

Minutes of the DHST Council Meeting
Marseille, 6 December 2014

Venue: IMÉRA, 2, place Le Verrier, 13004 Marseille

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

Jan VANDERSMISSEN (Representative of the International Academy of History of Science (IAHS))

Apologies: Lesley CORMACK (1st Vice-president), Frank JAMES (Council Member)

E. Nicolaidis welcomed all those present, and thanked IMÉRA for its hospitality and M. Osborne for making all the arrangements for the meeting.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Secretary General's report

The Secretary General read her report (see attached document 1). The report was approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report

J. Hughes presented his report (see attached document 2). The report was approved unanimously. He thanked C. Jami for managing DHST's income and expenditure from the Paris bank account throughout 2014.

J. Hughes also commented on the final report on the 24th ICHSTM's finances submitted to the Council by Hasok Chang on behalf of the BSHS. The funds owed to DHST by BSHS will finally be transferred to the BSHS account that will hold DHST funds. The Council thanked BSHS and its former President Hasok Chang for allowing DHST to use one of its bank accounts, and for all their help and support regarding these matters, and reiterated its appreciation of their tremendous work for the 24th ICHSTM.

4. Baltic Republics' membership

Point withdrawn: the Baltic Republics, who were considering becoming DHST national members separately, have decided not to do so for the time being.

5. DHST Commissions: reports for 2014 and financial requests for 2015

J. Hughes presented the Commissions' reports for 2014 and financial requests for 2015. 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 maximum amount for next year should in principle be the same as for this year; the Treasurer shall review the situation at the time of sending out call for applications. The Council asked the Treasurer to make a template for Commission reports, to be sent out to all commissions when requesting their reports in October 2015.

6. Updating of the classification of commissions

In the 2001 Vade Mecum, three different types of 'commissions' are defined: 'historical commissions', 'inter-union commissions' and 'scientific sections'. A fourth type of commission now exists: the Teaching Commission also has the status of a DLMPS commission. Two other commissions, IASCUD and HaPoC, will apply for the status of DLMPS Commission at the next DLMPS Congress (Helsinki, 3-8 August 2015). The Joint Commission is also effectively inter-division. Council decided to create the new category of 'Inter-Division Commission' and asked the Secretary General to review the situation of commissions so as to update the list of commissions and sections.

7. Rules for the running of DHST

The 'Guidelines for the Commissions and Sections of IUHPST/DHST', prepared by the previous Council and edited by M. Osborne, were reviewed by the Council, who made some amendments to them (see attached document 4). Council members wishing to propose any further amendment should send to M. Osborne by 31 December 2014. The Guidelines will then be will be circulated and uploaded onto the DHST website by the Secretary General.

IMU has asked DHST to agree on Terms of Reference for the International Commission on the History of Mathematics (ICHM). However their draft for these terms was sent too late to be included in the materials for Council discussions. The President and the Secretary General will continue to work with IMU officers and consult the ICHM officers on this matter.

8. Relations with DLMPS

The relations with DLMPS continue to be excellent. As last year, the DLMPS Council has sent a representative to the DHST Council. Moreover, J. Gayon will represent DHST at the DLMPS Congress in Helsinki in August 2015, and contribute to the symposium of the Joint Commission, organised by its present president, Pablo Lorenzano. M. Kallinen will also attend the Congress.

It was proposed that the President of the Joint Commission should keep both DHST and DLMPS Councils informed of planned activities at Congresses and elsewhere.

Ways of ensuring continuity within the Joint Commission were further discussed, and the Council asked the Secretary General to approach some members of the group which has been organising international conferences on "Integrated History and Philosophy of Science" for the last few years with a view to explore possible links between the Joint Commission and this internationally active group.

9. IUHPST Statutes

Six members of DHST and DLMPS Council have worked on the new IUHPST Statutes. The DHST Council discussed the resulting document. A few changes to this document were proposed (see attached document 5). This new version will be examined by the DLMPS Council, and proposed for adoption to the DLMPS General Assembly in Helsinki. Once the DHST General Assembly in turn approves these statutes at its next GA in Rio de Janeiro, they can finally be enforced.

10. Relations with ICSU, ICPHS/CIPSH and the International Academy of History of Science

Following the example of DLMPS, the Council decided to organise some events focusing on the theme of two ICSU global projects: “Future Earth and Models of Climate Change” and “Health and Welfare” at the Rio Congress. For this purpose expertise should be drawn from DHST Commissions.

C. Jami and Sun Xiaochun both attended the ICPHS/CIPSH General Assembly which took place in Paris on 14-15 October 2014. The GA resolved to hold a World Conference on the Humanities (WCH) in Liège in 2017 (most likely in August), and commissioned the new Board to work on a project to be approved by UNESCO in mid-2015. Sun Xiaochun was re-elected as a Board member and will continue serve as liaison between DHST and ICPHS. The Council decided that DHST should actively participate in the WCH, with a focus on “Science and the Humanities”.

DLMPS has now also become a member of ICPHS. Given the voting system ICPHS, Council members agreed that the two divisions should remain separate members so as to each have a vote, and proposed that the two divisions should consult one another on ICPHS matters.

Possible membership of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), which has become very dynamic over the past 10 years, was also discussed. In this case, the IUHPST will try to become a member as such. This will be proposed to the DLMPS GA next August, and then to the DHST GA in 2017.

Jan Vandersmissen read a report on the activities of the IAHS. He mentioned, among others, that following the 2014 election, the IAHS would shortly announce the names of 20 new effective members and 32 new corresponding members.

11. Nominations Committee

A Nominations Committee consisting of five persons should be set up at least two years before the Rio General Assembly. For this purpose, Council members are to propose names by e-mail to E. Nicolaidis by 28 February 2015.

12. Preparation for the Rio Congress

L. C. Soares, chair of the LOC of the Rio Congress, reported on the work done in preparation for the Congress.

- The Council unanimously approved the proposal that Ronald Numbers should serve as chair of the International Programme Committee. The Committee must be set up during the coming

year. For this purpose, Council members are to suggest names by e-mail to Efthymios Nicolaidis by 28 February 2015.

- After discussing the proposal put forward by L.C. Soares, the Council unanimously agreed that the theme of the 25th ICHST should be “Science, Technology and Medicine Between the Local and the Global”.

- At present, the LOC estimates that the registration fee should be lower than that of the Manchester Congress; the full fee for early registration should be about USD 220. This is based on an estimation of 1500 participants, and the need for an income of approximately USD 158,000 from registration fees. The Council recommended that the late registration fee should be made substantially higher (e.g. USD 300) than the early one, and expressed the hope that there would be a lower registration fee for students.

- The Council noted that the Congress dates were chosen according to local constraints: teaching starts in early August at the UFRJ. However, attending a congress during the last week of July is difficult for some colleagues (in this case those working in Japan). Therefore the Council recommended that the dates of the next Congress after Rio de Janeiro should be chosen as much as possible to accommodate colleagues whose academic constraints might prevent them from attending the Rio Congress.

13. 2017 Young Scholars Prize

As in Manchester, Young Scholar Prizes will be awarded at the Rio Congress. E. Nicolaidis will prepare the announcement for the Prizes, and send it to Council members by 15 January 2015. They will then circulate this information. PhD Dissertations for degrees awarded between 1st January 2013 and 31 December 2016 will be eligible.

14. Legal status and seat of DHST

Investigations have been carried out concerning the best way to give DHST a seat and a legal existence. Jan Vandersmissen presented the status of an “Association internationale à but non lucratif” in Belgium, and gave helpful advice on how register DHST in Belgium as one. The Council thanked him warmly for his help, and decided that E. Nicolaidis would further explore this possibility, while C. Jami would further explore the possibilities offered in France by the status of “Association à but non lucratif” in France. The two of them should obtain more information on these two possibilities by the end of May 2015, so that progress can be made on this matter.

15. DHST website

C. Jami has had the DHST website updated and improved. She has explored the possibility of having it hosted by CNRS or some other French institution. When this is done, the website can be redesigned. The Council allocated an amount of up to USD 2,000 for this to be achieved in 2015. The new DHST website should be ready by 1 December 2015.

16. Cataloguing and accessibility of DHST Archives

Birutė Railiene, the president of the Bibliography and documentation commission, has expressed interest in working on the history of DHST, based among others on its archives kept in Paris. The Council allocated up to Euros 1,500 for her to visit Paris in 2015 to work on the DHST archives with the view of cataloguing them and making them accessible.

17. DHST logo & brochure

The new DHST brochure must be prepared in time to be circulated by M. Kallinen at the DLMPS Congress in early August 2015. For this purpose, the Council shall work as follows. E. Nicolaidis shall ask for a double quote: one for designing the logo of DHST, one for designing the three logos of DHST, IUHPST and DLMPS so that they answer one another. This quote shall be sent to J. Hughes by 31 January 2015. The logo itself shall be sent to L. Cormack by the end of May 2015. By then, L.C. Soares shall also send her the Congress logo, as well as all images and information about the Congress needed for the brochure, while C. Jami shall provide up to date information about the DHST for inclusion in the brochure. L. Cormack shall be in charge of designing the brochure, which shall be sent as a high-resolution image to M. Kallinen and other Council members by 15 July 2015. M. Kallinen shall then print the necessary number of copies and circulate them during the DLMPS Congress.

18. DHST Wikipedia page

A. Vogt will ensure that accurate information concerning the DHST is added to the Wikipedia page devoted to IUHPST. For this purpose, she will liaise with C. Jami, who will put up all this info on the DHST website. Both should be done by the end of March 2015.

19. Date and venue of next DHST Council meeting

At the invitation of the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology, the next Council meeting will take place in Beijing between 10 and 15 December 2015. The exact day will be fixed once the date of the next ICPHS General Assembly, also to be held in Beijing in December 2015, is fixed. This will enable DHST Council members to work actively on the preparation of the 2017 World Conference on the Humanities.