

IAIA 2005 Annual General Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE 2005 • 12:00 P.M.
RIVERSIDE ROOM • HYATT REGENCY CAMBRIDGE OVERLOOKING BOSTON HOTEL
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, USA
Attendance: +/- 200

1. Welcome, introductions, and confirmation of 2004 AGM minutes.

President Richard Fuggle opened the meeting and introduced current and incoming Officers and Directors. Fuggle explained the new agenda format; the concept is that since reporting is contained in the annual report, the goal of the AGM will be to raise the profile of the Rose-Hulman Award and answer questions or concerns raised by members. No changes to the agenda were requested. Members endorsed the minutes of the 2004 AGM by a majority show of hands.

2. IAIA2004/5: What have we done and where are we going? Fuggle highlighted activities of the past year (see annual report), including record conference attendance in Vancouver, turning financial focus to long-term solutions and projects rather than solvency, the introduction of a tiered fee structure to support international participation, the development Affiliates, positioning IAIA to partner with other organizations such as Espoo and Ramsar to facilitate IAIA's voice being heard, and looking at best practice around the world to meet IAIA's mission statement. Fuggle challenged members to help think of ways to support Board members from LDCs and brought forth the suggestion that IAIA consider developing a Section or committee on ethics. Fuggle thanked members and delegates for their participation over the past year.

3. Money matters: Is IAIA financially sound? Questions for the Treasurer. No questions were raised by members present. Treasurer William Veerkamp noted that IAIA has re-established its financial position but still heavily relies on conference income for ongoing activities.

4. IAIA Honors Excellence: The Rose-Hulman Award Ceremony. Awards Committee chair Hussein Abaza introduced 2005 Rose-Hulman award recipient Alan Porter, noting in particular Porter's role as a founding member of IAIA.

Porter spoke of his involvement in the origins of IAIA and its development since, emphasized the growing role of technology assessment in the field of IA, and challenged IAIA members to take up the charge of responsibility laid out by keynote speaker Gus Speth.

5. Any debate? Items submitted in writing by members. No items were submitted.

6. Have Your Say: Informal discussion of matters that members wish to raise. Issues raised by members:

- A move by eastern European countries to increase membership and contribute to the overall goals of IAIA.
- Continue to encourage student membership and look at ways to reduce students' costs (note: a Board member is tasked with Student and Early Professionals issues).
- Members present confirmed to the Publications Committee by a show of hands that the newsletter is very widely read, and the Publications Committee asked for input over the next few days on ways to maintain or increase its value as a resource.
- Satisfaction that the Board is and implementing tiered fees and considering other ways to accommodate LDC members.
- Concern that the suggestion for a reduction in fees took so many years to put into action. (Fuggle explained that the issue was IAIA's precarious financial position and it is only in the last few years with the larger conferences and increased sponsorship funding that tiered fees were possible to implement. Fuggle noted that the new fee structure is still under review and may have to be rethought if too much income is lost under the plan.)
- Note that the annual report is useful and suggestion that that progress on the Strategic Action Plan also be reported.
- Suggestion that members contribute frequent flier miles to help support Board members, for example.
- Suggestion that an ad hoc working group be established to develop a plan to encourage membership from other agencies such as United Nations, World Bank, etc. (Fuggle noted that is a Board agenda item.)

7. Closing remarks. Fuggle thanked outgoing Board members and Chris Wood, who is retiring as editor of Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, and announced that Carys Jones and Colin Kirkpatrick are now serving as co-editors.

Fuggle closed the meeting at 12:55 pm.