



International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology

Division of History of Science and Technology

Minutes of Council meeting

held online on

**October 8, 2025
10 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, Donald OPITZ, Mai SUGIMOTO; DLMPST observer: Eleonora CRESTO

1. Welcome by the President, approval of the agenda, and scheduling of December meeting:

Browne opened the meeting welcoming all Council members and the DLMPST observer. All present introduced themselves. The agenda was approved and the next meeting was scheduled for December 10, 10:30 am UTC, online.

2. Discussion: a vision for the DHST in the lead-up to the 2029 centenary

The Council reviewed the success of a previous 24-hour online rolling conference, which attracted modest attendance but successfully engaged participants from regions like Latin America and Asia. The council considered organizing similar in-between conferences, with Browne, Simões, Spencer, Haddad, Robinson, and Bullynck agreeing to serve on an eventual program committee.

The Council also discussed the need to improve communication about future events and to strengthen engagement with member countries and commissions beyond their current role as funders, as highlighted by Robinson.

The Council discussed the need to improve their digital presence, with Simões emphasizing the importance of a more dynamic website and social media engagement. Robinson proposed creating two new positions: a technical web officer and a communications officer, with the latter focusing on social media and outreach. The Council agreed to explore these options, with Robinson tasked to provide a written proposal. Additionally, Robinson highlighted the need for better communication and collaboration between the commissions, with plans to meet with them in the coming weeks to address shared challenges and improve coordination.

3. Review of the Dunedin ICHST (challenges, outcomes, highlights, finances)

Spencer presented a comprehensive review of the recent DHST Congress held in New Zealand, highlighting both successes and challenges. The Congress had about 900 delegates, with many innovative features including a Maori cultural component and online-only general assemblies. Key issues discussed included the need to revise the Memorandum of Understanding with the local organizing committee, the importance of having a single program committee chair, and concerns about hybrid conference format effectiveness, with in-person delegates showing lower satisfaction with the hybrid model compared to online participants. The Congress faced a small deficit due to lower than expected sponsorship and registration numbers, as well as by currency exchange rate changes. The Council agreed that the exchange rate levels in effect at the time of signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (September 2022) should be employed in calculating the due amount by the Local Organizing Committee to the DHST.

4. General decisions about the Paris ICHST to start preparing the memorandum of understanding, including but not restricted to questions

The Council discussed the organization of the next Paris Congress, with Aubin presenting the current status and key considerations. They debated whether to hold the Congress as a hybrid or in-person event, with Haddad and Robinson expressing concerns about the challenges and costs of a hybrid format. The Council also discussed making the Congress more engaged with the city of Paris, potentially including public lectures at prestigious venues. A consensus emerged against a hybrid model due to previous technical and organizational challenges. Members agreed that the Congress should be in-person, with some plenary sessions and key events publicly broadcast or recorded for later distribution. The Council also discussed the possibility of an online General Assembly, noting the success in the previous one in increasing participation, though no final decision was made on this.

The Council discussed and recognized the importance of giving commissions and symposia organizers in general greater control over the organization of their sessions in the Congress. A working group to improve the program organization in close cooperation with the Local Organizing Committee was formed, with Simões, Spencer, Haddad, Robinson, Sekyrková agreeing to participate.

5. Dissertation Prize

The Council discussed several points concerning the DHST dissertation prize, noting concerns about gender and geographical disparities in past winners and the importance of giving the award ceremony a more prominent place in the Congress. It was decided to launch the call for papers in January or February and emphasized the need for a wider advertising reach to attract a more diverse range of dissertations.

6. General policies regarding 2026 grants to commissions and sections

The Council agreed to maintain the current funding level of 2000 euros per commission, removing the requirement to spend down to zero, to allow commissions to build financial cushions.

7. Nomination of a new Gender and Diversity Champion (from within the Council)

Opitz agreed to serve as the new Champion.

8. Early Career Scholars Workshop Series

The Council decided to continue sponsoring the Early Career Scholar Workshop series. Barbara Hof and Climerio Silva Neto, organizers of the first edition in 2025, will step down and pass leadership to a new group of scholars.