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MINUTES OF THE IFSEM GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN CANCUN, MEXICO ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 1998, FROM 4.00PM.

Present :

IFSEM Executive Committee

Professors A. Maunsbach (President), E. Zeitler (Vice President), D. Cockayne (General Secretary), R. Fisher, A. Engel, M. Shiojiri, M. Yacaman. [Apologies Professors A. Csanady, H. Geuze]

Member Delegates - Professors A Spargo (Australia), W. Geymayer (Austria), D. Van Dyck (Belgium), G. Van Tendeloo (Belgium), E. Haapalainen (Brazil), J. Hutchison (Britain), C. Hawes (Britain), C. Kiely (Britain), G. Harauz (Canada), F. Leggett (Canada), Z. Zhai (China), L. Frank (Czech Rep), R. Portier (France), D. Hernandez-Verdun (France), N. Bonnet (France), B. Jouffrey (France), H. Rose (Germany), B. Tesche (Germany), R. Reichelt (Germany), H. Lichte (Germany), K. Kovacs (Hungary), R. Sperling (Israel), U. Admon (Israel), M. Catalano (Italy), M. Vittori-Antisari (Italy), H. Seguchi (Japan), M. Hibino (Japan), T. Fujimoto (Japan), D Shindo (Japan), J. Ahn (Korea), Jose Reyes-Gasga (Mexico), W. Voorhout (Netherlands), L. Ginsel (Netherlands), K. Goldie (New Zealand), M. Zabel (Poland), E. Yacimov (Russia), E. Rau (Russia), K. Pihakaski-Maunsbach (Scandinavia), E. Olsson (Scandinavia), R. Cross (Southern Africa), J. Carazo (Spain), H. Gross (Switzerland), R. Gotthardt (Switzerland), L. Lim (Taiwan ROC), D. Williams (USA), P. Ingram (USA), R. Anderson (USA), G. Burke (USA), G. Gonzalez (Venezuela).

Associate Member Delegates: - Professors M-L Ng (Singapore), C. Craciun (Romania), B. Matienco (Moldova), K. Hovnanyan (Armenia), V. Groma (Latvia), O. Milat (Croatia), M. Ceh (Slovenia), L. Gomez (Colombia),

Observers: Dr W. Hax (Trade), Professors L. Peng (China), J Gunter (Auditor), E. Wisse (CESM), W. Baumeister (CESM), I. Mullerova (EUREM 2000), G. Solorzano (Brazil).

1. Opening Remarks: -

The President spoke of Professor Y. Ishida, a member of the Executive Committee, who died while in office. He spoke of the excellent service he had given during his short period on the Committee, especially in the area of fostering young scientists. Professor Ishida had been replaced by Professor M Shiojiri, under the provisions in the Constitution. Professor Shiojiri will serve until 2002.

Professor Maunsbach reported that a very useful meeting had been held between some of the Executive Committee and representatives of the Trade Exhibition earlier in the week, and ongoing meetings and discussions were proposed.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly of 1998

The Minutes of the General Assembly of IFSEM in Paris in 1994 were accepted as correct.

3. Report on 1998 Conference -

Professor Yacaman (Chairman ICEM-14 Organizing Committee) reported on the current state of the Conference. He said that there were 55 participating countries and 57 exhibitions, and approximately 1650 participants. He reported that there were 1735 abstracts, with 629 oral presentations and 1106 poster presentations. The

abstracts were divided into general interest and instrumentation (480), materials sciences (687) and biological sciences (551).

4. Appointment of Tellers for Voting Procedures.
Professors Baumeister and Rose were appointed tellers. The list of official delegates was verified by the General Secretary against the posted list). There were 49 official voting delegates present (out of 55 possible), 2 of them carrying a colleague's vote.
5. IFSEM Constitution.
A number of proposed changes to the Constitution had been advised.
 - (i) Possible change of name. The President outlined some of the benefits and the difficulties of changing the name of the Federation to the International Federation of Societies for Microscopy. He referred to the fact that the acronym IFSEM is well known, that many members had removed the word "electron" from their own Societies' names, and that there are many new areas of microscopy which IFSEM might like to include in its activities. Professor Matienco (Moldova) suggested that "Electron" be replaced by "Light and Electron". Professor Jouffrey (France), said that the name should not be too specific, and that any changes should be gradual. Professor Van Dyck (Belgium) reminded delegates that the topic had been discussed at the General Assembly of 1994, and that action was required. The President advised the Assembly that any change of name would need to be approved by ICSU (the International Council of Scientific Unions). Dr Anderson (USA) suggested that a non-binding indicative vote be taken to assess the mood of the Assembly. This was done, giving a majority of 33 to 8 in favour. On this basis, Professor Williams moved (seconded by Professor Kovacs) that a working party should be set up with a member of the Executive Committee as Chair, to explore the issues and to bring a proposal to the 2002 General Assembly, and that the General Secretary should approach ICSU to explore what steps would need to be taken if a name change was decided upon. The motion was accepted with 35 in favour and 7 against.
 - (ii) Increase of numbers of Executive Committee. The President explained that the current number of 6 ordinary members of the Executive Committee plus the three office-bearers often resulted in insufficient representation if some members were absent. The General Assembly approved the motion that the number of ordinary members be increased to 8, with four to be elected at each ordinary General Assembly for an eight year mandate. It was agreed that five are to be elected at this General Assembly, with the fifth to serve for 4 years only.
 - (iii) Addition of ICEM representative to the Executive Committee. The proposal was accepted that the non-voting position of ICEM member be created on the Executive Committee, to be nominated by the member organisation which is to host the next ICEM, and to hold office from the 1st January following the General Assembly at which the venue or the ICEM meeting is made until 1st January following the General Assembly which takes place at the ICEM for which their member is responsible.
 - (iv) Requirement for those nominated for office to indicate acceptance in writing in advance. The General Assembly accepted this proposal.
 - (v) Changes to time schedules. The General Assembly accepted the proposal to alter the timetable in Appendix 1 of the By-laws for application for (i) new membership, (ii) proposals for the agenda, and (iii) change of group from 10 months to 3 months, to produce greater efficiency.

- (vi) Associate Membership. The General Secretary explained the view of the Executive Committee that the Category "Associate Member" should be considered as an important category of membership, and that members in this category should not be required to apply for full membership within any specified time period. This proposal was accepted by the General Assembly.
- (vii) A document "Agreement Between IFSEM or Regional Committees and the Organisers of Congresses" had been drawn up to establish the relationship between the organiser of Conferences and the Regional members and IFSEM. Following general discussion in which Professor Admon (Israel) raised the need to include a penalty for non-compliance, the document was accepted unanimously.

6. Membership

(1) An application for regional membership from the Committee of Interamerican Societies for Electron Microscopy (CIASEM) had been received by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee had reviewed the application, and recommended that it be accepted. The General Assembly accepted the recommendation unanimously and CIASEM is to be a Regional Member from 1 January 1999.

(2) Several applications for new membership or change of membership had been received by the Executive Committee. It was noted that under the old Constitution, associate members had been required to seek full membership after 4 years, but that under the change made earlier at this General Assembly, this was no longer necessary. This particularly affected Latvia which had indicated that it wished to remain as an Associate Member if this was possible. The Executive Committee had considered all the applications, and, after taking into account the number of members in each of the societies and their level of activity, presented its recommendations. After considering these recommendations, Professor Matienco (Moldova) argued that Moldova should be a full member. Professor Milat (Croatia) argued that Croatia should be a full member. Professor Williams (USA) (seconded by Professor Frank (Czechoslovakia)) moved that Croatia be considered for full membership. This was accepted 21 in favour and 2 against. With no other changes to the recommendations of the Executive, the recommendations were accepted unanimously by the General Assembly, effective from 1 January 1999, as follows:-

Members (Group I (1 vote))

The Croatian Society for Electron Microscopy
The Microscopy Society (Singapore)
The Slovenian Society for Electron Microscopy
The Colombian Society for Electron Microscopy
The Turkish Electron Microscopy Society

Associate Members

Cuban Society for Electron Microscopy (new)
Electron Microscopy Section of the Republic of Moldova (affirmed)
Latvian Society of Electron Microscopy (affirmed)
Ecuadorian Electron Microscopy Society (new)
The Romanian Society for Electron Microscopy (affirmed)

Change of Group (to Group II (2 votes))

The Brazilian Society for Electron Microscopy
The Mexican Society for Electron Microscopy
The Spanish Society for Microscopy

(3) A brief and late letter of application for membership had been received from The Egyptian Society for Electron Microscopy. The General Assembly agreed to accept the application if the necessary documents were received by the General Secretary before 31st December 1998, and if, after reviewing the documents, the Executive Committee recommended the application for acceptance.

(4) The General Secretary reported that, he had tried repeatedly to reestablish contact with the Bulgarian Society for EM. Because of lack of response, he recommended that it should be considered for cessation of membership. The General Assembly voted unanimously to exclude Bulgaria if it did not satisfactorily reestablish contact with the General Secretary before 31 December 1998.

7. Selection of Site for ICEM 15.

The President reported that applications to host ICEM-15 had been received from the Canadian Society for Microscopy and the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa, and that the Executive Committee had reviewed both applications and considered both acceptable. The two applicants had made half hour presentations to an open forum earlier in the week. Mr Robin Cross (Southern Africa) and Dr P. Charest (Canada) made separate 5 minute presentations to the General Assembly. Both indicated that they were willing to sign the agreement with IFSEM previously approved, and both offered to set up Scholarship funds under IFSEM from the proceeds of the Conference.

During discussion, the representatives of MSA indicated their acceptance that their involvement in the Canadian bid was subject to the conditions laid down in the IFSEM agreement with Conference Organisers.

There was some discussion about the question of the merits and demerits of large conferences.

In reply to a question from Professor Rose, Southern Africa indicated the registration fees as being US\$350 (\$175 for students).

The General Assembly voted 34 to 17 in favour of the application from the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa.

8. Elections

President. The President advised that, since no nominations for President had been received by 3 months before the General Assembly, the Constitution required the Executive Committee to make recommendations. The Executive Committee had sought suggestions from all members, and from its own Committee members, and three had been received. Professor A Howie (proposed by Britain and France), Professor S Iijima (proposed by the MSA (USA)), and Professor R Fisher (proposed by a consortium of researchers from the USA, and supported by Mexico). The Executive Committee had reviewed the three proposals, and recommended all three for consideration by the General Assembly. Professor Maunsbach then gave a brief summary of the three candidates, and the General Assembly voted as follows:- Professor Howie (30 votes), Professor Fisher (13 votes) Professor Iijima (8 votes). Professor Howie was declared elected as President from 1 January 1999.

Ordinary Members The President advised that the Executive Committee had received 9 nominations for ordinary members of the Executive Committee. He pointed out that

there were 5 vacancies. The Executive Committee had reviewed all of the applications, and recommended them all to the General Assembly. The election was held, with the following result -

Professors Carter (32 votes), Colliex (32), Egerton (27), Wisse (27), Lichte (27), Li (26), Hutchison (25), Cross (21), Riseurio (16). Professors Carter, Colliex, Egerton, Wisse and Lichte were declared elected, with Professor Wisse being appointed for 4 years (as a result of a draw of cards carried out in the General Assembly), and the others being appointed for 8 years, all commencing 1 January 1999.

9. Report on IFSEM Activities

The President reported on the activities of the Executive. He advised that some had visited Cancun on 2 occasions to assist with planning for the ICEM-14. He commented on the successful publication of the IFSEM book "Growth of Electron Microscopy" edited by Professor Mulvey. The General Assembly expressed its thanks to Professor Mulvey by general applause, and instructed the General Secretary to write to Professor Mulvey expressing its gratitude. The President reported on the work of Professor Hawkes and Professor Wisse in producing the Proceedings of the Dublin meeting, and recovering from what had been a disastrous situation. The General Assembly expressed its gratitude by general applause, and directed the General Secretary to write to Professor Hawkes to express its gratitude. The President reported on the successful application of the IFSEM/MAS/MSA Scholarship fund set up by Professors R Fisher and D Johnson following ICEM-12. The President commented that 23 young scientists had scholarships from the fund for this Conference, but that the fund was now exhausted. Professor Yacaman advised that he intended to provide funds from ICEM-14 to continue the fund.

10. IFSEM Finances

(a) The General Secretary's Financial Report The General Secretary had distributed copies of his financial report dated August 19 1998. He noted that the total IFSEM assets (held in Sydney in two accounts, one in A\$ and one in US\$) were \$US47,145 which represents an increase in total IFSEM assets of US\$8,340 over the 4 year period.

The President reported his approval of the General Secretary's financial report. The financial report had also been examined and accepted by the elected auditors, Professors A W Robards and R Gunter. The General Assembly had no further comments and approved the report.

(b) Projections 1999-2002 & Annual Dues. The General Secretary presented his budget proposals for 1999-2002, which had been distributed to the Members and the Executive in advance. He proposed that the annual dues be increased by approximately 10% to balance the expected average annual expenses. The proposed annual dues were 1 vote US\$110; 2 votes US\$250; 3 votes US\$450; 4 votes US\$650. The General Assembly unanimously approved the General Secretary's budget proposals, and the new dues, effective from 1999.

11. Election of Two Auditors.

The General Assembly thanked the two auditors Professors A W Robards and J C Gunter, and reelected them for the period 1999-2002.

12. European Congress 1996 (Dublin).

The President referred to the fact that, despite promising to provide a report of the final budget of the Dublin meeting within 1 year of its close, the organisers had still

not provided it. The General Assembly discussed this matter, and viewed it with great concern. It was noted, that the Irish Society for Microscopy was the body responsible for the meeting, and that it had a responsibility to pursue this matter vigorously. The General Assembly voted unanimously to have the President write to the President of the University College, Dublin, with a copy to the Society, asking him to use the authority of his office to have the budget provided to IFSEM.

13. Report on Forthcoming Meetings

(1) EUREM 2000 - Dr Frank reported briefly on his progress in planning. The General Assembly reminded him of his obligation to meet the conditions set down in his signed contract with IFSEM & CESEM.

(2) CAPSEM 2000 - Professor Ng reported on her progress in planning.

14. Reports from Member Societies

Dr Gonzalez reported on the forthcoming Vth Interamerican Electron Microscopy Congress in Caracas (Venezuela) from 14-17 September 1999.

15. Any Other Business

The General Secretary drew attention to the new IFSEM website (www.usyd.edu.au/su/emu/ifsem), which he commended to members. He asked members to send up to date information, and he undertook to incorporate advice of meetings as a reference.

16. Closing Remarks

Professor Maunsbach, on behalf of the General Assembly, thanked Professor Yacaman for the successful organisation of ICEM-14. He then thanked Professors Robert Fisher and Elmar Zeitler, outgoing members of the Executive, for distinguished services for IFSEM, the General Secretary for the organisation of the General Assembly, and the participants for their constructive discussions, and he declared the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Sydney, 5 September 1998