

Minutes of the DHST Council Meeting

Beijing, 12 December 2015

Venue: Friendship Hotel, Beijing

Present: Efthymios NICOLAIDIS (President), Lesley CORMACK (1st Vice-president), Jean GAYON (2nd Vice-president), Mike OSBORNE (President Elect), Catherine JAMI (Secretary General), Jeffrey HUGHES (Treasurer), Annette VOGT (Assistant Secretary General); Takehiko HASHIMOTO, Maija KALLINEN, Krishnamurthi RAMASUBRAMANIAN, Luiz Carlos SOARES, SUN Xiaochun (Council Members)

Menachem MAGIDOR (DLMPST President elect)

Apologies: Frank JAMES (Council Member)

The President welcomed all those present, and thanked the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology and the School of Humanities of the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences for their hospitality, and Sun Xiaochun and his team for making all the arrangements for the meeting.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Secretary General's report

The Secretary General read her report (see attached document 1). The report was approved unanimously, subject to the correction of a few typos.

3. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented his report, commented on the overview of DHST accounts for the year 2015, and presented a budget for 2016 (see attached document 2). The report was approved subject to the correction of a figure, and the budget accepted, in both cases unanimously.

The Council also asked the Treasurer and the Secretary General to work together on establishing a list of National Committees who had not paid their membership fees for several years, and the Treasurer to review the GDP of member countries, so that the Council could discuss possible action regarding membership fees in the light of that information. The Council will discuss these next year, in preparation of the Rio General Assembly. The Council also asked L. C. Soares (Council member) to establish a list of national history of science societies in Latin America, so as to take the opportunity of the next Congress being held there to try and acquire new members in that part of the world.

4. DHST Commissions: reports for 2015 and financial requests for 2016

The Treasurer presented the Commissions' reports for 2015 and financial requests for 2016. He noted that most reports are of very high quality, reflecting the fact that commissions are very active. The grants were allocated (see attached document 3) following the usual rules: the maximum allocation to each commission is of USD 300 for running costs, USD 600 for website, USD 1,500 for support to young scholars' participation in conferences.

The Council discussed the template for Commission reports prepared by the Treasurer, and approved its use for next year's reports. It also asked the Treasurer to warn Commissions in January 2016 that this template would be used henceforth, and that in the future, they would be requested to submit electronic copies of the invoices corresponding to their use of the DHST's yearly grant. This is due to the increasingly frequent requests for explanations of international bank transfers that the Treasurer receives from the bank where the DHST funds are deposited.

5. Relations with DLMPST and Joint Commission

J. Gayon (2nd Vice-president) and K. Ramasubramanian (Council Member) reported that they attended the 15th International Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science held in Helsinki 3-8 August 2015. M. Kallinen (Council member) had ensured that a copy of the DHST brochure was included in each participant's Congress bag.

J. Gayon reported on his attendance to the Congress, where he represented DHST. In this capacity, he was invited to the Council meetings held at the beginning and at the end of the Congress—old and new Council), as well as at the DLMPST General Assembly. Hasok Chang, who has accepted the DHST Council's nomination and will serve as President of the Joint Commission in 2016-2017, was also invited to the meeting of the new Council. The future of the Joint Commission was discussed: the DHST representative proposed to consider what steps could be taken jointly by the two divisions to enable the Joint Commission to work continuously rather than just at the time of

congresses, and to involve scholars whose research entails reflecting on the links between the history of science and the philosophy of science. The DLMPST's officers reacted favourably to this proposal, while drawing attention to the fact that DLMPST has limited financial means and might be unable to increase its funding to the Joint Commission beyond the sums already allocated to it on the occasion of Congresses. However, the DLMPST new Council agreed that something must be done.

The DHST Council proposed to set up a working group consisting of the Presidents and Secretary Generals of the two divisions, the President of the Joint Commission, plus one member of each council; J. Gayon accepted the DHST Council's nomination as a member of this group. The task of this group is to propose a new structure for the Joint Commission (which at present is composed of five persons: the Presidents and Secretary Generals of the two divisions and a president nominated in turn by each division, who serves for two years), as well other measures to enhance collaboration between the two divisions within the Commission. This working group's proposals should be agreed in time for both Councils to validate them before the Rio Congress, where they will be submitted to the approval of the DHST's General Assembly.

M. Magidor, who will take office as DLMPST President on 1st January 2016, will forward this proposal to the DLMPST Council.

The Council was unanimous in expressing satisfaction at the excellent progress made in consolidating the links between the two divisions, and in thanking J. Gayon for the essential role he has played in it.

6. Revising the DHST Statutes and updating the classification of Commissions and Sections

The Council discussed the precise wording of the updates that need to be made to the English version of the statutes as published in the 2001 DHST Members' Vade Mecum following the changes voted by the General Assembly in 2005 (adding "and Technology" to the name of the Division) and in 2009 (replacing the Past President by a President Elect in the DHST Council). The Council requested the Secretary General to publish these statutes on the DHST Website in both English and French.

As requested by the Council during its 2014 meeting, the Secretary General has reviewed the classification of the 22 active Commissions and Scientific Sections of the Division. The Council agreed to propose to the General Assembly the following rewording of article 4 of the Statutes as follows (the proposed rewording is underlined):

- Article 4. In addition to the Ordinary Members (Art. 3), the Division also comprises:
- a) Scientific Sections;

- b) Historical Commissions;
- c) Inter-division commissions with the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (DLMPST); these include the DHST-DLMPST Joint Commission;
- d) Inter-Union Commissions with other members of ICSU;
- e) Associate Members.

This rewording is intended to formally create the status of an Inter-Division Commission, given the fact that the Teaching Commission (in 2011), IASCUD and HaPoC (in 2015) have successfully applied to the DLMPST for the status of DLMPST Commission.

Further, the Secretary General pointed out that the International Society for the History of East Asian, Science, Technology and Medicine (ISHEASTM), which has been a Commission DHST since 1997, in fact functions as a Scientific Section, since it is financially independent from DHST. Meanwhile, IASCUD, which is classified as a Scientific Section, describes itself as an “Inter-Division Commission” (see its Website: <http://www.math.uni-hamburg.de/home/loewe/IASCUD/index.html>). The Council decided to propose to the GA that the statutes of both these should be changed accordingly. The Council will review the situation of all Commissions and Scientific Sections next year, based on their reports, as these will follow the template prepared by the Treasurer (see point 4 above).

The Secretary General pointed out that, upon close reading of the DHST statutes, the main part of the 2001 Vade Mecum and the Guidelines submitted to the GA in replacement of this Vade Mecum, there appear to be a few contradictions between the first document and the last two ones, which in some respects seem to better reflect the practice of DHST at least since 2001. The Council nominated a working group of four persons: the President, the Treasurer, the Second Vice-President and the Secretary General to review the statutes and rules of procedures (both English and French versions), so as to propose necessary changes to the statutes and rules of procedure. The Council will review their proposals next year, and in turn propose revisions to the GA in Rio. The aim of this process is that the statutes that are to be deposited as part of the process of registering DHST in France and the procedures followed by DHST are in mutual accordance, as those deposited statutes will be legally binding.

7. Relations with ICSU and the IAHS

The Council asked the Secretary General to liaise with the History of Meteorology Commission in order to set up an event related to the theme “Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability”, one of ICSU’s International Research Initiatives (see: <http://www.futureearth.org/>) at the Rio Congress; and the President Elect to liaise with the International Society for the History of

Medicine with the view of organising an event related to the theme “Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment: a Systems Analysis Approach”, another of ICSU’s International Research Initiatives (see: <http://www.icsu.org/what-we-do/interdisciplinary-bodies/health-and-wellbeing-in-the-changing-urban-environment/>); the possibility of setting up a History of Medicine Commission was also discussed.

The President reminded the Council of the continued links between the International Academy of History of Science and the DHST. The Academy will hold its usual events at the Rio Congress.

8. The CIPSH General Assembly and the World Humanities Conference Project

Three members of the Council, namely E. Nicolaidis (President), C. Jami (Secretary General), and Sun Xiaochun (Council Member, who is a member of the CIPSH Board), as well as M. Magidor (President Elect of DLMPST) attended the CIPSH General Assembly held in Beijing on 8-9 December 2015 (the two divisions are separate members of CIPSH). All of them agree that CIPSH has taken an entirely new start. The Council discussed possible contributions of DHST to the World Humanities Conference (WHC, see <http://www.humanities2017.org/en>) to be held in Liège, 6-12 August 2017. UNESCO is one of the organising partners. The subtitle of this Conference is “Challenges and Responsibilities for a Planet in Transition”. Each day will be devoted to a different topic. The topics will be announced on 18 January 2016 at a press conference to be held in Paris. The Council will decide on setting up a small number of panels at the WHC after this date. It was agreed that DHST is well placed to involve scientists in the WHC, and to draw public attention to the crucial role of humanities in the main issues that science is at present confronting. It was envisaged that the event to be held in Rio relevant to the “Future Earth” ICSU initiative might be repeated in Liège. Sun Xiaochun accepted to serve a liaison for the setting up of these events.

9. Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, consisting of Ida Stamhuis (chair), Anastasia Fedotova, Olival Freire, Sally Gregory Kohlstedt and Shi Yunli, will send out call for nominations by next summer, well before the deadline – nine months before the General Assembly)

The Council made some recommendations for the Nominations Committee’s work:

- Request that all nominations be accompanied by a CV and a letter of acceptance from the nominee (which can take the form of a e-mail message)

- The Chair of the Nominations Committee will write to DHST Commission officers to encourage them to liaise with National Committees to suggest possible nominations. It is to be noted that any National Committee can nominate a candidate working in any country.
- The Nominations Committee should be pro-active in obtaining nominations from National Committees, its aim being to establish a list of at least two candidates per office, and a sufficient number of candidates for the six posts of Council Members.
- The Nominations committee should make recommendations that take into account the need to have a well-balanced and efficient Council, and follow the resolution passed by the GA in 2005, according to which the DHST “promotes proper gender balance and cultural diversity. All elective representatives from the DHS[T], including those from its Commissions and Scientific Sections, should be designated following this principle, whenever possible.”

10. Preparations for the Rio Congress

L.C. Soares, chair of the LOC of the Congress, reported on the progress made in its organisation:

1) The webpage of the 25th ICHST (<http://www.ichst2017.sbhc.org.br>) has been online since last July, when the First Circular of the Congress was also circulated via various electronic mailing lists. The call for symposium proposals is now open, and will close on 30th April 2016.

2) Regarding symposium proposals, the President of the International Programme Committee (Prof. Ronald Numbers) had also asked its members to submit proposals in order to have a number of high quality symposia, considering their experience and eminence in the field of History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

3) The Local Organization Committee is establishing a formal contract with an agency specialized in the organization of congresses and several kinds of events, called “Promotional Travel”. According to the terms of this contract, this agency will perform the following tasks:

a) Receiving of the payment of registration fees of Non-Brazilian participants, this payment being made by credit card or PayPal. The Brazilian participants will pay their registration fees by direct deposit into the bank account of the Brazilian Society for the History of Science (SBHC) or by payment to the “Pague Seguro”, which is a Brazilian firm similar to PayPal.

b) Selling tickets for lunch and the Congress dinner to Brazilians and Non-Brazilians participants by the payment forms above mentioned.

- c) Reservation of hotels for Brazilians and Non-Brazilians participants, the payments also being made by credit cards or PayPal.
 - d) Negotiation of promotional prices for the participants' accommodation with a group of 12 hotels of different levels;
 - e) Offering of touristic activities to the participants;
 - f) Organization of social activities to the participants;
 - g) Collaboration in the registration of participants and the organization of the infrastructure of the congress.
- 4) The Local Organization Committee will submit projects for raising funds to the Brazilian Promotional Agencies from April 2016. We have the formal commitment of the two Federal Agencies (CNPq and CAPES) and Rio's State Agency (FAPERJ) to support the realization of the 25th ICHST, which was indicated early when the candidacy of Rio de Janeiro was presented in the General Assembly of Manchester in 2013. However, it is necessary to submit a project to them formally in order to raise funds according to the rules of submission established by these agencies.

The Council thanked L.C. Soares and the members of the LOC for the work they are doing and emphasized the necessity to circulate reminders of the deadlines for submissions on all professional mailing lists.

11. Young Scholars Prize 2017

E. Nicolaidis reminded the Council of the online application procedure for the Prize (see: <http://hpdst.gr/youngscholarsprize>). So far there had been two applications. The deadline for application is 31 August 2016. The Council again emphasized the necessity of circulating reminders on professional mailing lists so as to ensure a sufficient number of applications.

12. Legal status and seat of DHST

Following the positive reception of the DHST's request to the President of the Observatoire de Paris that this institution should become the legal home of DHST, the Council agreed that one further change should be proposed to the GA in Rio, namely the rewriting of the first sentence of article 2 as (proposed change is underlined):

“The official seat of the Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST) of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and

Technology (IUHPST) is at the Observatoire de Paris, 77 avenue Denfert-Rochereau, 75014 Paris.”

The Council requested the Secretary General to send the French version of the updated DHST Statutes with this proposed rewording to the President of the Observatoire, who will submit the DHST’s request to his Board of Trustees in the spring of 2016.

13. DHST website

The Council decided that the Secretary General should liaise with M. Kallinen and K. Ramasubramanian to arrange for the DHST website to be hosted by an academic institution and to have it redesigned. The Council also noted that the funding allocated for this purpose in the 2015 budget had been forwarded to the 2016 budget.

14. Cataloguing and accessibility of DHST Archives

Following Biruté Railiené’s (President of the Bibliography Commission) visit to CAPHES (Paris) to survey the DHST archive, and the ongoing cataloguing of the archive by the curators of CAPHES, the Council discussed a policy for continuing to collect its archive systematically and deposit them at CAPHES. The President will deposit the material he has kept since 2001 when he was elected Treasurer of DHST. Advice will be sought from various experts, so that the Council can prepare guidelines on this matter to be submitted to the General Assembly in Rio.

The Council thanked Biruté Railiené for the work done.

15. Date and venue of next DHST Council meeting

The next DHST Council will take place in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday 3 December 2016.

16. Other matters

The Council further discussed the desirability of proposing an increase of membership fees at the next GA. It was however felt that it might not be timely, given the financial situation of our field in many countries. It was reminded that National Committees can volunteer to pay a fee higher than the one calculated on the basis of their country’s GDP.