



Approved Minutes
Professional Council Meeting
Friday, 1 April 2022, 13:00 – 14:30 CEST
Teleconference

Present: Adjoa Boateng (Chair, Professional Council), Leslie Weir (Chair, Division A), Anoja Fernando (Chair, Division B), Dilara Begum (Chair, Division C), Patrick Danowski (Chair, Division D), Jan Richards (Chair, Division E), Man Yi Helen Chan (Chair, Division F), Te Paea Paringatai (Chair, Division G), Camille Callison (Chair, Division H), Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Chair, Regional Division Committee), Barbara Lison (IFLA President), Antonia Arahova (IFLA President-elect)

Staff: Helen Mandl (Deputy Secretary General and Director, Member Services), Megan Price (Professional Support Officer).

Apologies: Gerald Leitner, (Secretary General)

Welcome and Apologies

The Professional Council Chair Adjoa Boateng welcomed the Council, the IFLA President and President-elect.

1.0 General business

1.1 Approval of agenda

Resolution: The agenda was approved.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting 11 February 2022

Resolution: The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2022 were approved.

2.0 *For information

2.1 Unit updates

An update on Units + IFLA Strategy coverage, Professional Unit Virtual Events, and Standing Committee changes was provided.

The Council noted the report.

3.0 Division matters

3.1 Celebrations, questions, comments, concerns from the Divisions

A discussion on Professional Unit matters was held. The PC Chair and Division Chairs raised the following items brought to them by the Units:

- **Will there be an extension to the Early Bird for speakers who are still being confirmed by Units?**

At this stage, there is not a decision to prolong the early bird for everyone, but we have indicated to groups that if they have speakers that come late and also for people who have grant applicants we can provide an early bird rate using a code.

- **There are quite a number of sections that are short of people, either people that have resigned or people who have never been active since they were elected, so the pressure for us to be able to deal with the co-opting question, is growing and becoming more intense.**

A proposal has been developed by the sub-committee which will go to the Governing Board at their April meeting.

- **Will there be any repercussions if an Officer is not able to attend WLIC in person?**

There is no penalty for not being able to attend WLIC.

4.0 Strategic matters

4.1 Professional Unit Action Plans

4.1.1 Annex 1 – Action Plan March Updates

Professional Units submitted initial Action Plans in November, indicating the completion status of each output planned for the 2021-2023 term. Fewer mid-term updates were submitted, which made it difficult to provide an accurate overall picture of Action Plan progress indicated by the data.

Across the board, Units have begun to action items planned for 2021-2023 and there remain outputs planned for 2021-2022 for which progress has not yet been begun. Units have made the most progress for those items housed under Strategic Direction 2, and of those reported, most outputs for Strategic Directions 1, 3 and 4 are their early stages of development. We can predict a greater number of completed outputs for the October 2022 Update, as Units will have completed work to be presented and shared at WLIC 2022.

The Division Chairs were asked to provide insight on Unit projects and initiatives in Basecamp. It was noted from the Division E Chair, that those Units with a full complement of active Officers were those Units who had been able to make significant progress on their goals.

4.2 Professional Council Funding

An update on 2021-2022 Professional Council Funds and an overview and comparison of 2020-2021 PC Funds were provided. Of the €50,000 available at the beginning of the term, €30,487 has been allocated to projects and project tools, with €19,513 remaining to be allocated.

The Professional Council discussed two funding proposals: Children & Young Adults and Science & Technology Libraries. The PC Chair will discuss with the Advisory Committee on Standards Chair, regarding whether the yearly Review Group allocation of €2000 per group for in-person meetings should continue.

The Chair raised the point that future discussion should be had regarding the translation of in-person meetings and documentation as a need for the Professional Units.

Resolutions:

1. The STL proposal was rejected, as Wordly is available for this purpose.
2. A revision is requested for the C&YA request to add information about impact measurement as part of the project.
3. The Committee approved the PC Funding Guidelines for 2022-2023.
4. The Professional Support Officer will inform Units of the outcome of their request by mid-April 2022.

Action:

1. PSO to post PC Funding Guidelines for 2022 – 2023 to the Officer Basecamp.

2. The PSO will publicise the translation options available i.e., Wordly and our IFLA translation centers, and the process for applying for Wordly funds.

4.3 Publications, Guidelines and Standards

4.3.1 Annex 2 – SET LIS Guidelines

4.3.2 Annex 3 – Bibliographies Common Practices

4.3.3 Annex 4 – IFLA Journal Contract

An update on Unit and Review Group Guidelines and Standards currently in progress was provided. The committee noted the update.

The SET IFLA Guidelines for Professional Library and Information Science (LIS) Education Programmes and the Common Practices for National Bibliographies in the Digital Age Publication were presented to the Professional Council for their endorsement. Both documents have completed a rigorous peer and Committee on Standards process. The Committee on Standards have approved both documents and they are now ready to be endorsed by the Professional Council and move to publication.

SAGE have published the IFLA Journal since 2005. The current 5-year contract will expire this year and SAGE have indicated that they wish to renew the partnership for a period covering 2023-2027. The conditions for the proposed contract along with the costs and benefits of the IFLA Journal's long-standing relationship with SAGE were outlined.

The Division D Chair indicated his appreciation for our ability to post the IFLA Journal on the website and raised the question of whether there was a proposed plan to transition towards the IFLA Journal becoming an Open Access journal. He also raised the issue of article findability. While the Journal is provided for free via the IFLA Repository, they are shared as a PDF and not as individual articles with DOIs. The Professional Council Chair asked that IFLA HQ determine the impact of OA on the journal contract negotiation. The Division A Chair suggested that a discussion of the future SAGE contracts be raised and discussed a year in advance to have a formal discussion so there is preparation. The Division G Chair raised that whilst Western libraries are all for open access, indigenous perspectives may have restricted access for very good reasons. There are other perspectives that the library sector caters for and would like to have enduring relationships with these communities and so it's not a one size fits all. In this case, OA needs to be balanced with sponsorship and financial support for IFLA. It was noted that open access does not mean free – someone has to pay. The Division E Chair raised the idea of an annual survey to get feedback to SAGE on the ever-changing needs of the field.

Resolutions:

1. The Professional Council endorsed the SET IFLA Guidelines for Professional Library and Information Science (LIS) Education Programmes.
2. The Professional Council endorsed the Common Practices for National Bibliographies in the Digital Age Publication.
3. The Professional Council will discuss the 2023-2027 Contract with SAGE Publishing further on Basecamp and will come back with a decision by the June 2022 PC meeting.

Actions: The PSO will inform the Units of their approval. The PSO will facilitate the Units' connection to the IFLA Communications team, who will work with the Units to publicise these publications.

4.4 WLIC 2022 Subcommittee update

An update on the work of the WLIC 2022 Subcommittee was provided. 54 Open Sessions, 11 Satellite Meetings and 205 Posters have been approved. A second round of innovative and collaborative sessions will be reviewed in the coming weeks. A draft WLIC programme will be posted for Units at the end of April. The Chair of the WLIC Subcommittee noted that while the conference will be in Europe and many regions may not be able to attend, they are encouraging and working with Units to ensure as much diversity as possible for this WLIC. The Council noted the report.

4.5 WLIC Meetings hosted by Professional Council

A discussion on WLIC offerings hosted by the Professional Council was held.

The Professional Council will develop an interactive workshop to provide an opportunity for feeding back information from the Units to HQ and the PC. It was also proposed that a round table discussion be held for those who are interested in feeding back ideas on Networks and Working Groups so these can be developed together.

Resolution: The Professional Council will develop these meetings via Basecamp.

4.6 Dynamic Unit and Impact Award Committee

The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award (DUIA) highlights and recognises the work of the Professional Units. The award is presented to one Unit that shows exceptional adherence to the criteria and up to two Special Mentions for achievements related to a group or subgroup of the criteria.

A jury of 3 members from the Professional Council was requested to serve alongside a representative, from the 2021 winning DUIA Unit – Academic and Research Libraries. An email was sent to the ARL Chair to secure a volunteer – Jerome Fronty will serve in this role.

Resolutions:

1. The Professional Council noted and approved the DUIA process.
2. The Division B, E and F Chairs will serve on the DUIA Jury for 2022.

Action: The PSO will facilitate the DUIA process as listed.

4.7 Speaker Grant Subcommittee update

An update on the work of the WLIC Speaker Grant Subcommittee was provided. The Professional Council noted the report.

4.8 Section and SIG Reviews

The IFLA Rules of Procedure state that the Professional Units are reviewed every 5 years. Based on a previous timeline, there are six SIGs scheduled for review this year. With the delay in forming the Special Interest Groups – those SIGs scheduled have not yet been notified regarding their review.

Current SIG Review Procedure

1. The SIG does a self-study and creates a report
2. IFLA PSO confirms data, e.g., posting of reports and plans
3. The SIG's Sponsoring Section reviews the report and makes a status recommendation
4. The SIG's/Sponsoring Section's Division Chair reviews the report and recommendation of the Sponsoring Section and makes a status recommendation
5. The recommendations are reviewed, discussed then determined and confirmed by the Professional Council
6. The SIG is informed of the outcome of the report

Sections have not been previously reviewed. The review process as set out in the Rules of Procedure was intended to provide a fair and non-emotional means of assessing whether a Section should continue. Over the last years, there have been questions as to the viability of some Sections, their focus, or whether it would be better to merge with another Section etc. The reviews would provide a space to have these conversations and as the library field changes and evolves, ensure that IFLA's structure and expert committees are relevant, able to evolve and ready to address future challenges.

Resolution: This item was not addressed at the meeting and will be revisited at the June meeting.

4.9 Co-opting, Mentors, SIGs, Networks, Working Groups Subcommittee update

An update on the work of the Co-opting, et al. Subcommittee was provided. The Professional Council noted the report.

5.0 Operational matters

5.1 Actions from previous meetings

An overview of the work that had been completed following the February 2022 meeting of the Professional Council was provided, along with a status update of ongoing work. New items will be added to the list and dates set as available.

Resolution: An updated action list will be shared with the Professional Council and reported on at the June 2022 meeting.

6.0 Other business

6.1 Q&A with IFLA President and President-elect

The IFLA President and President-elect were present for a Q&A session with members of the Professional Council. Following questions from the Division Chairs regarding IFLA HQ, the Professional Council Chair stated that following the results of a report, the Governing Board voted to remove the Secretary General from his position. Information has been published stating that the Governing Board has decided to appoint two Board members, Antonia Arahova and Halo Locher, to take care of the operational management tasks of SG within IFLA on an interim basis because of absence of the Secretary General. The President cautioned on saying more due to legal matters. If questioned, Division Chairs were asked to refer to the published information.

On the question of Ukraine, the President stated that IFLA had published a statement. The Governing Board had robust discussions about the situation and options. Governing Board has issued a second statement which sets out that there are no grounds within IFLA's Statutes to expel Russian members, that there will be no IFLA representation in activities with Russia, and that there should be no discrimination against Russian volunteers on IFLA committees. The Governing Board agreed for affirmative actions in support of Ukraine.

The Professional Council Chair raised the issue of new rules to clarify some of the issues around the SIGs and committees. She would seek information on the steps required to ensure they are properly added in IFLA's Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

6.2 Wrap-up and next steps

Confirmed 2022 dates

- Governing Board Wednesday, 5 April – Friday, 8 April, The Hague, Netherlands
- Professional Council Friday, 24 June - 06:00 CEST, Zoom
- Professional Council Sunday, 24 July – Time to be confirmed, Dublin, Ireland
- Governing Board Sunday, 24 July – Time to be confirmed, Dublin, Ireland