

ISIE Annual General Meeting, 14 July 2020

MINUTES

MEETING CALLED BY	Tim Baynes
NOTE TAKERS	Callie Babbitt
REGRETS FROM BOARD MEMBERS	Edgar Hertwich, Weiqiang Chen, Ester van der Voet
BOARD MEMBER ATTENDEES	Heinz Schandl, Stefanie Hellweg, Tim Baynes, Callie Babbitt, Valerie Thomas, Jooyoung Park, Kazuyo Masubae, Matthew Eckelman, Shoshanna Saxe, Weslyne Ashton, Reid Lifset, Paul Hoekman

Preamble

The 2020 General Assembly of the ISIE took place electronically via Zoom. The meeting and associated chat discussions were recorded. 48 attendees were present. Proposals from Members had earlier been called for, and one was presented to the ISIE members. With the approval of the Board, an electronic voting system was set up on the ISIE website to enable attending and non-attending members to vote between the dates of 12th-21st July 2020. As the meeting was entirely virtual, and proposals and other business could be raised by members well before the meeting, any members not voting were assumed to be abstaining. These are recorded below as "absent" to distinguish them from abstaining votes cast by attending members.

Agenda topics

0 WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT HS

HS explained that as part of ISIE's transition to an independent legal entity in The Netherlands, the Society now has an Annual General Meeting (AGM) that is open to all current members. At the AGM, all members have the opportunity to present proposals and have a say on the direction and planning for ISIE. The AGM is a time to review the past year's activities and financial performance, and also to plan for the future and consider new initiatives. HS also introduced the Board of ISIE to the Society members.

HS shared a warm welcome to the second general assembly of the ISIE and the first that is fully virtual.

HS provided remarks on three key themes:

- 1) Governance: For most of ISIE's existence, the Society has been hosted by Yale. We hoped to recognize this at the Gordon Research Conference, but plan to reschedule. For the first year, we have operated as an independent organization and had to reestablish the functions that Yale historically provided. For the first time, we have an annual report. We ask you to accept this annual report and the financial report it presents via online voting (<https://is4ie.org/survey/45>). We have a solid financial position despite COVID-19. Particular thanks to Tim Baynes and Valerie Thomas for taking on the new responsibilities of Secretary and Treasurer roles, and Paul Hoekman the executive director, Stephanie Hellweg the incoming president, Callie Babbitt and Esther van der Voet for their assistance.
- 2) Global reach: Global impact of our society is evidenced by our global conferences, section activities, journal, and the roles our members have in global organizations and policy making (e.g., IPCC, World Resources Panel). A priority is to continue to represent the Society's interest as importance of these topics grow.
- 3) Policy: As a society, though, we do not often have a voice in policy. While our members have individual leadership in policy, there is a missed opportunity as a society to be more engaged. As a society, we should have a stronger voice in these challenging issues as we grapple with them as a global society.

1 ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM TB

DECISION	Accept
A motion to accept the minutes from the previous AGM was made (via chat) by Matthew Eckelman . The motion was seconded (via chat) by Tomer Fishman and Graham Aid .	

Reporting was provided by representatives of various Society initiatives and committees:

Conference Committee: Report from **Anna Petit-Boix**, on behalf of this committee, which was formed in 2019. She recognized volunteers and board members who participate. The committee's task is to develop a plan for all meetings held or sponsored by ISIE, which includes re-evaluating conference structures and formats and making long-term recommendations. The committee focused on two main initiatives: 1) conference formats, timing, and ISIE-host relations, with an aim to create a calendar, guidelines, and a selection protocol for bi-annual conferences; and 2) virtual conferences and sustainability, with an aim to create guidelines for alternative events and ways to measure sustainability. The committee is now also considering impacts around COVID-19. In the last year, the committee fielded a survey for members to share feedback on conferences, and these results will be available soon as a report.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee: Overview provided by **Callie Babbitt**, on behalf of **Amanda Gcanga** (D&I officer) and **Eliette Restrepo** (D&I Vice Officer). This initiative grew out of a proposal approved at the last AGM. The initiative aims to increase participation, diversity, and equity in the Society and at events. Initial efforts were focused on understanding challenges faced by members and proposing avenues to broaden participation. Several efforts were originally planned to increase participation at conferences through, for example, scholarships and childcare for parental participation, although those are changed now due to COVID impacts. The committee welcomes input and participation from any member.

Membership Committee: Report from **Jooyoung Park**, who shared an overview of the new committee. The primary goals are increasing membership satisfaction, participation, and growth. Currently, ISIE members total over 600, but most members are from higher income countries and membership is concentrated in a few regions, not globally spread. The committee is looking at ways to grow participation, coordinate efforts with the D&I committee, and explore institutional membership options. Plans for the next year include a survey on membership satisfaction and benefits which will soon be distributed to members.

Valerie Thomas provided a description of how the ISIE budget functions. Currently, the Society is in a good position, due to strong income from membership dues and success of the Bi-annual Conference in Beijing. In the past year, expenses were less than income. However, because a substantial fraction of the income comes from conferences, it is anticipated that income will be lower this year because there is no. In addition, most members renewed their 2-year membership last year. These factors have led to developing a two-year budget perspective. In terms of expenses, new items this year include allocations for staff positions and implementation of members' proposals. VT provided special thanks to the vice-treasurer and the financial committee who reviewed the finances.

TB reminded attendees of the annual report which contains the full financial report and the link for voting to approve the budget online (link open until 21 July).

RESULTS of the vote: do you accept the past-year reporting and forward budget?

Yes: 15

Abstain: 1

(611 absent)

Reid Lifset shared a presentation that highlighted key trends and advances. The Journal Impact Factor increased this year about 31% (4.8 to 6.5); rating by CiteScore has also gone up. The Journal has a new design and production system that changed visual appearance of articles and is speeding up time to publication. The Journal's website at Yale has been renovated and now includes several resources, including templates and guidance for authors as well as call for papers for special issues.

Last year, the Journal instituted data accessibility policies which include both mandatory and voluntary data badges. RL acknowledged data editors **Niko Heeren** and **Guillaume Majeau-Bettez** for their efforts to advance this effort. The Journal now requires all articles to share data used to create figures and tables in the paper and provides data badges to recognize additional data transparency. Future efforts will include required data disclosure statements. The Journal also has an active chat channel in China that is increasing attention to the journal content.

Two Special issues were noted regarding upcoming deadlines: Data Innovation in Industrial Ecology (July) and Industrial Ecology for the Ocean (October).

Several changes to external environment were noted, including: 1) Economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which will impact budgets of businesses and universities around the world, relative to their ability to pay for journals and publication; 2) Ongoing pressure to shift journals to open access and the unclear timing for this transition; and 3) Continued increase in competition of journals publishing in our research domain

Recent developments include a new contract with Wiley, which is under final negotiations. Under the new contract, the

page budget will double and members will have discounts on open access. There is flexibility to transfer ownership of the journal (i.e., to the Society) if desired. A committee has been established to track these developments. In parallel the Journal leadership is in transition.

Question from **Shoshanna Saxe** (via chat): Are you seeing gendered changes in who is submitting papers? (in the context of COVID-19 impacts that are being noted to disproportionately affect female faculty and researchers). RL does not have quantitative information but will look into this. It was also noted that the Journal has added two new editors to increase diversity of the Editorial Board.

5. SECTION REPORTS

TB

Short reports were presented directly by Section leads or members:

Students

Update provided by Glenn Aguilar-Hernandez: The student group is trying to create a peer group to involve many students and engage with topics in an interactive way. One effort is creating content for the Symposium of Industrial Ecology for Young Professionals, which typically occurs in parallel with the bi-annual meeting.

Sustainable Urban Systems

Update provided by **Matan Mayer**: Activities in the last year include organizing webinars spanning different subjects over the last year and publishing member spotlights on a regular basis. During COVID-19, the Section organized online sessions, one focused on online teaching and one on creating potential collaborations. Section members were surveyed regarding the need for discussion-based conference, and based on overwhelmingly positive responses, an "unconference" called ASCUS was organized and held in June, completely virtual with 60 participants from all over the world. Discussions were organized by participants themselves, who submitted contributions (slides, short paper) for review ahead of the conference. The event was successful, so it is planned to repeat again next year. In addition, the Section Board is nearing the end of their term, and the plan is to organize elections in the fall. A suggestion was made to the section to coordinate with the Conference committee to share their feedback and experiences with the virtual event.

Socio-Economic Metabolism

Update provided by **Tomer Fishman**: A major activity in the last year was advancing a proposal related to data modeling in material flow analysis. Feedback is requested from Section and ISIE members in order to advance clear, transparent, reproducible MFA. In addition, an SEM online perpetual conference was organized as an attempt to deal with COVID-19 disruptions (the scheduled conference in Japan is delayed indefinitely). The conference will be held online with sessions spread out over the months ahead.

Industrial Symbiosis

Update provided by **Graham Aid**: The Section faced challenges in holding events due to COVID-19 disruptions. Elections were held for new executive and advisory board members. Section initiatives include creating best practices for eco-industrial parks, establishing regional informal teams for knowledge sharing, advancing data efforts (machine learning, data sharing), and working on webinars and virtual events

IO Section

Update provided by **Dominik Wiedenhofer**: Special sessions at upcoming conferences were cancelled. There has not been an online follow-up the Section is considering the potential to explore this option in the future. The Section was approached by SETAC working group of North America looking for guidelines for hybridizing LCA and IO models, and this is leading to new collaborations.

6. PROVISION FOR VACANCIES

TB

Two Board members have recently completed their terms: **Anders Hammer Strømman** and **Keisuke Nansai**. They were acknowledged and thanked for their contribution.

The Board welcomed two new member, **Weslynn Ashton** and **Jooyoung Park**, and look forward to their continued contribution.

Selection of finance committee: This committee is charged with reviewing details of the budget and financial operations. They are independent from the board but provide input to assist in shared governance of the board. **Hiroki Tanikawa** and **Eugene Mohareb** have provided support in the last year and graciously agreed to continue.

Members are directed to the voting link on the ISIE website to approve the selection of the Finance Committee (<https://is4ie.org/survey/48>).

RESULTS of the vote: do you approve of the proposed selection of the finance committee?

Yes: 18
(609 absent)

8. PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS TB

Background was provided on proposals as an opportunity for members to shape initiatives of the ISIE. Several from last year have gone forward. This year one is being presented for consideration.

TB explained the process: Votes represent attendees at the AGM, and resolution of passing the proposal is by absolute majority. Some judgement may be made by board about what proposals come forward at AGM. For example, if proposal budgets are greater than what can be afforded by ISIE, they would not yet be able to be considered meaningfully. The proposal this year was brought up as new business during the last AGM and has now evolved into a proposal.

A short presentation on the proposal was provided by **Tomer Fishman**. "*Positioning the ISIE towards synergy with the circular economy agenda*." See also the information available on-line at: <https://is4ie.org/survey/44>
The proposal was supported by a group of 10 proponents. The motivation is for ISIE to be more proactive in the realm of Circular Economy (CE).

Rationale was provided: CE is drawing a lot of attention globally, both in public interest and academics. It is also appearing in funding announcements, events and conferences, academic positions, policy, and research conducted by ISIE members themselves. ISIE has had some activity, such as special sessions and issues, but most efforts have been internal facing. In parallel, a new society has been created (IS4CE) but lacks IE focus or research grounding. External audiences are asking questions such as: Are CE and IE the same? If not, what is the difference? The public-facing answers to these questions do not effectively represent IE perspectives

The proponents suggest that these issues present an opportunity for ISIE, for example, to raise awareness of IE work in growing CE movement; leverage interest in CE to expand IE community; and help guide CE concept through IE research and science

The proposal is ISIE undertake member deliberations with the goal of developing a more specific role within the CE field.

There was an opportunity to ask TF and this group questions. Extensive discussion was logged in the Zoom chat regarding this proposal. Comments were generally positive towards the aim of the proposal and offered constructive suggestions about the role and potential aims of this proposal. Members were reminded to vote via the link online.

RESULTS of the vote: do you support the proposal: Positioning the ISIE towards synergy with the circular economy agenda?

Yes: 18
Abstain: 1
(608 absent)

9. HOUSEKEEPING RULES TB

A draft version of [Housekeeping Rules](#) was made available prior to the AGM and an electronic voting option made available.

TB provided a background of why these exist and the history of their preparation. These can be modified by the board (e.g., due to disruptions like COVID) but any change can only be approved by members. There is a link to vote to approve these as they currently stand (<https://is4ie.org/survey/47>). There was an opportunity for asking questions. The voting survey was open until 21 July 2020.

RESULTS of the vote: do you accept the housekeeping rules?

Yes: 14
Abstain: 1
(612 absent)

10. OTHER BUSINESS TB

Peter Berrill provided an update from a proposal last year to reduce impact of air travel due to conferences. There is ongoing discussion between board and conference committee. This initiative will join with the conference committee and support efforts to reduce impact of conferences, support members that cannot travel, and incorporate lessons from online conferences held this year.

CLOSE OF MEETING AT 9:29AM EDT ON 14TH JULY 2020

TB

