

**Minutes of the DHST Council Meeting  
Princeton, 9 December 2017**

Present: Mike Osborne (President); Marcos Cueto (President Elect); Angela Creager (First Vice-President); Luiz Carlos Soares (Second Vice-President); Catherine Jami (Secretary General); Milada Sekyrkova (Treasurer), Takehiko Hashimoto (Assistant Secretary General); Greg Good, Krishnamurthi Ramasubramanian (Assessors). Benedikt Loewe (Secretary General, DLMPST).

Apologies: Gavan McCarthy, Maria Rentetzi, Sergey Shalimov, Liba Taub (Assessors).

**1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved unanimously.

**2. Secretary General's report**

The Secretary General read her report, which was approved unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer read her report, which was approved unanimously. The Council thanked the Society of History of Science and Technology of the Czech Republic, who has accepted to take custody of the DHST funds from January 2018 until a bank account in the name of DHST is opened in Paris. The Council thanked the Secretary General for the help she gave the Treasurer in preparing her report as well as the financial overview for 2017 and the budget for 2018.

Concerning the payment of membership dues, the Council examined the requests made by two Ordinary Members to pay members' dues corresponding to the category below the one to which they belong following the vote of the General Assembly in 2009 (which decides on an Ordinary Member's category based on the GDP of the country they represent). Spain's request to pay the membership dues of category B until 2021 was granted. Turkey's request to pay membership dues of category A until 2021 was granted. It was reminded that the Council only has power to make temporary decisions, which must be reviewed in 2021 by the next DHST Council.

The President-Elect was commissioned to write to the officers of the Cuban Society of History of Science to discuss with them the issue of payment of Cuba's membership dues. The Secretary General was likewise asked to liaise with GEWINA to discuss the same matter concerning the Netherlands.

The Council noted that due to health issues currently being experienced by the former Treasurer the list of addresses to which annual invoices must be sent has not yet been transferred to the new Treasurer. The Council, particularly the Secretary General, President, and current Treasurer are working to reconstitute and update this list. The

Secretary General is working on this issue, starting from from now dated materials. The three members of the Executive Committee named above are now working to secure the most recent list from the former Treasurer and collect all other relevant DHST records so that invoices can be sent out for 2018 dues in a timely manner.

#### **4. DHST Commissions: reports for 2017 and financial requests for 2018**

The Council examined the reports and financial requests sent by 23 of the 24 commissions and sections of DHST. Grants were allocated (see appended table) following the rules that are reminded to commissions and sections every year. These include the following points:

- Up to USD 300 can be allocated for running costs.
- Up to USD 600 can be allocated for setting up, updating and maintaining the website which each commission or section is expected to have.
- Up to USD 1,500 can be allocated for support to conferences, on the condition that this sum is entirely devoted to helping early career scholars attend the conference for which support is requested.

The council agreed on the following rules the following rules to be observed with respect to the DHST funds utilized to support conferences:

- In future reports, commissions and sections must state the names of supported young scholars, and the sum received by each of them.
- The logo of DHST should appear on the website and documents of any conference that receives support from DHST through its commissions and sections.
- Funding given by DHST to its commissions and sections may not be used towards supporting their officers' travel expenses, or for projects individually undertaken by officers.

The Council further asked that individual publications of commission and section officers and members should no longer be listed in commission and section reports; in the future these reports should mention only events and publications resulting from a collective initiative of commission or section members. The DHST Council will revise the report template in future cycles to reflect this decision. The Secretary General and Treasurer were commissioned to transmit to each commission and section comments on their report regarding the above points.

The Council was informed that the Commission on the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy (CHAMA) has taken steps to be registered under French law. Council members envisaged the possibility of recommending that all Commissions and Sections should likewise become legal entities. This point is to be taken up at the next Council meeting as part of a review of the Guidelines for Commissions and Sections written in 2013; the President will prepare this discussion.

#### **5. Preparation for the 26th ICHST**

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has chosen the dates of the Congress: 25 -31 July 2021. Premises have been booked: the Rudolphinum for plenary sessions and for the DHST General Assembly, the Faculty of Law of Charles University for parallel sessions; this building has 30 rooms, which allows for 30 sessions to run in parallel. The Congress theme is under discussion. The President and President-Elect, in no way questioning the wisdom of the Local Organizing Committee, asked if the theme of

health, disease, and healing, or the word ‘medicine’ might in some fashion be included in the theme of the conference.

As for the 25th ICHST, a memorandum of cooperation will be signed between the Society that organizes the Congress and DHST. The 8th European Society for the History of Science Conference (ESHS) (London, 14-17 September 2018) will provide an opportunity for representatives of the Society and of DHST to sign this agreement.

It is expected that the registration fee for the 26th ICHST will not be significantly higher than for the 25th ICHST.

Petr Svobodny, President of the Society of History of Science and Technology of the Czech Republic, will serve as Chair of the LOC. A contract has been signed with Garant International, who already worked on the ESHS Conference in 2016. Garant will produce a brochure for the Congress ready for distribution by the ESHS Conference to be held in London in September 2018. This brochure will be reviewed by the Council prior to distribution. The DHST Council thanked the Treasurer in the Czech Republic and her colleagues for their expertise and pro-active efforts.

It was reminded that the Chair of the International Programme Committee, to be nominated in 2018, must be based outside the Czech Republic.

#### **6. Relations with DLMPST and Joint Commission**

The Secretary General of DLMPST reminded the Council of the excellent work done by Hasok Chang (University of Cambridge) who serves as President of the DHST-DLMPST Joint Commission (2016-2019). He suggested that cooperation between the two divisions should also bear on points of common interests beyond those covered by the activities of the Joint Commission. He invited the Council to consider setting up a DHST session at the next DLMPST Congress, to be held in Prague 5-10 August 2019, and suggested the methodology of history of science as a possible topic for such a session. DLMPST Congresses are usually attended by 700 to 900 persons.

#### **7. ICSU**

Following the vote of the ICSU General Assembly in Taipei in October 2017, the ICSU-ISSC merger is going ahead. The founding General Assembly of the new joint body, the International Science Council (ISC), will take place in Paris, 3-5 July 2018. The DHST Secretary General will attend it. The DLMPST Secretary General stressed the importance of IUHPST being represented on the governing body of ISC. There will be a call for nominations, and an election committee will be set up. He explained that, following the concerns expressed by ICSU unions as regards the status of unions within the new Council, as distinct from international associations, there will be several categories of members. The DHST Council has been fortunate to have the active, diligent, and attentive collaboration of DLMPST and has profited from its interactions with the current DLMPST Secretary General.

#### **8. Relations with the International Academy of History of Science (IAHS)**

A message from Liba Taub, DHST Council Assessor and Vice-President of IAHS, was read to Council members. In it she mentioned that the Council of IAHS was meeting in Paris on the same day as the Council met in Princeton; she had planned to attend the latter, but was prevented from doing so by illness. She noted that the

agendas of the two meetings had some points in common. Finally, she proposed to act as a liaison between DHST and IAHS, which the Council gratefully accepted.

#### **9. CIPSH**

After the World Humanities Conference (Liège 6-12 August 2017), the CIPSH General Assembly will next convene in Xiamen on 16-17 April 2018 on the occasion of the Global Humanities Festival. It was reminded that Xiaochun Sun (University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, former DHST Council assessor) represents DHST on the Executive Committee of CIPSH. The DHST Secretary General attended the Liège conference and has been monitoring the status of CIPSH and the issue of its links with UNESCO on behalf of the DHST Council.

#### **10. Registration of DHST as a legal entity**

The Secretary General reported that she has undertaken to register DHST in Paris under French law. This entails compiling an up-to-date list of DHST Ordinary Members, as well as translating the minutes of the Rio General Assembly into French. Once these and a few other documents have been prepared, the application for registration will be submitted online. A bank account will then be opened.

#### **11. 2021 Young Scholars Prize**

Considering that the YSP Prize can be most useful to young scholars at the time when they are in search of a position, the Council decided to issue two calls for submission, and to award up to 3 prizes in 2019 and up to 3 prizes in 2021. The winners of both years will be invited to present their work at the Prague Congress. The President proposed to require that awardees (inclusive of any honorable mention awards) be required to write a short blog entry for the DHST website as part of acceptance of any awards. The Council decided that given the heavy load of work on the Secretary General and the Treasurer (who also serves as liaison with the 26th ICHST LOC), they would be excused from taking part in the Prize selection committees in both 2019 and 2021. They may, however, in virtue of their intellectual and linguistic competencies be consulted about appropriate reviews of dissertations. The first call for applications should be opened shortly.

#### **12. Expanding DHST Ordinary Membership**

The Secretary General suggested that a regional approach be taken to the contacting of potential new Ordinary Members of DHST. The President-Elect will follow up on contacts initiated or enhanced in several South-American countries on the occasion of the Rio Congress. Efforts could also be made in Portuguese-speaking African countries and to reestablish secure contacts in Mexico. He also proposed to compile a brochure presenting DHST and what the advantages of membership are, which the Council gratefully accepted. The Council requested Krishnamurthi Ramasubramanian to reestablish contact with Pakistan, and Sergey Shalimov to further links with Central Asian countries on behalf of DHST.

#### **13. DHST website**

The Secretary General presented the state of the new DHST website, which needs to be updated and further developed. It was decided to appoint a Website Committee within the Council, so that the task should not entirely fall on the Secretary General. The Committee includes the Secretary General as well as the President Elect and

Assessor Krishnamurthi Ramasubramanian. The latter proposed the help of the system administrator of his Department.

Following a request of the Chair of the German National Committee, the Council deliberated and concluded that it was not feasible for DHST to host a website for each of its Ordinary Members. It was suggested instead that more information on Ordinary Members could be given on the webpage where they are listed, possibly on the model of the DLMPST website. Council members expressed concern over the labour involved which has heretofore impacted the Secretary General.

The possibility of storing on the DHST website the books of abstracts of past congresses was discussed. In principle the Council is in favour of this; however liaising with the Commission on Bibliography and Documentation on this matter is indispensable, as they may well have worked on these materials with the same kind of goal in the past.

The Council also decided to take steps to ensure that some of the candidates who stand for election to the DHST Council in 2021 are ready to take up the role of webmaster, and to propose to the next General Assembly to change the statutes so as to include the post of Webmaster among Council members.

#### **14. Accessibility of DHST Archives and materials to be added to these**

The Council requested Assessor Greg Good to draft a document stating the best practices as regards archiving documents, and to correspond with the Treasurer on this matter, so that the Council can discuss their proposal during its next meeting. The Secretary General should then prepare to archive materials for 2013-2017. She was also charged to liaise with the two past Presidents to ensure that their archives are sent to CAPHES.

#### **15. Calendar of DHST Council tasks 2017-2021**

The Secretary General presented the main duties of the Council during the coming years. These include the nomination of the Chair of the International Programme Committee of the 26th ICHST, which should be done in agreement with the LOC. Nominations to be made include that of chair for the Nominations Committee, and a new President of the Joint Commission, to serve in 2020 and 2021. It is desirable that this last nomination be received in time to enable this person may attend the Joint Commission Symposium at the DLMPST Congress.

#### **16. Other matters**

The Council commissioned the First Vice-President to draft a document stating the DHST's Respectful behaviour policy for our future congresses. This document will be discussed at the next Council meeting, finalised in agreement with the 26th ICHST LOC, and posted on the Congress website as well as on the DHST website.

The dates and venues of the Council meetings in 2018 and 2019 were discussed. There was a consensus regarding the possibility of the Council being held on a Sunday instead of a Saturday, depending on where it would be held.

In 2018, the Council meeting will be held during the weekend 8-9 December 2018. The venue will be chosen in January 2018, once the President receives confirmation as to the possibility of holding the meeting as well as a public event in Portland, Oregon. Other possible venues include Athens, Delhi and Tokyo. The DHST Council expressed thanks to those who have offered to host the next meeting. It also thanked the First Vice-President for hosting us in Princeton this year.

In 2019, the Council meeting will be held in Prague, together with a joint meeting with the 26th ICHST LOC, during the weekend 7-8 December 2019.