

IARU SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING OUTCOMES

Session 2: Regional round up discussion

- Following the discussions about the ongoing challenges of online teaching, it was suggested that the newly formed Education Initiatives Committee could look at sharing advances and best practice in digital pedagogy.

Action: Secretariat to liaise with Education Initiatives Committee.

Session 5: Education Initiatives

- Senior Officers noted the difficulty in raising participation in the IARU Courses without raising additional funding to replace the loss of the Santander funding.
- Senior Officers agreed to raise the value of the Global Internship Program (GIP) grants to \$3,000 to try and reinvigorate the scheme. The Education Initiatives Committee should consider the GIP and, after assessing the impact of the increase of the grant, decide whether it represents good value for IARU.
- Senior Officer confirmed that they were happy to proceed with the Education Initiatives Committee. No budget request was made for the committee at the meeting.

Action: Secretariat to liaise with Education Initiatives Committee about the GIP.

Session 6: Research-related Initiative

- The funding request from the Aging, Longevity and Health Initiative was approved.

Action: Secretariat to inform ALH initiative of funding decision.

Session 7: Institutional Joint Working

- The Senior Officers noted that there were marked differences in detail between the groups in the reporting and funding requests provided. It is hoped that the proposed Groups Handbook (see Session 9 below) will assist with standardising this information in future. In addition, further detail on the reasoning behind funding requests will also be requested, to help Senior Officers in their decisions.
- *Alumni Associations Network:* No funding request was made.
- *Cybersecurity Forum:* Senior Officers approved the funding request.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision.

- *Gender Group:* Senior Officers approved the funding request.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision.

- *Global Transformations:* Senior Officers agreed that this groups should be categorised as an education initiative in future. They also approved the funding request, with the stipulation that there should be an acknowledgement to IARU for providing the funding for the publication.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision and ask for an acknowledgement for the funding to be added to the publication.

- *HR Consultation Group:* No funding request was received in time for the meeting.

Action: Secretariat to ask group for funding request and current list of members. The funding request will then be circulated to Senior Officers.

- *Librarians' Contact Group:* Senior Officers approved the funding request.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision and ask if the model of the staff exchange scheme can be shared with the Real Estate Working Group.

- *Lifelong Learning Group:* Senior Officers welcomed the increase in activity from the group but noted that it was not usual for a group to be given funding for two in-person meetings. They proposed funding the later meeting as the Lifelong Learning group would still be able to meet at the earlier conference and this would also give time for the group to increase participation.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision.

- *Real Estate Working Group:* Senior Officers approved the funding request for the annual meeting. They agreed they would like more detail on the staff exchange scheme (perhaps using the model of a similar scheme developed by the Librarians' Contact Group), before approving the funding. Senior Officers also asked for more details on the toolkit and website before agreeing the funding.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision and ask for further details on the staff exchange scheme, toolkit and website.

- *Sustainable Campus Initiative:* Senior Officers approved the funding request subject to receiving the report on phase 1 of their joint project with the Real Estate Working Group.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision and ask for report on phase 1 of joint project.

- *Virtual Museum Tours:* Senior Officers felt that this initiative had been important during the pandemic, when it was difficult for other activities to go ahead and for museums to open to the public. However, the situation has now changed and, as the value of providing support for additional virtual tours was not clear and resources have to be prioritised, Senior Officers declined to approve the funding request.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision.

Session 8: Expanding IARU membership into Latin America

- After a thorough discussion about the potential candidates put forward by the working group, the Senior Officers concluded that there were no candidates that were comparable in size and remit to current IARU members. It was decided that Senior Officers would recommend that the membership should not be expanded at present and this decision could be reviewed in the future.

Action: Secretariat will communicate this decision to the Presidents.

Session 9: Updates on Secretariat Proposals

- *Group Handbook:* Senior Officers welcomed the Handbook, agreeing that new groups could be set up for an initial period of 3 years, although there could be flexibility if needed. Senior Officer also agreed that the more specific style of reporting proposed would be helpful. Additional clarity on the reasoning behind budget requests would also be welcome.

Action: Secretariat to consult group leads about the Handbook before publishing on the IARU website.

- *Early Career Collaboration Grants:* Senior Officers agreed to define 'early career' as 10 years post-PhD and also agreed that the scheme would exclude post-docs. They also endorsed the Presidents' decision to increase the available funding to \$40,000, anticipating this would cover 8 grants of \$5,000 each. Selection will not be linked to academic merit, as the Secretariat and Senior Officers are not well-equipped to make those judgements across a large number of disciplines. Instead it could be based on order of receiving applications or randomised, depending on the level of interest. Applicants will be asked to provide a letter of motivation, along with a statement of permission from their Head of Department and a letter of support from the receiving department.

Action: Secretariat to make final revisions and circulate to Senior Officers before advertising.

Session 10: IARU Business Matters

- *Scheduling of PMs and SOMs:* Senior Officers agreed that on alternate years, the PM and SOM should be held consecutively to minimise travel and allow greater interaction between the two groups. On years that the PM is hosted at ETH Zürich to coincide with Davos, the SOM will be held separately. There was great interest in holding more regular online meetings for the Senior Officers and it was agreed that a single meeting (despite the difficulties of time zones) was preferable.
- *Rotation of Chair and Secretariat:* The merits of the proposed changes (extending to three years) were discussed but UCT (as the next Secretariat) said they would prefer to defer this decision until they had a better idea of the work of the Secretariat.

Action: Secretariat will communicate this proposal to the Presidents and the topic will be revisited in due course.

- *Financial report and planning:* The Senior Officers accepted the financial report. The financial planning paper outlined the need to watch the level of expenditure as in-person activities restarted and Senior Officers agreed that this would be reviewed at the next meeting.
- *Agenda items for PM:* Net zero was a popular topic for the PM agenda, as was academic freedom. ETH Zürich (as PM 2023 host) commented that there would be options for highly qualified speakers for both subjects. Digital pedagogy is an important subject for all IARU members and could also be a possible focus for one of the sessions. UTokyo would like to propose a session on governance in world-class universities and the interim IARU Chair, Dr Anthony Freeling, will also be consulted.

Action: Secretariat will ask Senior Officers for any other ideas and liaise with ETH Zürich about approaching speakers. It will also consult the interim IARU Chair about potential topics.

- *Date and Host of SOM 2023 AND PM 2024:* ANU kindly volunteered to host SOM 2023, probably at the end of September 2023. Yale kindly volunteered to host a joint meeting of Senior Officers and Presidents in 2024.

Action: Secretariat will liaise with the incoming UCT Secretariat team to prepare for these meetings.