

**Minutes of the DHST Council Meeting**  
**Paris, 2 December 2013**

Venue: IHPST (CNRS & Université Paris 1), 13 rue du Four, 75006 Paris

Present: Efthymios NICOLAIDIS (President), Lesley CORMACK (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president), Jean GAYON (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president), Mike OSBORNE (President Elect), Catherine JAMI (Secretary General), Jeff HUGHES (Treasurer), Annette VOGT (Assistant Secretary General); Takehiko HASHIMOTO, Frank JAMES, 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))

E. Nicolaidis welcomed all those present, pointing out that the presence of all thirteen members of the new Council enabled it to make an excellent start. He thanked J. Gayon for hosting the meeting.

All those present introduced themselves.

**1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved.

**2. Secretary General's report**

The Secretary General read her report (see attached document), which covers DHST activities since the Manchester Congress. The report was approved unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's report**

C. Jami read her report as outgoing treasurer (see attached document). The report was approved unanimously, and the outgoing treasurer was thanked for her work.

As the membership dues are based on each country's GDP, it was agreed that GDPs should be checked every four years, so that appropriate adjustments of fees can be proposed to the General Assembly.

**4. DHST Commissions: reports for 2013 and financial requests for 2014**

J. Hughes presented the Commissions' reports for 2013 and financial requests for 2014. The grants were allocated following the usual rules: the maximum allocation to each commission is of US\$300 for running costs, US\$600 for website, US\$1,500 for support to young scholars' participation in conferences. The Treasurer will take steps to ensure the grants allocated for 2014 are spent according to these rules.

## **5. Rules for the running of DHST Commissions**

The rules for running DHST Commissions as drafted by the previous DHST Council were presented by M. Osborne and discussed. Council members have until 20 January 2014 to send him any further comment.

It was reminded that each commission should have its own website, which should be updated at least once a year.

It was proposed that the guidelines should contain recommendations concerning the setting up of new commissions.

The Council decided that if a commission has not been active for more than eight years, the Council will recommend its discontinuation to the General Assembly.

The Council decided to put the updating of the classification of commissions on the agenda of its 2014 meeting.

## **6. Relations with DLMPS**

The Council unanimously approved the nomination of Maria Carla Galavotti by IUHPST for a second term as Assessor of the ICSU Council, proposed by DLMPS, and thanked her for her work on behalf of IUHPST.

B. Loewe, Assistant Secretary General of DLMPS, informed the Council that he had located the French version of the IUHPS statutes (dating back to the early 1970s). He has worked with the former DHST Assistant Secretary General on an updated version of these statutes.

The Council agreed with B. Loewe that, subject to approval by DLMPS Council, a group consisting of three DLMPS officers (Elliott Sober, President, Peter Schroeder-Heister, Secretary General, and B. Loewe) and three DHST officers (E. Nicolaidis, President, M. Osborne, President Elect, and C. Jami, Secretary General) should work on the IUHPST statutes (in English as well as in French) so that the next DLMPS General Assembly (Helsinki, 2015), and then the next DHST GA (Rio de Janeiro, 2017) can approve them. Part of their task should be to give the Union a seat.

The University of Tübingen hosts the new DLMPS Website. B. Loewe has been setting up a website for IUHPST as well, and proposes that DHST transfer its website to the same location.

Pablo Lorenzano, member of the DLMPS Council and former member of the DHST Council, has been nominated by DLMPS as Chair of the DLMPS-DHST Joint Commission for 2015-2016.

B. Loewe has prepared a grant application, which has been submitted to ICSU in the name of IUHPS. The project submitted is entitled "Cultures of Mathematical Research Training". ICSU will decide on grant allocations in April-May 2014.

The DLMPS will involve ICSU's research initiative 'Future Earth', and ICSU's Interdisciplinary body 'Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment' in the preparation of its 2015 congress.

## **7. Relations with ICSU, ICPSH and the International Academy of History of Science**

E. Nicolaidis reported on the situation of ICPSH: no General Assembly has been held since the one he attended in Nagoya in 2010; in principle these GA should take place every two years. He has contacts with the Treasurer, Jean-Luc De Pape, and the Assistant Secretary General, Luca Scarantino. The Council decided to review the situation of ICPSH next year.

A. Vogt is in charge of relations with ICSU. John Ball (University of Oxford), a member of ICSU Executive Board, attended the 24<sup>th</sup> ICHSTM in Manchester. The ways in which DHST could contribute to ICSU were discussed.

Jan Vandersmissen brought greetings from Robert Halleux, Permanent Secretary of the International Academy of History of Science, and reported on recent activities of the Academy, especially its publications. Council members were invited to send nominations for the election of new Academy members, which will take place in 2014.

### **8. Feedback on the Manchester Manifesto**

M. Osborne has received no further proposals of amendment to the Manifesto from members or the General Assembly. After a few final minor revisions in the phrasing, the manifesto will be sent to members and commissions so that it can be circulated broadly. Members of the Council will translate it in their respective native languages, and DHST members will be encouraged to do the same, so that the text can be published in as many relevant places as possible. The Secretary General will keep a record of places of publication.

### **9. Financial analysis of the Manchester Congress**

J. Hughes reported on the finances of the 24<sup>th</sup> ICHSTM. The total budget was of approximately GBP450,000. The number of participants was considerably higher than expected, at 1716, so that there is a substantial surplus. Part of this has been used to pay DHST the USD20.00 per participant agreed on (DHST had paid the LOC USD10000.00 of seed money during the four years of preparation of the Congress). The rest of the surplus is held by BSHS; it will be channelled towards funding participation in the Rio Congress in 2017.

### **10. “Lessons learned” from the Manchester Congress**

F. James reported how the LOC had sought to remedy some of the problems it had seen in previous congress organisation. These included giving not only avoiding holes in the programme, but also giving it greater coherence, and making sure it would reflect trends in our field.

The LOC also decided that no one (not even its own members) would be exempted from paying registration fees, and that instead of a student registration rate, there would be a system of bursaries for young scholars.

About 1,000 papers were presented as part of symposia. There was a rate of rejection of about 10% for the 700 papers submitted individually.

J. Hughes, F. James and E. Nicolaidis will prepare a briefing document for future congress organisers (what, who, when). This will enable DHST to be clear as to what

is expected from Congress organisers. This document will be ready by the end of January 2014.

The sum of USD20.00 per participant that each congress is to pay to DHST in return for the seed money it receives was fixed by the General Assembly in Beijing in 2005; it could only be changed by a vote of the GA.

A copy of the Congress book will be kept in the DHST archives. The Congress website should eventually migrate to the DHST Website.

The DHST Council reiterated its heartfelt thanks to our UK colleagues for their work, and its congratulations on the great success of the 24<sup>th</sup> ICHSTM.

## **11. Organisation of the Rio Congress**

L. C. Soares reported on the first steps in the organisation of the Congress. The GA's choice to hold the 25<sup>th</sup> ICHST in Rio in July 2017 as been announced to the members of the Brazilian Society for the History of Science (SBHC) and to the Brazilian Agencies (CAPES, CNPq and FAPERJ). The Preparation Commission for the Brazilian Candidacy will become the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the Congress with the inclusion of Cesar Lorenzani and Pablo Lorenzani (both from Argentina).

Between February and April 2014, the LOC, with the collaboration of the SBHS officers, will set up a timeline for the organization of the Congress, with the help of some members of the LOC of the Manchester Congress.

In May and June 2014, the LOC will meet the President of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and those other universities and research institutions of Rio de Janeiro, as well as the Directive Boards of CAPES, CNPq and FAPERJ, to present the general timeline of the preparation of the Congress and to discuss the material support required for this event.

During the second half of 2014 the Congress will be announced to the international community of historians of science, technology and medicine, through a newsletter or first call for papers; this announcement will include the main dates for the event organization (mainly regarding submission of symposium proposals and stand-alone papers).

The definition of the general timeline of the organization of the congress should be done in collaboration with the DHST Council, who will provide a list of DHST's requirements for the organization at each stage by the end of January 2014 (see point **10.** above). This timeline is of great importance to the Brazilian Agencies and other institutions committed to supporting the Congress; according to it, the LOC will establish a planning to request financial aid from these agencies and institutions.

The DHST will provide seed money to the LOC: USD10,000.00, which should be paid in yearly instalments of USD2,500.00. In return, after the Congress, the LOC will pay back to DHST US20.00 per participant.

It was pointed out that the addition of an 'M' for Medicine at the end of the acronym of the Manchester Congress had been accepted by the previous Council because it could help raise funds in the UK, in view of the importance of the support provided by the Wellcome Trust to the history of medicine. In principle the Rio Congress should be the "25<sup>th</sup> ICHSTM".

## **12. DHST website**

The SG will pay someone to update the website. A new website should be designed, with a webpage for each DHST Commission; it should be hosted by an academic institution rather than by a private company. The SG will explore the possibility of the DHST's website being hosted by the same institution as that of DLMPs; DHST will of course continue to have its own URL. An agreement should be signed between DHST and the hosting institution. Sufficient space should be available so that, among others, the 24<sup>th</sup> ICHSTM website can eventually be migrated to the new DHST website.

A survey of uses of the DHST Website should be planned at the next Council meeting.

## **13. DHST logo & brochure**

The DHST logo should be slightly modified following the change of name of the union to International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. E. Nicolaidis will get this done — by the designer who produced the logo, if they can be traced.

L. Cormack will be in charge of the new DHST brochure, which should be prepared using the template provided by M. Osborne. The brochure, which should include an announcement of the Rio Congress, needs to be ready for the next ESHS Conference (Lisbon, 4-6 September 2014). F. James, E. Nicolaidis and A. Vogt will be in charge of circulating it among participants, electronically or on paper.

## **14. Date and venue of next DHST Council meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on Saturday, 6 December 2014. M. Osborne will inform Council members by the end of January 2014 as to the possibility of holding this meeting in Marseille, in link with a workshop to be held at the Institut Méditerranéen de Recherches Avancées (IMERA).

## **15. Other matters**

The Metrology Commission has been inactive for at least eight years. A call for proposals to revive it should be posted on the new DHST Website. If this does not result in anything by the time of the Rio Congress, the Council will propose the discontinuation of the Metrology Commission to the GA.

The Council will seek means to have DHST registered in a country so that it has a legal existence. J. Hughes and C. Jami will explore possibilities in the UK (charity) and in France ('association à but non lucratif') respectively, so that the Council can settle this point next year.

A student of Annette Vogt's will create a DHST page on Wikipedia.

The DHST Archives are presently kept in Paris, at the CAPHÉS (Centre d'Archives de Philosophie, d'Histoire et d'Édition des Sciences - UMS 2267), headed by Michel

Blay. Their cataloguing and accessibility will also be discussed during the Council meeting of 2014.