



## Minutes of the meeting of the ICOS Board of Directors Barcelona, 9 September 2011

### Present:

Sheila Embleton (SE, chair), Terhi Ainiala (TA), Ian Clark (IC), Richard Coates (RC), Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch (BCK), Elwys De Stefani (EDS), Milan Harvalík (MH), Carole Hough (CH), Adrian Koopman (AK), Laura Kostanski (LK), Julia Kuhn (JK), André Lapierre (ALa), Antti Leino (ALe), Katharina Leibring (KL), Staffan Nyström (SN), Guy Puzey (GP, secretary).

### Apologies:

Lidia Becker (LB), Dieter Kremer (DK), Kaisa Rautio Helander (KRH).

## 1. Welcome

The chair, Sheila Embleton, called the meeting to order on Friday, 9 September 2011 at 13:35 (Central European Time). SE welcomed both the outgoing Board of Directors and the incoming Board of Directors. The composition of the incoming board is as follows:

- President: Carole Hough (Scotland)
- Vice-President: Richard Coates (England)
- Vice-President: Milan Harvalík (Czech Republic)
- Secretary: Guy Puzey (Scotland)
- Treasurer: Staffan Nyström (Sweden)
- Assistant Secretary and Web Officer: Antti Leino (Finland)

Non-executive members:

- Terhi Ainiala (Finland)
- Lidia Becker (Germany)
- Ian Clark (Australia)
- Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch (Poland)
- Laura Kostanski (Australia)
- Kaisa Rautio Helander (Norway)

## 2. Matters arising from the General Assembly

### Membership cut-off prior to GA

The deadline for membership registration prior to the General Assembly had been set as late as possible: 48 hours in advance. Some people would have liked to join at the very start of the General Assembly.

### Multilingualism in ICOS newsletters

One matter arising from the General Assembly was the issue of ICOS policy on multilingual publication of its official communications to members. ICOS newsletters used to be sent out in English, French and German but were now in English only. This had been discussed at the Board meeting in Amsterdam in 2009. As translation takes time and delays the release of communications, it was unanimously decided in Amsterdam that the minutes of Board meetings should be circulated in English only, and this policy has since been extended to the whole newsletter. Strong feelings were expressed on this matter at the General Assembly, so this is a matter for the incoming Board to reconsider at their first full meeting.

It was stressed that the outgoing Board had been thinking of the practicalities surrounding multilingual communications, but it was acknowledged that the symbolic aspect of multilingualism was important. AK stressed that ICOS has three official languages (English, French and German), so it appears inconsistent if we generally only use one of them. CH felt that ICOS does not necessarily have to communicate everything in all three languages; communications can use any one of these languages. SE noted that ad hoc interpretation had been provided where possible at the General Assembly. RC reminded members of the Board that simultaneous interpretation had been provided at the Pisa General Assembly, but this was not entirely satisfactory.

SE outlined the policy regarding language use in Congress papers. The three official languages are offered at all Congresses, but Congress organisers may add others. For example, Pisa had included Italian, Toronto had included Spanish and Portuguese, and Barcelona had extended to Catalan, Occitan and Spanish. It was queried whether the Board should make clearer guidelines for Congress organisers regarding the number of additional languages.

It was felt that a survey of members' opinions on this language policy issue may be useful in discussing these important issues. If decided upon at the next Board meeting, a survey should be announced to members in due course.

### **3. Information exchange between the ICOS Board and members in charge of flagship activities of ICOS**

#### Congress organisers

There was no immediate need for information exchange with the organisers of the next ICOS Congress in Glasgow, as the principal organiser (CH) is the incoming President of the Board of Directors.

#### Editorial Board

The question was raised as to whether Congress organisers and the *Onoma* editor-in-chief should attend all ICOS Board meetings, essentially as co-opted members of the Board of Directors and not necessarily commenting only on their own agenda items. The Editorial Board of *Onoma* already agreed to this in their meeting earlier in the week, during the Barcelona Congress. It was resolved that it would be up to the incoming ICOS Board of Directors to make a decision regarding changing the standing rules.

## Bibliography and Terminology groups

The incoming Board of Directors approved the membership of the new members of the two working groups. The new members are Irena Kałużyńska (Poland) and Yolanda G. Lopez Franco (Mexico).

## **4. Any other business**

### Publication dates of *Onoma*

IC raised the problem of the date that appears in delayed issues of *Onoma*. If the date printed does not state the actual year of publication, e.g. 2009 [2011], it can be difficult for authors to receive funding in respect of their contributions. It was resolved that this matter would need to be taken to the Editorial Board. **(Action: EDS)**

### Social media

Following a request at the General Assembly, ALe informed the Board that a ICOS Facebook page had been created overnight. The Board thanked ALe for this initiative and for the maintenance of the ICOS website, including the very rapid update following the General Assembly.

### T-shirts

Members of the Board had seen one Barcelona Congress delegate wearing an ICOS T-shirt on the excursion, and it was suggested that the creation of an ICOS T-shirt may be a worthwhile future initiative.

### 2012 Board meeting

Carole Hough, the incoming President, asked for Board members' opinions on how to proceed with future meetings. Over the past three years there have been two face-to-face meetings and one via Skype, with the meetings in Amsterdam and Glasgow planned to coincide with onomastic conferences (Names in the Economy III at the Meertens Instituut in Amsterdam, and Trends in Toponymy 4 at the University of Edinburgh, a short distance from Glasgow). It was felt that an initial face-to-face meeting was very valuable for a new Board.

A variety of locations were suggested for the next meeting in 2012, and it was decided to conduct an online poll to select the venue. **(Action: GP)**

AK pointed out that not everyone needs to attend the meeting if they are unable to do so, as some could attend through Skype. LK mentioned that there are excellent videoconferencing facilities at the University of Ballarat that she and IC can use.

### Board handover

The chair and outgoing President, Sheila Embleton, handed over to incoming President Carole Hough, who thanked SE and the outgoing Board members for doing such a commendable job over the past three years.

CH closed the meeting at 14:10 (Central European Time).

Guy Puzey  
Secretary  
9 September 2011