



IAI Dinner Meeting Minutes

SCAR - XXXI Open Science Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Piegari Restaurant (Posadas 1089, La Recova)

Tuesday 3rd August, 6.30-9.00pm

Present: Victor Fajardo(UMagallanes), Carlos Rios(UMagallanes), Renuka Badhe(SCAR), Bryan Storey(UCanterbury), Marianne Douglas(UAlberta), Willy Hagen(UBremen), Jenny Baeseman(APECS), Viviana Alder(UBuenos Aires), Azizan Abu Samah(UMalaya), Amy Leventer(Colgate Uni), Eugene Domack(Hamilton College), Andrew McMinn (IAI/UTasmania), Patti Virtue(IAI/UTasmania).

Discussion over dinner

Welcome to our new member- University of Alberta- Marianne Douglas

Governance items

- International Polar Foundation (IPF) – MOU

Background to this item: At the last IAI council meeting (St Petersburg 2008) the issue of funding the IAI secretariat was discussed. Two options were identified: 1) all members contribute to the funding of the secretariat or 2) another member takes over the secretariat from University of Tasmania.

At this 2008 meeting Ms Amin (Gigi), Vice-President and Alain Hubert, Founder and Chairman of the International Polar Foundation (IPF) suggested that the IPF may consider taking a role in the IAI secretariat. The IPF initiated initial discussions and our Vice Chancellor, Professor Le Grew, travelled to Belgium last year to further explore this relationship. As the IPF is not an academic institution a partnership arrangement may be an option. The IPF have been a strong supporter of the IAI since inception, and as you all know, they have great strengths in communication and the education of polar science and research.

Members at the dinner meeting were supportive of IPF involvement in the secretariat and saw this as a wonderful opportunity for the IAI to move forward. Gigi was not at this meeting- however I met with her later that week before the SCAR COMNAP meeting Buenos Aires. Ways to establish such a joint IAI secretariat and the various roles were discussed. The IPF and IAI could potentially work together as one IAI secretariat. IPF could take on some of the communications/marketing and help fund raise student scholarships etc. We also discussed

how better to engage emerging nations/non traditional Antarctic research nations. Discussions are continuing and we will draft an MOU to be circulated for your consideration.

- UArctic/IAI relationship

During the IPY meeting on Oslo- an MOU was signed between the UArctic/IAI/APECS. As part the IPY legacy- it was suggested that a “Polar University” be established bringing our two polar institutes together. Below is a letter to Andrew from Lars Kullerud, President UArctic:

“Dear Director McMinn

I will like to draw your attention to the draft IPY legacy document attached and e-mail below. It proposed strengthening of our two organizations, which I we all support. Further it suggests we together take the initiative to something that in the future could become a “Polar University”. The idea was put forward by Jan Gunnar Winther at the workshop in Oslo.

My response was positive, and I added that UArctic would be delighted to follow up the idea with IAI. I also suggested we should bring SCAR, IASC as well as IASSA into the process in some way – this was orally supported by leaders from the three organizations present at the meeting. (IASC- International Arctic Sciences Council, IASSA International Arctic Social Sciences Association)

At this point I think it is relevant to clarify if you agree that we let this recommendation to stay as is. We should also aim at some dialogue on how we would further this idea. May be a physical meeting sometime in the future would make sense? Finally, I will like to convey my appreciation for the good work of Sandra and Patti during the polar year.

Sincerely

Lars Kullerud

President UArctic

CC: UArctic Board Executive Committee, and Ma-mawi (UArctic senior management team)”

Members at the dinner meeting were supportive of this collaboration and they thought the MOU signed between the UArctic/IAI/APECS was a good start.

- Student and staff exchanges, Funding scholarships- Presidents meeting

We discussed whether members should fund at least one scholarship per year for one student from their institute to go to another member institute, and whether this should be a requirement of IAI membership. This item was supported in principle. Several members already fund student exchanges between institutes and others should be encouraged to do so.

The proposal of a meeting between Presidents/Rectors/Vice Chancellors of all IAI members was discussed. This idea was modeled on University of the Arctic who hold such meetings yearly and hence able to make higher level decisions re funding and governance. We discussed the objectives of such a meeting, and when and where the meeting would take, however no conclusion was reached.

- First IAI Workshop- Punta Arenas, Chile, October 2012

Carlos Rios (with support from his rector –Professor Victor Fajardo) proposed our first IAI workshop with the following goals:

- To showcase programs developed under the IAI umbrella
- To develop and establish new student and lecturer exchange / joint teaching programs
- To strengthen global IAI initiatives
- To develop new objectives of the IAI
- To build momentum and strengthen relationships between members (colleagues)

This proposal was supported unanimously!

- Proposed membership: University of Capetown

Dr Eva Bucciarelli (Institut Universitarie Europeen de la Mer (IUEM)/ Universite de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO)) will be relocating to the University of Capetown for several years and has proposed that this university become an IAI member. We all agreed this would be a good move as we need a South African member and more importantly UBO, thanks to Eva, is one of our more active and supportive IAI members. In conjunction with Eva we proposed to start the membership process.

- IAI Geologists at SCAR

As we had most of the IAI Geologists at SCAR, we took the opportunity to meet and discuss courses and a possible Antarctic Geology stream of a Master by Course work program. Courses already exist at Hamilton, Byrd Polar, U Canterbury, U Siena, and U Barcelona. Discussion on ‘on line’ course delivery and moving students/lectures between institutes and possible field components in Ohio/New York/NZ/ Tasmania/Patagonia.