

International Committee

Minutes of the 28 March 2023 Meeting Held Online

Present:

Benjamin Burton	President	ab@maths.uq.edu.au	Australia	2021-2024
Yugo Kartono Isal	Host 2022	yugo@cs.ui.ac.id	Indonesia	2018-2023
László Jobbágy	Host 2023	laszlo.jobbagy@gmail.com	Hungary	2022-2024
Eslam Wageed	Host 2024	eslamwagefed@gmail.com	Egypt	2020-2025
Jhonatan Castro	Host 2025	jhtan@jhtan.com	Bolivia	2022-2026
Catherine Espinoza	Elected	catespinozar@gmail.com	Chile	2021-2023
Eduard Kalinichenko	Elected	eduardische@gmail.com	Latvia	2022-2025
Sun Teck Tan	Elected	tanst@comp.nus.edu.sg	Singapore	2022-2025
Araz Yusubov	Elected	ayusubov@ada.edu.az	Azerbaijan	2021-2024
Eljakim Schrijvers	Treasurer	eschrijvers@eljakim.nl	The Netherlands	
J.P. Pretti	Secretary	jpretti@uwaterloo.ca	Canada	

Welcome

Ben reminded everyone that this meeting was scheduled to complete business from the 2023 winter meetings. He asked about inquiries related to missing IOI 2022 medals and certificates. Yugo said he will pass the concerns on to the organizing committee and believes that electronic distribution will happen soon, but the physical distribution will be done at IOI 2023. Ben asked that this be communicated to everyone.

Ben also raised an eligibility question raised in a message that was circulated to the IC. Everyone agreed that the regulations (S2.5) are clear in this case and the students in question are not eligible.

Regulation Changes

Eduard reminded everyone that we did not formally vote on regulation changes during the Winter Meetings, but only two sets of changes required further discussion.

First, Eduard noted that IC agreed to the use of the Schulze method in general, but there had been disagreement about consequently including “None of the above” as an option for IOI committee elections. Eslam repeated his concern saying that this could lead to bad feelings. On the flip side, Ben said that including this may give an acclaimed candidate the sense that they have a mandate. Cathy agreed but was worried about the special case leading to a vacancy in the position of president. In this situation, the regulations indicate that the previous Chair of the IOI assumes the role. After further discussion, there was consensus that this regulation should change and an elected member of IC chosen by an IC vote is the person who should assume the presidency if there is a vacancy.

Eslam reiterated his discomfort. J.P. said it is unlikely that “None of the above” would “win” an election but if it does, it is a sign of serious concern with the other candidates. Eduard supported this noting that IC members previous expressed concern about unsuitable candidates winning elections.

J.P. asked if it would help if the explications made it clear that “None of the above” is meant to occur as the result of an election only in rare circumstances. This could also be explained to the GA before any elections. Eslam said it might help but it would still be tough on any losing candidates. He feels that not meeting a threshold would be less harsh and he is concerned that allowing “None of the above” could lead to its misuse. Yugo wondered if something like “abstain” would be more palatable and “softer” but Ben noted there is a technical difference and so this is not a viable solution. Instead he suggested the wording change to “Leave the seat vacant”. A straw poll was then taken which suggested this amended motion might pass but the vote would be close enough that it should be unbundled from the other regulation changes.

Next, Eduard raised the issue of the anonymity of IC votes. He believes the idea of disclosing this information to the IOI community alongside the minutes was deemed favourable by a previous straw poll. Araz said that transparency is a good idea, but there are political circumstances where the details of a vote should not be shared. There was then discussion about whether or not the clause about “exceptional circumstances” handled this or whether it was a bit too strong. Ben reminded everyone that how each IC member votes would be made public to the IOI community but not to those outside the community.

A vote was held on the “Leave the seat vacant” motion (previously “None of the above”). It passed with 7 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

A vote was then held on the remaining regulation changes as a bundle. It passed with 9 votes in favour and 0 votes against.

Other Business

Ben informed IC of recent messages received about the participation of Russia and Belarus at IOI 2023. He reminded everyone of the GA’s decision in 2022 and that the IC promised not to make any other decisions on the issue independent of the GA unless the circumstances changed dramatically.

Ben also noted that a country attempting to join the IOI for several years has reached out again but did so late and without providing the previously requested details. He said he will reiterate our previous communications to this group.