



Approved Minutes
Professional Council Meeting
Saturday, 19 August 2023, 10:00 – 11:00 CEST
Hybrid

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), Camille Callison (Chair, Division Committee H), Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Chair, Regional Council), Barbara Lison (IFLA President 2021-2023), Vicki Mc Donald (IFLA President-elect 2021-2023)

Apologies: None noted

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

Observers: 11 observers were present

Welcome and Apologies

The Professional Council Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

The IFLA President 2021-2023 greeted those in attendance.

1.0 Approval of agenda

Resolution: The agenda was approved

1.1 Approval of Minutes from June meeting

Resolution: The minutes were approved

2.0 *For information

2.1 Unit updates

The Council noted the report.

2.2 PC Funding update, requests

The Council noted the report.

2.3 Actions from previous meetings

The Council noted the update.

2.4 Elections, transition and onboarding update

The Council noted the update.

2.5 Unit standards and publications, Sage Annual Report

The Council noted the update.

2.6 WLIC Update

It was noted that the issues that have arisen as a result of the WLIC 2024 decision will be taken up by the 2024 Professional Council.

The Demystifying the PC Session has been prepared and is ready to be presented. It is hoped that the session will encourage more people to stand as Officers, leading them to potentially serve as future Professional Council members.

The Chair of the WLIC 2023 Subcommittee thanked those who worked in preparing the Congress - members of the subcommittee and IFLA HQ.

3.0 Strategic matters for discussion (75 minutes)

3.1 Regional Representation Update

The Regional Council Chair provided an update on the current status of the 2023-25 Regional Council.

The Division Committee G Chair, noted that one issue raised in the update was that of the diversity of the incoming Professional Council. It was noted that by focusing on the regional diversity of newly-elected Officers this could positively affect the diversity of the Division Committee Chairs and therefore future Professional Councils.

It was noted that the PC struggled to attract candidates for the 2023-25 Professional Council and it was suggested that outgoing Division Committee Chairs encourage Officers from their Divisions to put themselves forward for the role.

The Regional and Professional Council Chairs identified the importance of a close collaboration between the two Councils moving forward.

3.2 Advisory Committee on Standards Funding Review

At the December 2019 Professional Committee Meeting it was decided that €2000 be allocated from PC funds to each Review Group (€4000 - €6000) to facilitate in-person standards-development meetings. This was made immediately redundant due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was a question whether this allocation from PC funding should continue, as IFLA Units have been meeting online for the past three years. Another question raised is that because the Advisory Committee on Standards reports to the Governing Board, whether funds should come directly from the Governing Board for COS-related activities.

The Professional Council Chair met with the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Standards to seek any background information, perspective on the arrangement, share information and preferences for going forward. The Deputy Secretary General reported on the history of Review Group funding.

It was determined that while there are close relationships between the Review Groups, the Committee on Standards and the Professional Council, that the funding and support for the Committee on Standards be a matter for the Governing Board, as it is for other Advisory Committees.

Resolutions:

- That the funding remain status quo through December 2023 and then the matter will be taken to the Governing Board for further consideration.
- That the Professional Council apply its usual processes for any bids made for PC funds, with the understanding that we do have money in the budget to support bids like this up to an amount of 5,000 or more.
- The Professional Council recommends that the Committee on Standards is fully supported by the Governing Board going forward as per other Advisory Committees.

3.3 GB and PC Response on volunteers from the Russian Federation

At the June 2023 meeting, 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.

The Governing Board provided a statement on the situation, which was shared with the Division A Units. The Division considers the matter to be closed at this time, though it was noted that the challenges raised still remain for current Officers.

3.4 Subcommittee & Working Group updates

- Action Plan – The Chair of the Action Planning Subcommittee reported on the roll-out of the Infinity platform for Professional Units.
- Open Access – The Chair of Division D provided an update on the working group's progress. A statement on Open Access and inclusion was presented and approved by the Governing Board. Continued work on the statement will be undertaken with a focus on bringing the various Open Access movements together. A draft vocabulary has been developed which will be presented during WLIC 2023. Work will continue after the Congress.

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

5.2 Other matters not in 4.0

Thanks and appreciation were shared amongst the members of the Professional Council. The Council thanked the Chair for her leadership.