



## Minutes of the IADA General Assembly Meeting September 17, 2009 (Barcelona)

The meeting was called to order and the agenda was presented to the General Assembly.

### **I. Membership**

The first item discussed was membership. At the time of the meeting, there were approximately 70 active members in the organization, “active” being defined in terms of current in membership fees. While there has historically been a surge in membership around the time of the biannual congresses, this has been due in part to the fee structure of the congresses themselves, making membership desirable in order to take advantage of a lower registration fee. This suggests that the situation in terms of active membership may be even more problematic.

One possible reason for the low membership may be in part be due to the lack of a specific deadline for payment and clarity on when the membership year begins and ends. To that end, the Board, in an earlier meeting, had determined to “*establish a single, identifiable date (April 1, each year) for payment*” (IADA Board decision, taken 9/15/2009).

A related issue was raised regarding the benefits of membership. It was felt that the desire to join might be directly related to the advantages one could gain as a result. It was decided that the incoming Board would need to address this matter and identify the perks of membership in order to entice growth in the association.

Discussion also ensued regarding the difficulty members from some countries have in submitting their fees via bank transfer, which costs tend to be prohibitive. It was stated that payment through alternate means, such as online credit card payment, would be preferable to many members and would put IADA in line with other international associations.

A suggestion was made that membership might be made a requirement in order to participate in events. The motion had been voted against by the Board in its earlier meeting, but was brought before the Assembly for its consideration. As with the Board vote, the Assembly decided not to make membership a requirement. Furthermore, it was felt by some that such a requirement would curb participation, especially in economically depressed countries. In spite of the final decision, an additional suggestion was made that the incoming Board should examine the fee structure and “*adjust the scale to accommodate different capacities of members*” (i.e., regular members, unemployed members, student members, and the same who reside in economically depressed countries) in order to encourage increased membership.

### **II. Finances**

It was reported that in 2005 at the congress in Bucharest, the Association had approximately 220 euros on the German account with no information about what was available on the Italian account. In addition, 270 euros (360 US dollars) in funds were resultant from the workshop held during the prior year in Chicago which sent monies gained after expenses back to the Association. At the time of the meeting in Barcelona, the German account had approximately 3,800 euros available.



While it is clear that the Association is in much better financial state than it was four years ago, it was also felt that, in line with the statutes, “*there must be full accountability and transparency in financial reporting*” (IADA Board decision, taken 9/15/2009). This entails that event organizers must provide a full financial report of conferences (debits and credits), and that once reported expenses have been paid to the host institution and any identified vendors, any excess should be returned to IADA to be placed on account; in this way, the Association will remain viable and be able to provide continued support for future events.

### **III. Publications**

In partial response to the benefits available to members, the possibility for publication was addressed. Currently, IADA hosts an online publication with its own ISSN ([iada.online.series](http://iada.online.series)) which allows for the publication of conference proceedings in multiple languages. While the publication is not reviewed, it does afford an opportunity to many IADA event participants to have their work published.

Additionally, the series *Dialog Studies* with John Benjamins also provides an avenue for the submission of proposals for texts in dialogue analysis.

Finally, interest was expressed in establishing a new reviewed online IADA journal. The idea seemed to be of interest to the Assembly and the item about its establishment was left to be taken up with incoming Board.

### **IV. Future Activities**

Proposals for future events had been previously tendered and were presented to the General Assembly for a vote. These are as follows:

- A. 2010, 13-15 September: “Dialogue in Politics” in Würzburg, Germany, hosted by Anita Fetzer. The Assembly unanimously approved this proposal without discussion.
- B. 2011, 26-30 April: “Dialogue & Representation” in Montreal, Canada, hosted by François Cooren and Alain Létourneau. The Assembly unanimously approved this proposal; however, the discussion of the dates presenting a conflict for some members was addressed and the organizer will look for and disseminate alternative dates for the consideration of the incoming Board.
- C. 2012, 2-4 April: “Literature as Dialogue” in Turku, Finland, hosted by Roger Sell. The Assembly unanimously approved this proposal. It was also mentioned that this particular event might also be organized as a congress rather than a workshop, despite the pattern that had been established over the years. This suggestion was made in part due to the subsequent proposal which would also entail that the next two biannual congresses were to be held in North America, potentially causing a problem of access for some of the members. It was determined that the final decision would have to be negotiated between the incoming Board and the organizer in Finland.
- D. 2013: “Dialogue in Multilingual, Multimodal, & Multicompetent Communities of Practice” in Austin, Texas, USA, hosted by Dale Koike, Zsuzsanna Abrams, Carl Blyth, & Jürgen Streeck. While much discussion ensued, the general consensus indicated that the majority approved this event and the incoming Board should work with the organizers to clarify some of the issues raised with regard to the theme.

No additional proposals were tendered.



## **V. Pending Issues**

Pending issues were raised as a means of setting goals and identifying the direction for the Association, and giving a charge to the incoming Board. Among these issues was the revision of the statutes in an effort to modernize the structure of the Association and bring it into line with its growing and more international profile.

There was a discussion of setting term limits for Board members, as well as establishing various “departments” for which individual Board members would take responsibility. These departments would help to clarify the role and expectations of service and ensure that the involvement of the Board would remain active over the two-year term. Among the suggestions for departments were 1) statute revisions; 2) membership benefits (e.g., IADA scholarship); 3) finance (e.g., membership fee payment structure, avenues for payment); 4) publications; 5) recruitment; and 6) international and national ADA relations.

It was made clear that there needs to be a new avenue for better communication between Board members and that there needs to be more discussion about the relationship between 1) IADA & event organizers in terms of the selection of plenary speakers and the creation of review boards for abstracts—what is the host institution’s role in maintaining some degree of autonomy while still being representative of IADA; and 2) IADA and the national associations. In regard to the latter issue, however, it was agreed that primary allegiance must be to the continuance and vitality of IADA as an international association, without which there could be no national branches, and therefore membership in and the concomitant payment of member fees to the international association could not be subordinated to a national association.

## **VI. Elections**

Nominees for the 2009-2011 IADA Board were presented. They were BERLIN, Lawrence N. (USA); CMEJRKOVA, Svetla (Czech Rep.); COOREN, François (Canada); DASCAL, Marcelo (Israel); FETZER, Anita (Germany); GOBBER, Giovanni (Italy); GRANATO, Luisa (Argentina); GREIN, Marion (Germany); ILIE, Cornelia (Sweden); IONESCO-RUXANDOIU, Liliana (Romania); WEIGAND, Edda (Germany); and WEIZMAN, Elda (Israel).

Prior to voting, members of the General Assembly were reminded that only eligible members were able to vote in the election. A call was made for additional nominees to be added to the ballot. At that time, MARAFIOTI, Roberto (Argentina), a new member, was nominated and added to the list of candidates. Procedures were discussed and ballots were distributed.

Once the ballots were completed, they were collected and votes were tallied and verified. As a result of the election, the following individuals having received the greatest number of votes will serve as the incoming IADA Board until the next congress two years hence in Montreal, Canada. The members of the 2009-2011 IADA Board are BERLIN, Lawrence N. (USA); COOREN, Francois (Canada); DASCAL, Marcelo (Israel); FETZER, Anita (Germany); GRANATO, Luisa (Argentina); ILIE, Cornelia (Sweden); IONESCO-RUXANDOIU, Liliana (Romania); WEIGAND, Edda (Germany); and WEIZMAN, Elda (Israel).

The General Assembly meeting was then adjourned.



Immediately following the General Assembly meeting and in accordance with the IADA Statutes, the newly elected Board members met in a closed session to elect officers. Nominations were open for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Subsequent to the nominations, acceptances of nominations, and vote, the following individuals were appointed to the respective offices: Edda WEIGAND, President; Anita FETZER, Vice-president; François COOREN, Secretary; and Lawrence N. BERLIN, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence N. Berlin  
IADA Secretary 2005-2009