



DRAFT

Institutional Review of IARU Funding Proposals

The 2007 meetings of IARU Presidents and of Senior Officers have given in principle approvals to research proposals in selected areas. Three of these proposals have been developed to the point where the proponents now seek “IARU sign-off” with a view towards fund-raising.

“IARU sign-off” represents a significant commitment by the Members and Presidents. Not only will IARU itself be seen to endorse the proposal, but also each Member will be seen to give its endorsement. Accordingly, Presidents will require strong and unequivocal recommendations from their advisers that the project is worthy of their university’s support. The 2007 Senior Officers’ meeting agreed to develop a template that could assist IARU member universities to provide a recommendation to the respective Presidents.

Principles

The following extracts from IARU’s Principles provide guidance on the matters that would be included in a recommendation to a President:

- That the Alliance will bring a new dimension to Members’ international activities, including new opportunities for international research, teaching and learning;
- That the Alliance will (in the medium term) invite participants to utilise the complementary research capability of Members to address issues of central importance;
- That the Alliance will provide a framework within which a range of protocols and templates can be developed to promote collaboration and allow cooperative activities to be undertaken more easily;
- That each Member will determine the extent of its involvement in each of the activities of the Alliance to suit its particular objectives and constraints;
- That Alliance activities will build on and strengthen existing relationships;
- That Membership of the Alliance will in no way preclude or limit activities with partners outside the Alliance.

Assessment Template

The Assessment Template is a checklist of factors that will be considered in evaluating a request for the President of an IARU Member to approve a research project proposal. Members may wish to add other factors, depending on local practice or the specific program.

It is expected that research participants will work at all times under the Codes and Conditions that apply to their employing university and also to any IARU university at which they are a visitor. A program agreement may be executed to govern conditions for, and conduct of, a research program.

It is anticipated that each Member will evaluate the opportunity from the perspective of the Member, as well as from the perspective of IARU as an Association.

ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

1. Research Program

- Is the research program sufficiently novel and are the potential outcomes of sufficient importance, so that they enhance the reputation of IARU?
- Is the scale of effort large enough, and is it commensurate with the scope of the program and its sharpness of focus?
- Are the approaches to the problem and the methodology to be used well set out and coherently justified? Are the research timelines plausible and appropriate?

2. Exploiting the IARU advantages

- Does the program require international and/or regional perspectives that are illuminated by IARU's international dimensions?
- Are IARU's research breadth and depth across disciplines captured with sufficient intensity in the program?
- Does IARU participation add evident value to the program?
- Does the program exploit special facilities and infrastructure available within the Alliance?
- Will the program enhance the reputations of IARU and the participating Members?

3. Educational Opportunities

- Does the program induce engagement with undergraduate education?
- Do opportunities for graduate coursework studies arise from the program, especially as cross-institutional study opportunities?
- Will the program open opportunities for PhD students, especially across campuses?

4. Leadership and Management of the Project

- Are the research leaders experienced and committed, with a high institutional and disciplinary reputation and a strong track record?
- Are there adequate formal and informal collaborative arrangements in place to deal with planning, reporting, funding, intellectual property, and so forth?
- Is the governance clear and appropriate, and are the accountabilities of researchers to their universities and to IARU agreed?

5. Funding

- Is the financial plan adequate when considered against the project aims?
- Are the proposed funding sources, including the timing and scale of requests, appropriate for the program, and are they compatible with other aims and activities of IARU and Members?

6. Risk Mitigation

- Are the program plans adequately developed and sufficiently complete?
- Has a risk assessment been conducted?
- Has an assessment been made of the ethical, animal welfare, safety approvals required, and it is confidently anticipated that they will be forthcoming from all parties?
- Is the overall quality of the program, and especially the quality of specific funding proposals, adequate to justify IARU and Member support?
- Are the roles and responsibilities of the participants (Members, Researchers) clear and agreed?

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