

ISIE Annual General Meeting, 20 May 2021

MINUTES

MEETING CALLED BY	Tim Baynes
NOTE TAKERS	Callie Babbitt
REGRETS FROM BOARD MEMBERS	Ester van der Voet
BOARD MEMBER ATTENDEES	Heinz Schandl, Stefanie Hellweg, Tim Baynes, Callie Babbitt, Valerie Thomas, Jooyoung Park, Kazuyo Masubae, Ming Xu, Shoshanna Saxe, Weslynn Ashton, Gang Liu, Alissa Kendall, Reid Lifset, Paul Hoekman

Preamble

The 2021 General Assembly of the ISIE took place electronically via Zoom. The meeting and associated chat discussions were recorded. 52 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 13th May-25th June 2021. 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.**

Agenda topics

0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM TB

DECISION	Accept
A motion to accept the minutes from the previous AGM was made by Tim Baynes The motion was seconded by Stefanie Hellweg The minutes were accepted on behalf of all members (by chat) by Hiroki Tanikawa	

1 WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENTS HS/SH

<p>HS provided a warm welcome and shared reflections from the last year as President, noting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The unusual year and unprecedented circumstances that led to both the cancellations of events in ISIE and to a transition to virtual activities and new modes of operating; 2) The extensive background work that was carried out to establish the society, recognizing the extensive roles played by the ISIE Secretariat, particularly Paul Hoekman, Nina Kisbey-Green, and Lizelle Dela Cruz; as well as the extensive efforts of Tim Baynes and Valerie Thomas in the roles of secretary and treasurer, respectively; 3) The establishment of 21 June as International Industrial Ecology Day (IE Day). This year's activities are an opportunity for the community to connect and an experiment that may provide a model for future activities; 4) Many activities and transitions within the Society, including the establishment of a Development Board led by Tom Graedel and Marian Chertown; the departure of Board members Matt Eckelman and Wei-Qiang Chen after serving their 3-year term; the completion of Edgar Hertwich's term as past president; and a welcome to new Board Members Gang Liu and Alissa Kendall and new President Elect Ming Xu. <p>HS shared his gratitude and enthusiasm for his work and opportunity to serve as president for the past two years.</p> <p>SH also provided a warm welcome and some reflections and thoughts as ISIE President, noting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recognition and thanks for Heinz Schandl's leadership, especially the efforts required to navigate the transition to the new society organization and the unprecedented situation of 2020; 2) A goal and strategic ideas for the next two years, in that the Society is well poised to address sustainability challenges and has methodological competence represented by our sections, but sometimes synergies are missed. To solve global challenges, ISIE should look to cross-cutting as well as section-specific efforts which can also leverage our impact on society and policy. Some key opportunities noted are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reaching the Sustainable Development Goals with IE solutions o Sustainable circular economy o Transition to sustainable energy systems o Sustainable supply of infrastructure, food, water, and energy for a growing population o Green post-COVID recovery 3) Pathways to meet these goals might include creating new sections, creating temporary working groups, and organizing thematic workshops or conferences. These efforts can be facilitated by the proposal submission process, and some funds are available to seed efforts and coordinate joint work

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

Website committee: Report from Paul Hoekman

The website is a cornerstone of what we do as a global society to connect and involve our members, and the committee continues to try to improve and expand. Much of the site is run by the sections; they provide content, updates, and announcements. PH expressed gratitude for their work and input. There is a new look and feel and new features and better support, such as online payment options and an option for online donations. Many features have been updated, such as the survey and election features. There is now the ability for our own conferences to be hosted and managed by our site, which helps maintain records and resources created through that site (that might otherwise be lost if using a third-party hosting). A new member spotlight feature has also been added. If members have ideas or suggestions, they are invited to submit these. A key goal for the upcoming year is to use social media to develop a broader presence, and members are also invited to contribute in this regard.

Conference Committee: Report from Anna Petit-Boix

Two updates were provided reflecting the committee's two tasks: conference formats, timing, and ISIE hosted events plus virtual conferences and sustainability. COVID continues to change the conference committee, leading to more focus on virtual conferences. The committee has authored a report on "Challenges and Opportunities of ISIE Online Conferences" which is available on the ISIE website. This report provides best practices and experiences from organizing and holding virtual conferences. Within this focus, the committee is also supporting IE Day on June 21; many sessions have open calls until May 25 and the call for posters is open until June 7.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee: Report from Callie Babbitt

Provided an update on the past-year efforts, which changed due to COVID-19 impacts. The initiative is being jointly supported by the ISIE Board and the Students Section (with particular recognition to Akshi Singh and Fernando Aguilar Lopez for their leadership). A key activity this year was to create a vision statement for ISIE, which is now presented for feedback and input and will be taken to the Board for approval. Planned efforts for the coming year include expanding student engagement, particularly from underrepresented areas, providing resources on best practices, and leveraging available funds for efforts to broaden participation.

Membership Committee: Report from Jooyoung Park,

Provided the report from the member satisfaction survey. The highest priority for members was conference participation benefits. Other priorities were access to the JIE, workshops and webinars, and teaching materials. Suggestions that came from the survey included a 2-tier model (with free access for members but fee for access for non-members), additional discounts for online conferences, mentorship for students and young professionals, and lifetime membership options. Members surveyed also report that interactions with industrial members are insufficient and suggested activities like networking, webinars with real-time interactions, facility tours, and an online repository with contact details. The committee's next steps are to begin to develop strategies to try to implement these suggestions and ultimately grow the ISIE membership.

Valerie Thomas provided an update on the financial report and thanked those who have been working to compile and publish finances, with particular recognition to the Secretariat, the Vice Treasurer Ester van der Voet, and the Finance committee (Hiroki Tanikawa and Eugene Mohareb), who have reviewed the budget and financial report. VT provided an overview of the financial report and feedback shared by the committee, such as presentation of report for improved clarity and effective planning to avoid overspending. Through the lens of this report, VT provided a description of how the ISIE budget functions, including sources for generating funds and primary expenditures that correspond to society priorities. In 2020, no funds were generated through conferences, but this is projected to resume in 2023. There are also new line items corresponding to planned funds expected to be generated from the JIE, but these will be used directly for JIE expenses. We do currently have a surplus in our reserves due to lean operation and COVID-related changes in 2020, but expenses are expected to resume in the future, with a plan to increase investment in member proposals. Overall, the finances are sound and the society is working to effectively manage funds, to both be frugal while at the same time wisely investing by using funds for maximum benefit, keeping in mind that the need to balance a budget over a two-year cycle. **PH** echoed VT comments and emphasized that the Society should not carry too high of a reserve and should be spent effectively to support member initiatives; the income and expenses should be more balanced.

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 25th June). See the [Annual Report](#).

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

Yes: 17

Abstain: 1

Reid Lifset shared a presentation on the health of the Journal, including increasing rank in citation report, increase in citations, downloads, and social media presence. ISIE members receive a 25% discount to publish open access in the journal. There are new editors that were welcomed, and departing editors that were thanked for their service. There is a renovated JIE-Yale website that is functioning well. One feature is translation of articles into Chinese; this has grown and gained broader reach. RL discussed data accessibility policies, including an upcoming new requirement of data disclosure statements to mention data source and openness. RL highlighted special issues, including two from 2020 and one published in 2021, with three special issues in progress. Two have an upcoming deadline in October. RL mentioned changed external environment, particularly with respect to COVID, pressure from funders to shift towards open-access, and continued increase in competition. RL is stepping down from EIC role, but will stay on as Founding Editor to assist in the transition to new EICs, who will be announced soon. In parallel, the ownership of JIE will shift from Yale to ISIE; details are being worked out with a target of July. In addition, manuscript management will be outsourced to Wiley, to avoid the need for expanding staff while also streamlining publication process. RL thanked many editors, reviewers, and authors who have contributed to the journal over time.

At the conclusion of the presentation, **TB** also expressed thanks and gratitude to Reid; In the chat, many members expressed their immense gratitude and thanks for Reid's leadership of JIE.

Short reports were presented directly by Section leads or members:

Students

Update provided by **Aishwarya Iyer**: The student group has several accomplishments in 2020, including student virtual networking events, a peer group initiative, planning SIEYP 2021, and elections resulting in 4 new officers. Main activities planned for 2021 include: Virtual SIEYP planned for 17 and 18 June; expanding the Diversity and Inclusion Committee; launching peer groups and networks of young professionals; virtual networking events; and launching a career seminar series.

Sustainable Urban Systems

Update provided by **Melissa Bilec**: The 2017-2020 ISIE SUS Board was acknowledged and thanked; a new board has started in 2021. Recent activities were Actionable Science for Urban Sustainability in 2020, teaching and research seminars on COVID-19 related opportunities, and planning for the IE Day to focus on key topics and engage emerging professionals in section activities.

Socio-Economic Metabolism

Update provided by **Hiroki Tanikawa**: A major activity in the last year was the SEM Perpetual Online Conference, which had nine conference sessions that attracted over 500 participants and over 800 online views. Some sessions are still ongoing and these are free for anyone to join. Ongoing activities include planning for a physical conference in 2022-23 and editing "Best practice guidelines for MFA."

Industrial Symbiosis and Eco-Industrial Development

Update provided by **Graham Aid**: Four main efforts are going forward in 2021: 1) Spotlight during IE Day, 2) Around the World Websides to promote industrial symbiosis and circular economy to a broader audience, 3) Best practices in EIP, and 4) Themed webinars on industrial symbiosis that also allow for social interactions and engagement.

EEIO Section

Update provided by **Kuishuang Feng**: The section now totals 216 members. Like other sections, many planned activities were cancelled in 2020. In 2021, ongoing and planned efforts include 1) EEIO sessions across three time zones during the IE Day; 2) joint session by SEM and IO in the ISIE-SEM perpetual online conference to share progress in combining material flow principles and IO analysis; and 3) work with SETAC and ACLCA to develop a roadmap to enable EEIO to better serve decision making.

Islands Section

Update provided by **Simron Singh**: This is the first report to the AGM as a new section. The Island-IE sections was approved in 2020 with initial support of 13 proponents. The section's purpose is to promote basic and policy-relevant IE research on islands to foster transformation to sustainability. The section board now has 7 members who were willing to serve for the first two years. The section now totals 65 members, with a goal of growth as a cross-cutting ISIE section. In 2021, planned activities include 1) two spotlight sessions during IE Day; 2) preparing a webinar series; and 3) preparing a communications strategy; and 4) exploring an internship program with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The section requests collaborations from other members and sections.

Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment

Update provided by **Yuan Yao**: The section has been focusing on developing a special issue in JIE: Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment for Sustainable Development Goals (deadline 15 October 2021). A webinar is tentatively planned to broadly share research from this special issue after it is published. The section conducted a survey on resources used by members to teach LCA/LCSA courses; the results are provided on the ISIE website.

6.

PROVISION FOR VACANCIES

TB

Two Board members have recently completed their terms: **Matthew Eckleman** and **Wei-Qiang Chen**. They were acknowledged and thanked for their contribution.

The Board welcomed three new members, **Ming Xu (President Elect)**, **Gang Liu** and **Alissa Kendall**, and look forward to their continued contribution.

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. We thank **Hiroki Tanikawa** and **Eugene Mohareb** who have provided support the last 2 years and look for volunteers. Renewal of the Finance Committee will be enacted outside the AGM (no volunteers could be solicited by the time of the AGM)

8.

PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS

TB

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

A short presentation on the proposal "Popularize Industrial Ecology and the ISIE more in Asia" was provided by **Raja Chowdhury**; see also information available on-line at: <https://is4ie.org/survey/57>

The proposal came about from the proponent's observations that there is a gap between the need for IE solutions to sustainability challenges in Asia (with focus on India) and the presence and recognition of ISIE research in the region. The proposal aims to invest resources to raise understanding and appreciation of ISIE in this region.

RESULTS of the vote: do you support the proposal: Popularize Industrial Ecology and the ISIE more in Asia?

For: 16
Against: 4
Abstain: 3

An update was provided by **Marian Chertow** on the past year's proposal on "Positioning the ISIE towards synergy with the circular economy agenda." The broad group of proponents have been meeting and collecting input over the last year and aligning events with other ISIE efforts, such as the SEM perpetual conference. There is shared understanding of the need to continue to evolve and adapt as research and society changes. At this point, a key strategy proposed is a "tagline" of "Science for the Circular Economy" added to ISIE branding that allows us to highlight the effort. The idea of a tagline is to emphasize dynamic aspects of an organization that may change and adapt as the organization evolves but that does not fundamentally change the ISIE core mission. **PH** added to this discussion: This issue was brought to the Board, but they did not want to make this decision unilaterally without broader member input. A forum thread (<https://is4ie.org/forum/general/42>) has been opened for member input, which will be followed by a member survey to formalize votes.

TB also shared that the proposal process has been undersubscribed, in terms of submissions and requested funds for approved proposals. The Board is opening submission for proposals for the next four weeks. If more are not received, the proposal is to allow the Board to solicit and approve proposals over the course of the full year (with more information available on-line at: <https://is4ie.org/survey/58>).

RESULTS of the vote: In the event that Proposals from Members is under-subscribed (we receive very few or no proposals), the ISIE Board may solicit or generate proposals at any time until the next AGM?

For: 16
Against: 1
Abstain: 1

There were NO other new proposals submitted by 25th June 2021.

9.

HOUSEKEEPING RULES

TB

Two additions to the Housekeeping Rules were explained: Criteria (i.e., percent of voting members) required for acceptance of proposals from Members; and synchronization in timing of elections, annual reporting, and the AGM. Voting on these was carried out online (<https://is4ie.org/survey/60>).

RESULTS of the vote: do you accept the housekeeping rules – note separate results for two changes?

Acceptance of Proposals from Members carries if the net vote in favour is at least a tenth of the total membership

For: 13

Against: 3

Abstain: 3

The timing of elections, annual reporting and the AGM are brought closer together in the ISIE calendar

For: 20

Abstain: 1

10.

OTHER BUSINESS

TB/PH

PH introduced the idea of virtual "happy hours" and invited sections to create rooms to host these

CLOSE OF MEETING AT 10:12 AM US EDT ON 20TH MAY 2021

TB
