

Minutes of the DHST Council meeting Athens, December 18, 2009

Venue: National Hellenic Research Foundation

Present: Liu Dun (President), Ronald Numbers (Past-President), Paolo Brenni (1st Vice-President), Michael Osborne (2nd Vice-President), Efthymios Nicolaidis (Secretary General), Catherine Jami (Treasurer), Karine Chemla (Assistant Secretary General), Frank James (Assessor), Pablo Lorenzano (Assessor), Alexey Postnikov (Assessor), Annette Vogt (Assessor).

Maria Darmou (HPDST Programme of the NHRF) provided assistance to the meeting.

The President Liu Dun welcomed the participants, thanked the hosts of the meeting and opened the session.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Secretary General's report

(See document attached).

E. Nicolaidis summarized his report.

Following last years DHST policy to bring together history of science societies from as many countries as possible, a lunch has been organized with representatives of the societies who will attend the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS) conference, November 2010, in Barcelona.

3. Treasurer's report

(See document attached).

Catherine Jami presented the accounts as she has received them from previous treasurer, Ida Stamhuis. She also presented a tentative budget for 2010. Ida Stamhuis will send the final accounts early in 2010.

C. Jami explained the difficulties to obtain a DHST account in France. The legal solution is to constitute together with the assistant secretary general Karine Chemla, a "société à but non lucratif, régie par la loi 1901". This society will hold an account on behalf of DHST. C. Jami expects that the account will be opened before March 2010.

4 Financial requests for 2010 and reports for 2009 of DHST Commissions.

The Council discussed the financial requests of the Commissions for 2010, in relation with the reports of activity the commissions have sent and also the financial reports for the spending of 2010 grants.

17 Commissions have sent a report, some of them very detailed (see document attached). These 17 Commissions have also applied for a grant. The total amount allocated for 2010 is \$25,900 (see document attached).

It has been decided to divide the total amount of \$10,000 that will be given as seed money to the Manchester Congress, and to send one forth of it every year (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013) to the LOC, i.e. \$2,500.

The Council decided to propose to the next General Assembly in 2013 in Manchester:

- a) to abolish the Scientific Section “History of Metrology” because it has not been active since more than 10 years
- b) that the scientific section IASCUD (Cultural diversity) becomes a Commission.

5 Implementation of the new rules for annual fees (General Assembly decision)

The Council discussed the requests of Ireland, Netherlands, Poland and Turkey and decided the following:

- 1) To accept Poland’s request to postpone the higher due for one year.
- 2) To accept that Ireland remains category A in 2010 and to ask Irish NC to make an effort to upgrade to category B next year.
- 3) To accept that Turkey remains category A in 2010 and to ask Turkish NC to make an effort to upgrade to category B next year.
- 4) To accept that Netherlands pay 400 Euros for 2010 and to ask Dutch NC to make an effort to upgrade to category C next year.

6 Relations with DLMPS and new Joint agreement

The Council discussed the memorandum of cooperation proposed by the president of DLMPS Wilfrid Hodges. It has been pointed out that the relations between the two Divisions are very friendly but that no action has been undertaken during the last 4 years in order to implement the previous joint agreement. Past President Ronald Numbers explained that, following the discussions at the meeting with the officials of DLMPS in Budapest, he expected a much more simple agreement. It has been decided that Ronald Numbers will prepare a short memorandum to be sent for agreement to DLMPS. The spirit of this memorandum will be that each division appoints à tour de rôle a colleague for a two years period, who will be in charge to organize an event in the years between DHST and DLMPS Congresses. This event aims to bring together historians and philosophers of science. At the Congress of each division, the sister division is invited to organize a Symposium.

7 Relations with ICSU and CIPSH.

The Council appointed the Assistant Secretary General Karine Chemla as the contact person for ICSU affairs and as DHST representative to ICSU.

The President Liu Dun related his experience from his attendance to ICSU G.A. two years ago, and pointed out the necessity to nominate a candidate for ICSU Council. ICSU has only three Unions members which do not belong to the field of exact sciences, and the chances that the DHST candidate be elected are high.

8 Approval of the agreement for the keeping of DHST Archives at the CAPHES

The secretary general asked the CAPHES to prepare an agreement following the French law. A similar agreement has just been signed between the CAPHÉS and the International Academy of History of Science. The Council asked C. Jami to translate into English the IAHS-CAPHÉS agreement and to circulate it among its members for final approval by e-mail.

The question of the keeping of electronic Archives has been discussed: what and how to keep in the long term electronic Archives?

The Council decided to ask the new (and provisional, see Budapest G.A. minutes, 2nd session, No 5) Commission of the history of computers for advice on, and possibly to work on, the problem of keeping the electronic archives of DHST.

9 Report on the new Vade Mecum

Ronald Numbers reported on the meeting he had the previous day with E. Nicolaidis and R. Halleux. The complete list of the decisions taken by DHST Council and DHST G.A. after the publication of the *Vade Mecum* in 2001 has been discussed during the meeting. R. Numbers presented the mainlines of the revision. The Council delegated Past-President Numbers to elaborate a draft of the new *Vade Mecum*. The Council will then verify the new text to be approved during the next Council meeting as the one having official value for DHST affairs.

It has been decided that in the future, all changes approved by the General Assembly will be immediately incorporated in the statutes of DHST.

10 Preparations of the Manchester Congress

Frank James reported on the preparations of Manchester Congress.

The following decisions have been taken:

- Theme of the Congress: “knowledge at work”.
- Language Presentations may be given in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic. Abstracts can be submitted in any of these languages, but must be accompanied by a French or English translation and the language of presentation will need to be stated at the time of submission.

Official documents for the congress will be in English only,

- The President of the Programme Committee will establish a small Programme advisory panel.

Frank James also presented a complete timetable (see document attached).

The Council warmly thanked the President of the LOC and declared that it is confident that our British colleagues will organize a very successful Congress.

11 Nomination of a President of the Programme Committee.

Frank James in his capacity of President of the LOC proposed Ronald Numbers to be appointed by the Council as President of the Programme Committee. The Council unanimously supported the proposal and asked Ronald Numbers to accept the nomination.

12 DHST website and new brochure

The secretary general explained that Fabio Bevilacqua has agreed to keep the DHST website. Bevilacqua founded and developed the DHST site with his own means and money raised by his own research programmes. The Council thanked F. Bevilacqua for his precious contribution and would like to continue this relationship.

In order to help Fabio Bevilacqua main the website, the Council allocated 2010 \$1,000. This was not requested by Dr. Bevilacqua but the Council felt they should offer minimal funding to maintain this important project. The Council also appointed F. Bevilacqua as an expert, and to invited him to participate in its subsequent meetings.

The Council then discussed publicity needs and reflected on the tradition of its printed newsletter. President Liu Dun offered to produce in China anew DHST brochure. It estimated that about 3,000 copies would suffice for distribution, and it was agreed that the brochure would also be available in PDF format.

The Council decided that a general DHST Newsletter is a redundant exercise. The life of the DHST depends on the vitality of its commissions and the quality of its

Congresses. Communication with the public and outreach activities are assured through the Commission websites, newsletters, and other publications. The DHST website has links to all Commissions having a website and an electronic Newsletter.

13 Nomination of a committee to establish rules for the running of DHST Commissions

The Council appointed Paolo Brenni, Michael Osborne, Catherine Jami and Karine Chemla as members of a Committee to review Commission activities and establish minimum rules for the running of the Commissions. The secretary general has asked the relevant Commission officers to send a brief report on their rules of procedure and most of them have replied. These rules will be forwarded to the Committee which will report to the next Council meeting

14 Procedure for the 2013 DHST Prize for Young Scholars

The Council decided to reformulate the scope of the Young Scholars Prize according to the experience accumulated during the last application cycle. The Prize will be awarded to up to 5 historians of science and technology for an outstanding doctoral thesis, without specifying the cultural fields as before. This gives the Prize Committee some flexibility to award more than one prize for a specific field history of science or technology. The Council reiterated its desire to maintain the broadest possible coverage of subjects and chronology with Prize recognitions, but this alteration of procedure will facilitate recognition of quality work when the Committee receives several outstanding dissertations in one field and none or very few in another (see document attached).

The 2013 DHST Young Scholars Prize award ceremony will be chaired by DHST President, Liu Dun.

15 Venue of next Council

As many members of the Council are planning to attend ESHS conference next November in Barcelona, it has been proposed to try to organise the next meeting during this occasion. The Council accepted the proposal and remarked that some traditional dates (as the deadline for commissions reports and requests) should next year be shortened by a period of about one month, in order to have time to prepare the Council, which traditionally takes place mid-December.

It has also been proposed that 2011 Council meeting will take place in Beijing and 2012 in Manchester.

The President Liu Dun thanked again members of the DHST Council for their participation, especially the assessors, remarking that it is the first time that so many assessors (four out of six) are participating to the Council, and declares the session closed. The group also recognized and thanked Professor Nicolaidis and his team for their organizational skills, attention to detail, and continued service to the DHST.

All the decisions were taken unanimously.