144.94 reported at the last General Assembly.

The General Secretary advised that one of the two elected auditors (Professor A Robards) had been unable to act as auditor for reasons of timing, and so, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, Professor P Echlin had replaced him. The General Assembly accepted this replacement.

The financial report had been examined by the Executive Committee and approved by the auditors, Professors P Echlin and R Gunter. The General Assembly approved the report.

(b) Projections 2003-8 and Annual Dues The General Secretary presented his budget proposals for 2003-8, which had been distributed to Members and to the Executive in advance. He proposed that the annual dues be increased by approximately 5% to balance the expected average annual expenses. He proposed annual dues of 1 vote US\$115, 2 votes US\$260, 3 votes US\$420, 4 votes US\$680. The General Assembly approved the General Secretary's budget proposals and the new dues effective from 2003.

14 Election of Two Auditors

The General Assembly thanked the two auditors, Professors Robards and Gunter, and the substitute auditor Professor Echlin. Professor Echlin was elected and Professor Gunter reelected for the period 2003-8.

15 Review of Regional Meetings

(a) CAPSEM 2000 Professor Ng reported on a very successful CAPSEM 2000 meeting, which had provided extensive financial support for young scientists to participate.

(b) EMS 2000 Professor Cockayne reported that the Brno meeting was extremely successful, with 1248 participants.

(c) CIASEM 2001 Professor Yacaman reported on a successful meeting with 600 participants.

16 Reports on Forthcoming Meetings

(a) EMS 2004 The General Secretary reported that this meeting, originally planned for Jerusalem, is now to take place in Belgium. Professor Sperling (Israel) explained why Israel had found it necessary to withdraw from the organization of this meeting, and the President thanked her and her colleagues for the efforts they had put into the early planning. Professor Schryvers outlined the plans for the meeting in Brussels.

(c) CIASEM 2003 Professors Solórzano and Yacaman advised that this meeting was to be held jointly with MSA. They also advised that CIASEM plans to bid for the ICM-2010 meeting for Rio.

17 Reports from Members

China, Taipei reported that it had dropped the word Electron from its Society's name.

18 Paper on Guidelines for IFSM Meetings

The General Secretary reported that Professor Egerton and Mr Cross had prepared a document on Guidelines for IFSM Meetings, which had been sent to Members. The General Assembly thanked them for this document, and agreed that it should become a Working Document of IFSM.


19 Other Business

Professor Gauvin reported that he had been elected President of the Microbeam Analysis Society. Professor Castellano raised the question of the rights of membership of IFSM of Regional Members. It was agreed that the Executive Committee of IFSM should prepare a paper for discussion at the next General Assembly.

20 Closing Remarks

Professor Maunsbach, Vice President, thanked Professor Howie on behalf of the General Assembly, for his outstanding service to IFSEM over the past 4 years, and he commented on his tireless efforts to visit member countries in support of their activities. The President, Professor Howie, on behalf of the General Assembly, thanked Mr Cross for the successful organization of ICEM-15. He then thanked Professors Yacaman, Wisse, Shiojiri and Engel and Mr Cross, the outgoing members of the Executive, for their services to IFSEM. He thanked the Vice President, Professor Maunsbach, for his distinguished service for IFSEM over a long period, and he thanked the General Secretary, Professor Cockayne, for organizing the General Assembly, and for his work as General Secretary over the past 8 years. Finally he thanked the delegates to the General Assembly for their constructive discussions, and he declared the General Assembly closed at 6.00pm.

Oxford, September 2002


8/6/04