



Approved Minutes
Professional Council Meeting
Friday, 2 June 2023, 10:00 – 11:00 CEST
Teleconference

Present: Te Paea Paringatai (Professional Council Chair), Leslie Weir (Chair, Division Committee A), Anoja Fernando (Chair, Division Committee B), Dilara Begum (Chair, Division Committee C), Patrick Danowski (Chair, Division Committee D), Jan Richards (Chair, Division Committee E), Man Yi Helen Chan (Chair, Division Committee F), Karin Byström (Chair, Division Committee G), , Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Chair, Regional Council)

Apologies: Camille Callison (Chair, Division Committee H)

Staff: Helen Mandl (Deputy Secretary General), Megan Price (Professional Support Officer)

Observers: 11 observers were present

Welcome and Apologies

1.0 Approval of agenda

Resolution: The agenda was approved – item 3.3 was moved up to become the first item for discussion.

1.1 Approval of Minutes from April meeting

Resolution: The minutes were approved

2.0 *For information

2.1 Unit updates

The Council noted the report.

2.2 Funding update, requests

The Council noted the report. The Professional Council Chair noted a pending item from 2.2 regarding Committee on Standards and Review Group funding would be brought to the Professional Council's August meeting pending information from IFLA HQ regarding the background of this funding.

2.3 Actions from previous meetings

The Council noted the update.

2.4 Elections update

The Council noted the update.

2.5 Guidelines, Standards, Unit publications

The Council noted the update.

2.6 Unit acronym refresh

The Council noted the report

2.7 March 2023 Action Plan update

The Council noted the update

3.0 Strategic matters for discussion (45 minutes)

3.1 **ATINA SIG closure

The discontinued Africa Section sponsored the Access to Information Network - Africa (ATINA) from 2009. The SIG was reviewed and renewed in 2013 and 2017, and in 2020 the Professional Committee (PC) recommended that the SIG remain open until 2023, at which time it would be closed. The SIG has been inactive, without a sponsoring section or Convenor since 2021.

The recommendation is that ATINA SIG be officially closed. The ATINA SIG is part of Division B. If closed it will be removed from this Division.

Resolution: The Professional Council agreed with the recommendation for closure. The final decision will be made by the Governing Board at their June 2023 meeting.

3.2 WLIC update

An update on WLIC planning was provided by the WLIC Subcommittee. The Conferences Manager provided a paper covering the meeting dates and times concerning the Professional Structure and the Professional Council. The Deputy Secretary General provided an update on registrations and upcoming offerings at the Conference.

A proposal for the WLIC 2024 timeline was presented.

The Council noted the update.

3.3 New Standing Committee members - Leslie Weir

A memo was provided by Division A Chair, Leslie Weir, on behalf of Units from Division A concerning the election of volunteers from the Russian Federation. It was noted that this memo had been sent from the National Libraries Section to the IFLA President, Barbara Lison and the Acting Secretary General, Helen Mandl, and that the topic would be taken up by the Governing Board at the June 2023 meeting.

As there wasn't enough time to address the issue or to consider a diverse range of perspectives from Units prior to the GB meeting, this discussion is being held at the Professional Council to confirm this is an important issue for IFLA volunteers and members, as it does impact the operational work of the Professional Council and Professional Units.

A discussion of the memo's main points was held. Among these were:

- Clarification on the difference between members and volunteers and the way the rules and statutes approach complex situations of this sort would be useful.
- There is a question on whether other Units have faced similar issues.

- What objective or other evidence should be presented to the Governing Board who will ultimately be responsible for any approach or response.
- Whether any statement that has been made regarding this situation is consistent and relevant for members and volunteers.
- The importance of balancing the needs of volunteers and delicately approaching the topic with committee membership, where committee members may be from the Russian Federation.
- Additional committee views can inform the discussion held by the GB and can provide useful information.
- Practical direction is needed for Officers and committee members who find themselves in situations where their employer or the government of the country in which they reside is forbidding contact or work with committee members of the Russian Federation.
- IFLA policy is that IFLA volunteers are elected in their own right and not as a representative of their employer or their country. IFLA Volunteers are not held responsible for the views of their governments.
- Some institutions may not agree with IFLA, that volunteers are completely disassociated from their employers. Maybe at the theoretical level, but not at a practical level as many volunteers are supported with time or funds to attend IFLA events and to take part in committee activities.
- IFLA is a global organization, and respects anyone, regardless of where they come from.
- IFLA expects committee members to be working for the global library good and not as a representative of their country or organization.
- Many volunteers are supported by their organizations and some of them are government organizations, so that relationship has meaning with our individual members and volunteers.

Resolution: Division Committee Chairs will inform their Division Committee that this discussion is being held at the Governing Board. Division Committee Chairs will determine if there are Units within their Divisions who are experiencing similar issues. The Professional Council will collect any feedback from the Unit and will share that with the Governing Board.

3.4 Subcommittee & Working Group updates

- Speaker Grants - The results of the Speaker Grants survey were presented by Division B Chair, Anoja Fernando.
- Open Access – Work is continuing, nothing new to report.
- **Governance - Per the April 2023 PC Meeting, a proposal for the IFLA Networks structure put forth by the PC Governance Subcommittee was presented. The proposal has been reviewed by the Chairs of the Advisory Committees, the Regional Council and the members of the Professional Council and came to the PC for formal approval.
- Action Plan – The committee is currently working on the roll out of the platform and the training plan, progressing step by step to keep the process simple.

Resolutions:

1. A proposal for the Speaker Grants programme will be taken forward to the 2023-25 PC at their August meeting for further progression
2. The Networks proposal will move forward to the Governing Board for approval at their June 2023 meeting.

3.5 WLIC Joint PC event, and Officers Session planning group (EOI)

The Professional Council Chair asked for 3 PC members to form a working group around the Officers Forum, the Demystifying the PC Session at WLIC and the joint PC get-together to be held at WLIC.

Resolution: Division A Chair, Leslie Weir, Division B Chair, Anoja Fernando and PC Chair, Te Paea Paringatai will serve on this working group

4.0 Division matters – Discussion

None noted

4.1 Other matters not covered in 3.0

None noted

5.0 Other matters

5.1 Regional Council Update

The Professional Council Chair drew attention to the recent update posted in the Officer Basecamp. The Regional Council Chair invited the Professional Council to attend their upcoming meeting. The invitation will be posted in the PC Basecamp.

5.2 Other matters not in 4.0

The Professional Council Chair asked for questions from Observers. None were noted.

The Chair of Division Committee F, Helen Chan, provided points from her Division: 1) Earlier awareness of the WLIC location for Section planning, this was seconded. It was noted by the Chair of Division Committee D, Patrick Danowski, that a return to knowing the location of WLIC 2 years in advance would assist with budgeting and planning for travel to the Congress. 2) Increased communication between the GB and the Sections. For example to have a Q&A virtually with the Governing Board in between Congresses; 3) Co-Chairs are an item being requested by some Section members. The Chair of Division Committee F asked that this item be revisited.

Confirmed meeting dates

- Governing Board Wednesday to Friday, 7- 9 June 2023 - The Hague (Hybrid)
- Professional Council (WLIC) Saturday, 19 August 2023 - 08:30 - 10:00 CEST (Hybrid)
- Governing Board (WLIC) Saturday, 19 August 2023 - 15:30 - 18:00 CEST (Hybrid)