



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING  
DEBRECEN, 1 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:**

Milan Harvalík (MH, chair), Paula Sjöblom (PS, chair), Emilia Aldrin (EA), Lidia Becker (LB), Urszula Bijak (UB), Alina Bugheşiu (AB), Alice Crook (AC), Artur Gałkowski (AG), Lasse Hämäläinen (LH), Unni-Päivä Leino (UPL, Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*), Staffan Nyström (SN), Valéria Tóth (VT).

**APOLOGIES:** Richard Coates (RC), Oliviu Felecan (OF), Nobuhle Hlongwa (NH), Adrian Koopman (AK), Alexandra Petrulevich (AP), Guy Puzey (GP), Evgeny Shokhenmayer (ES).

**1. WELCOME**

The chair, Milan Harvalík, called the meeting to order on Friday 1 September 2017 at 17:30 local time (15:30 GMT). He thanked the outgoing Board for the collaboration throughout the past term of office and wished the incoming Board success in all its activities.

**2. APOLOGIES**

The chair made several announcements under this section listing the members of the outgoing and incoming Boards who were unable to attend the meeting: RC, OF, NH, AK, AP, GP, and ES.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (DEBRECEN, 27 SEPTEMBER 2017)**

The outgoing Board approved the minutes and agreed on their publication on the ICOS website.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA**

PS, as the new President, took over as chair of the meeting. She thanked the former President for all his work in this position.

Two main items were recorded on the agenda by PS:

1. Deciding on the chairs of the two working groups of ICOS and the election of the new Editorial Board of *Onoma*;
2. Agreeing on the date of the following meeting.

AC added that she could present the report about the first meeting of the ICOS young scholars' network.

The agenda was approved.

## **5. ICOS TERMINOLOGY GROUP**

MH proposed AG as chair of the Terminology Group of ICOS. AG agreed to fill in this position and the Board approved the nomination.

AG said he would contact the members of the former group to see whether they wish to continue their collaboration. He will ask some new members of ICOS to be part of the group as well. Thus, the updated configuration of the group will be indicated in the following months and further discussions about the group will be held during the next meeting.

## **6. ICOS BIBLIOGRAPHY GROUP**

On behalf of OF (the former chair of the Bibliography Group), LB summed up the ideas advanced and examined at the meeting of the group on 28 September 2017. The conclusion of the aforementioned meeting was that the group would have to be seriously restructured and its currently working platform (i.e., Zotero) would have to include a category for links to national data bases.

OF nominated ES as chair of the new group. LB confirmed that ES had accepted and the Board approved. In his new position, ES took on the tasks of talking with the members of the new group about the establishment of certain rules to facilitate the activity of IBOS and the creation of specialised small subgroups within IBOS. Everyone agreed with this plan.

## **7. ELECTION OF THE NEW EDITORIAL BOARD OF *ONOMA***

The only aspect discussed under this item referred to MH's nominating OF as a new member of the Editorial Board of *Onoma*. The ICOS Board approved.

## **8. ICOS YOUNG SCHOLARS' NETWORK**

AC presented the following report, which was well received by the Board:

“The first meeting of the ICOS student/early career researcher network was held on Monday 28th August. 22 people were in attendance, and I have since had 2 emails of apology from students who had hoped to be there. 15 of us went for dinner afterwards.

### **Facebook group**

We discussed the importance of keeping in contact between congresses, and decided the most efficient way of doing this would be through a private Facebook group. I have the names of all those in attendance at the meeting and have permission to add them all to a Facebook group once one is set up. Any Board members who are members of the group will be given administrator rights. Once the Facebook group is established, any new student members of ICOS can be sent a link to the group and an admin can approve their invite request.

We plan the Facebook group to be a place for: introductions, discussions of upcoming workshops and conferences, discussion of various onomastic sources and tools, and space to advertise research/projects (e.g. publication of PhD theses, calls for papers). We also plan a GoogleDoc, to be ‘pinned’ to the top of the Facebook group, where all members can add their own personal details (e.g. research interests, affiliation, email address). This means any new members to the group can open the document and see who in the group has similar research interests, for example.

Since network members will be sharing details of conferences/workshops etc., Board members should take note of any items for inclusion in the newsletter and pass these to the secretary.

### **Workshops/conferences**

We discussed the idea of holding student workshops or conferences in non-congress years, and this was mostly well received. It was thought that such events might be annual, and Josefin Devine suggested that the first event could be a web conference, held via Skype or YouTube, with various students/ECRs presenting papers over the internet. She seemed open to the idea of being the main organiser of such an event.

It is worth noting here that, at the General Assembly on Friday 1st September, Peder Gammeltoft suggested funding student workshops, so perhaps this is an area that some of ICOS's excess money could be used.

### **Prizes/competitions**

I raised the idea of an annual essay competition, with a monetary prize (possibly €100) and, if the editorial team thought the piece suitable, an offer of publication in *Onoma*. Though some attendees thought this a good idea, others thought it would be unfair to judge, say, a first year postgraduate student's essay against that of a fourth year, and also noted potential issues with translation.

The poster competition which was run at the Glasgow congress (with a €100 prize) was spoken of positively, and it was thought that it could potentially be revived for future congresses.

### **Conference fees**

We discussed the student conference fees and it was thought that these could be further subsidised by ICOS if possible. To encourage congress participation, it was suggested that students would not have to pay a congress registration fee if they were presenting a paper or taking part in a poster competition (and would pay the usual reduced rate if they were not offering a paper/poster).

[After the General Assembly on Friday 1st September, I spoke with an early career researcher who was not at the student network meeting: she suggested that these proposed changes to student fees should also apply to ECRs, given the difficulty in gaining funding and that ECRs are often un- or under-employed.]

### **Mentoring schemes**

One participant suggested ICOS begin a mentoring scheme similar to that run by the Medieval Academy of America. From their website:

- "Students and scholars sign up for the program and the organizers pair individual students and scholars according to discipline and, where possible, specialization. These exchanges are intended as a form of dissertation and career advising."

- "The intent of the mentorship exchanges is for experienced scholars to welcome and briefly connect with newer members of the medievalist community and to help facilitate social and professional interaction. The mentorship program thus offers students an additional opportunity to expand their professional network beyond their own academic institution. The initial extent of the commitment would be for mentees and mentors to meet for a brief conversation at an agreed-upon time during the conference in question. The continuation of the mentor relationship after the conference is at the discretion of the parties involved."

Even if a full mentoring scheme was not set up, ICOS could potentially organise a 'buddy system', where first-time attendees were paired with a willing scholar at congresses: someone to greet them on arrival, introduce them to people at coffee breaks, and so forth."

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The following meeting of the new Board will be held in Helsinki in winter (February 2018).

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

PS asked whether there is the need to establish other working groups within ICOS. UPL stated that the Assistant Secretary and Web Officer could be the head of a larger working group responsible with this area of ICOS activity. In this context, AC could provide help with the social media and UPL with the ICOS website. The idea was appreciated by the Board, especially since ICOS is facing a challenge as regards its visibility on social media, as GP pointed out in the report he submitted as Assistant Secretary and Web Officer for the General Assembly.

SN suggested that a working group for publicity could be set up, similar to the one that exists within UNGEGN. This group draws up brochures, contacts the press/media, spreads news related to the organisation and its activity. In a nutshell, this small group would promote ICOS and produce information material in this respect. AG added that the group should include members working in French and German. The Board agreed with this proposal.

Both aforementioned ideas are to be considered by the Board members until the following meeting and will be further examined on that occasion.

As there were no other matters falling under this item on the agenda, PS thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 17:53 local time (15:53 GMT) on Friday, 1 September 2017.

Alina Bugheşiu  
Secretary  
(1 September 2017)