IARU SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING OUTCOMES

Session 3: Education Initiatives

- *3.2: Global Internship Program*: The Secretariat reported on the Global Internship Program (GIP) and ETH noted that it will invite IARU students to a recently launched internship scheme next year. It was confirmed that the GIP funding should be available to all internship schemes, regardless of whether the scheme had been exclusively devised for IARU.

  The Senior Officers approved the funding request for $22,000.

- *3.3 Education Committee:* It was reported that the Education Committee has had to abandon its plan for a Summer Hub, which would have hosted a series of joint courses. The Senior Officers would like the Committee to focus on providing an overview of initiatives and will review the committee in a year. They also discussed consulting internally about who would be best to represent the universities on the Committee to solve particular problems, for example funding.

  Several Senior Officers raised the issue that cost of attending these courses in person can be a challenge. The Senior Officers would therefore like the Committee to explore seeking funding for the IARU Courses, to replace the Santander funding which ended in 2018. Additionally, they would like the Committee to review the GIP to understand how it is functioning, if its impact could be increased, if it represents good value for IARU and if any improvements could be made.

  There was no funding request.

Action: Secretariat to contact the Education Committee to discuss the Senior Officers' suggestions for its work.
Action: Secretariat to circulate the list of current membership for review by the Senior Officer at each institution.

Session 4: Global Transformation Group

Action: Secretariat to talk to the group about how to support its future direction.

Action: Secretariat to ask if it can put the short film on the IARU website.

Session 5: Joint Institutional Working Groups

- *Alumni Associations Network*: A funding request for $15,000 was made but as a new funding level for meetings is being established, the Secretariat will need to ask the group for further details of their planned spending.

Action: Secretariat to contact the Alumni Associations Network to inform group of new funding level for meetings and to ask for further details of other project funding. Circulate by email any requests to the Senior Officers for approval.

Cybersecurity Forum: Senior Officers approved the funding request (revised down to $8,000 from $10,000 in line with decision from Senior Officers – see report back on Session 9.3 below).

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision, and to draw attention to the guidelines that accommodation is not usually covered.

- *Gender Group*: Senior Officers approved the funding request of $8,000.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision.

- *Global Transformation Initiative*: Senior Officers approved the funding request of $30,000.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision.

- *HR Consultation Group*: The group requested funding for a paper. Senior Officers asked for more details before approving funding. The meeting funding request is approved but to be revised to $8,000.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision, and suggest they use the meeting to develop their ideas around the paper further and then resubmit their request for funding.

- *Librarians' Contact Group*: Senior Officers approved the funding request of $7,500.

  After the meeting, a further funding request for $5,000 was submitted for the group's 2024 meeting. As this is under the threshold agreed by Senior Officers, it will be approved.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision.

- *Lifelong Learning Group*: No funding request was made.

- *Real Estate Working Group*: Senior Officers asked for more details before approving funding. The meeting funding request will also need to be revised to $8,000.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision and ask for further details.

- *Sustainable Campus Initiative*: Senior Officers approved the funding request for the Sustainable Campus Mobility Project ($7,500) but wanted more details on the cost of the graphic design element before approving those funds ($2,500).

  Senior Officers approved the meeting funding request, although this will need to be revised down from $10,000 to $8,000, and more details will be needed on the capacity building aspect ($5,000).

  Senior Officer approved carrying over the deferred funds ($15,000).

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision and ask for further details.

Session 6: Research Initiatives

- *Ageing, Health and Longevity Initiative*: The Senior Officers decided that travel and accommodation costs *could* be covered for students and early-career researchers for the ALH conference. The reasons for this were that it was an academic activity and the purpose of the event was to support early-career researchers, who do not often have access to additional funding of this sort. However, Senior Officers raised the question of how students and researchers were selected and whether there was consistency across members.

  The Senior Officers were happy with ALH setting up a website and using social media to publicise their work, if IARU is credited.

  The Senior Officers approved the funding request.

Action: Secretariat to inform group of funding decision and liaise about website/social media next steps. Secretriat also to ask the Chair of the Initiative how students and researchers are selected.

- *Early-Career Collaboration Grants*: The Senior Officers approved the request to fund the grants at the same level in 2024 ($40,000). There were no changes to the eligibility criteria.

Action: Secretariat to organise the distribution of funds and advertise scheme for next year.

Session 8: Secretariat Proposal of new working group on student wellbeing.

It was suggested an initial online meeting should be held to gauge interest. If there was sufficient engagement, the group could meet in person if they wanted to. Senior Officers will consult with colleagues to identify who might want to be involved in the group.

Action: Secretariat to remind Senior Officers to consult with relevant professional staff to ask if they would be interested in a virtual meeting, in order to establish whether a physical meeting would be of interest.

Action: Secretariat to coordinate organisation of the initial online meeting.

Action: Secretariat to share slides from session.

Session 9: IARU Business Matters

- *9.1: Options on the structure and planning of the joint PM–SOM 2024 (10-12 June 2024)*

Senior Officers approved the proposed structure: Day 1 for Senior Officers; Day 2 and Day 3 morning for Presidents. There will be two main topics, of which four were suggested: AI and ethics, data science and health, planetary solutions to sustainability and academic freedom. Yale and the Secretariat will work together on this. There will be a virtual meeting for Senior Officers afterwards to wrap up if necessary as some will travel with their President's delegation.

There will be a separate dinner for Presidents to allow them to converse in private. It will be important for the Presidents to have unstructured discussion time. For over half of the Presidents, this will be their first IARU meeting in person and so it will form part of their introduction to the group.

The Senior Officers felt that the discussion sessions should focus more on the Presidents' shared experience and how they think as a leader rather than on national perspectives (perhaps with a stimulating question: 'What keeps you up at night?').

Action: Secretariat to take forward the planning of the meeting, in consultation with Yale.

Action: Secretariat to coordinate with Yale on draft agenda.

Action: Secretariat to ask Presidents for input nearer the time.

- *9.3: Financial report*

As previously discussed in other sessions, it was felt that better guidance for groups on funding requests would be beneficial. In particular, it should clearly state what is and is not covered by IARU funding, and what the appropriate funding levels are for various activities.

The Senior Officers decided that $8,000 was an appropriate guideline amount for working group meetings. However, they noted that groups would always have the freedom to request higher amounts, if they submitted detailed requests and demonstrated the need for the additional funds.

The Secretariat noted that often group expenditure was much lower that the requested amounts and this made it difficult to forecast general IARU expenditure. The guidance on group funding would help in making the funding requests more accurate.

The Secretariat reported that the transfer of Secretariat funds from Cambridge to UCT had been postponed and as a result, the call for membership fees had not yet been issued.

Action: Secretariat to draft funding guidance for groups (looking back at previous examples).

Action: Secretariat to issue call for membership fees as soon as possible.

Session 10: Helping researchers collaborate internationally in an increasingly complex global research landscape

This was a fruitful discussion about engaging internationally. The Senior Officers felt it would be helpful to share summaries of their university's position on the matter and key concerns.

Action: Secretariat to circulate slides, key documents (including the MIT report on engagement cited at the meeting) and access to the international engagement videos shown by Cambridge.

Action: Secretariat to coordinate summaries on the complexities of international engagement from IARU members.

Session 11: AOB

The Senior Officers approved the Cybathlon funding ($17,000) for encouraging IARU participation in the 2024 event.

The Senior Officers discussed whether or not to continue to offer a hybrid option for IARU meetings and although there was still a preference for in-person attendance if possible, it was decided that online participation should also be offered.

UCT passed on a suggestion of a joint fundraising project from their fundraising director. The Senior Officers decided that more details would be needed, and it would require a specific purpose.

There was also a discussion about considering a move to a permanent Secretariat team, rather than the current rotating system. Loss of institutional memory and increased workload for the hosting university were reasons why a permanent team might be preferred. However, the benefits of different perspectives and understanding that the rotating Secretariat brings were also considered. Additionally, the Secretariat team would need to be increased to mitigate the risk of institutional knowledge loss through staff turnover.

In conclusion, although there were benefits to both approaches, it was felt that the funding implications for a permanent team would be too high.

Action: Secretariat to coordinate publicising the Cybathlon applications and distribute funds as necessary.

Action: Secretariat to work with the Senior Officers to facilitate contact with fundraising teams to discuss a joint fundraising project.