



International Union of History and
Philosophy of Science and Technology

Division for the History of Science and
Technology

Minutes of Council meeting

held online on

**December 10, 2025
10:30 am UTC**

Minutes

Present: Janet BROWNE (President), Ana SIMÕES (President Elect), Silvia FIGUEIRÔA (First Vice-President), Hamish SPENCER (Second Vice-President), Thomás HADDAD (Secretary-General), Maarten BULLYNCK (Treasurer), Sam ROBINSON (Engagement Secretary), Milada SEKYRKOVÁ (Assistant Secretary-General); Assessors: David AUBIN, Xingbo LUO, Gordon McOUAT, Peeter MÜÜRSEPP, Mai SUGIMOTO; DLMPST observer: Eleonora CRESTO

Excused: Don OPITZ (assessor)

1. Opening business:

Browne opened the meeting welcoming all present. The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved, as well as the agenda for the day. The next meeting was scheduled for either April 15 or 22, 2026, at 10:00 am UTC, online.

2. Progress reports and updates:

Haddad provided an update on his efforts as Secretary General, including challenges with French authorities recognizing the new council and updates to the DHST mailing lists. Robinson discussed initiatives to engage commissions and sections, as well as plans to create a directory of commission operations. Aubin gave a detailed oral report on progress on the organization of the 2029 Paris ICHST. The Council raised several points that should be clearly addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the DHST and the ICHST Local Organizing Committee at the ESHS/HSS joint meeting in Edinburgh in July 2026, where several council members will be present, including details about DHST seed funds, appointment of the International Program Committee, the duties thereof, and the responsibilities of a professional conference management firm should one be hired by the LOC.

3. Dissertation Prize:

The council reviewed the dissertation prize initiative, with Browne explaining that each member will be asked to read a number of dissertations in the first round of evaluations. Browne and Haddad agreed to update the assessment form and set the dates for applications to the competition, aiming to announce winners by December 2026.

4. Event(s) to be organized before 2029:

The Council discussed plans for a 2027 online event along the lines of the successful DHST Global Festival of October 2023, besides potential activities to enhance engagement with and across DHST's constituencies. Simões made the suggestion of an increased YouTube presence. Figueirôa emphasized the importance of improving the DHST website as a hub for information and enhancing communication between national representatives, commissions, and the Council. She also raised concerns about the lack of information dissemination for previous events, urging improved communication strategies. Haddad highlighted the need for definite proposals for the 2027 event at the April 2026 Council meeting. Robinson stressed the importance of engaging national members in any such proposal. Browne warned that any midterm event should be so organized as not to appear as a substitute to the ICHST. McQuat proposed organizing a virtual museum project, and possibly a conference, in collaboration with national members and commissions, and assumed the task of developing the proposal to submit it to Council, which expressed its gratitude to him.

5. Nomination of a new DHST representative in the steering committee of the Science & Education Interdivision Commission:

The council approved to appoint, when the occasion arises, Breno Moura to the steering committee of the DHST-DLMPST Interdivision Commission on Science and Education, which is still being organized.

6. Report of the Treasurer and 2026 budget proposal:

The Council approved Sekyrková's [2025 Treasurer's Report](#) and [Financial Overview](#), as well as the DHST [2026 Budget](#) (NB: grants for Commissions and Sections were approved separately, see following item). The Council thanked Sekyrková for her years of service as treasurer and gave its best wishes to Bullynck, who will take over as treasurer from January 1, 2026. In addition, the Council discussed Japan's membership dues, where Sugimoto explained that while Japan would like to maintain its current level of 3400 euros (membership category E), local conditions make it uncertain whether they can sustain this level of support. Haddad proposed a compromise where Japan would maintain its current dues level of 2720 euros, which would place it between categories E and D, thereby alternating voting rights in the General Assembly between 4 and 5 votes, which was unanimously approved by the Council. Following this arrangement, it is here noted that in the next General Assembly Japan will be entitled to 4 votes.

7. 2025 Activity Reports and Grant Requests by Commissions and Sections:

Haddad noted that only two Commissions failed to file activity reports, namely the Inter-Union Commission of History of Geography and Inter-Union Commission of History of Soil Sciences. The Council agreed that their status as DHST Commissions shall be reviewed at the appropriate moment. The Council discussed in great detail the 21 reports filed by Commissions and Sections, praising the very high standard of their scholarly activities, in particular those held within the Dunedin Congress, their invaluable service to the global community of historians of science and technology, and the fundamental role they play in advancing DHST's mission and values. All grant applications that were made were approved, albeit in some cases with values smaller than requested, due to unclear or defective budget proposals (see [2026 Budget](#) for approved values). Additionally, the Council discussed the importance of improving and clarifying the financial guidelines for Commissions and Sections in the 2026 funding round, so as to allow for their greater autonomy and predictability, while maintaining transparency. It also discussed, without making a decision, the desirability of establishing different funding levels for the different types of sponsored bodies, namely DHST-only Commission, Interdivision Commissions, Inter-union Commissions, and Scientific Sections.