Board Meeting of the IFSR *
FRIDAY, April 8, 2016, 13:00 - 16:30
Seminar Hotel Sankt Magdalena "Bildungszentrum" Linz, Austria
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*Abbreviations: <AG> Amanda Gregory, <EC> Executive Committee, <GC> Gerhard Chroust, <GM> Gary Metcalf, <ME> Mary Edson, <NN> Nam Nguyen, <PB> Pierre Bricage, <StB> Stefan Blachfellner, <YH> Yoshi Horiuchi

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1 Opening <GM>

<GM> opens the meeting and welcomes all delegates.

Fig. 1: Ranulph Glanville (13 June 1946 - 20 December 2014)

The Board honors Ranulph Glanville who passed away on December 20, 2014, by a minute of silence. Ranulph was a very active member of the IFSR

Ranulph Glanville (13 June 1946 - 20 December 2014) was an Anglo-Irish cybernetician, design researcher, theorist, educator and multi-platform artist/designer/performer, who was professor of research in Innovation Design Engineering at the Royal College of Art, London, professor of research design in the LUCA Faculty of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and adjunct professor of design research at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Melbourne. He was known for his contributions in the field of design research and cybernetics.

Attendance <GC> :

Present : see attendance list in the Appendix

Guests : see attendance list in the Appendix

Apologies and transfer of votes :

- G. Chroust represent the OSGK

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HANDOUT: tabled: List of Members (alphabetical)

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HANDOUT: tabled + distributed: Final Agenda

Amendments to / Approval of Agenda <GC> :

- The final Agenda (tabled) is approved
- <GC> reminds the delegates at the meeting to sign the attendance sheet, mark any mistakes, indicate the representative of their society, and indicate a 'stable, reliable' e-mail address.

Minutes of previous meeting (April 26, 2014) <GC> .

HANDOUT: tabled: Minutes Board Meeting 2014

Correction to the Minutes: none

DECISION: <Board> : The minutes of the Board Meeting of April 26, 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record

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2 Report from the President <GM>

<GM> reports about the past 2 years of the IFSR and comments on the topics detailedin the minutes below.

3 Report from the Secretary General - Membership <GC>

3.1 Electronic Voting

The introduction of electronic balloting was basically very successful. We use a simple modification of the DOODLE tool. The first ballot showed a poor participation. This was amended by a second round of calls for votes. In the meantime several ballots very held successfully. With the new e-voting systems our members have a much more direct influence on essential decisions of the Federation (especially acceptance of new members). This is one of the incentives to be a FULL MEMBER of the IFSR. The form of the ballot is as shown in fig. 2 below.

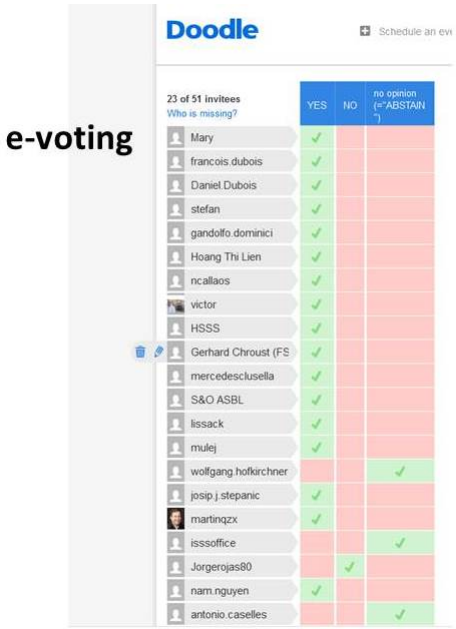

Fig. 2:

3.2 Membership Status and Changes

Again <GC> requests that he as the Secretary/Treasurer should be informed about changes with respect to the officers, or constitution and an up-to-date of the members representative as contact person

The IFSR-EC has accepted the following new members since the last Board Meeting (all by e-voting!):

New members :

51 ISCE Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence (http://isce.edu) Michael Lissack

52 S&O Systemes & Organisations ASBL (http://www.s-o.be) Lambert Claude

53 HPSSS Hai Phong Systems Science Society (http://isss2013.gov.vn/en-us/home.aspx) Ms. Hoang Thi Li-en

54 SDN Systemic Design Network (http://systemic-design.org) Peter Jones

55 INSTICC The Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (https://www.insticc.org/) Joaquim Filipe

As of March 24, 2016 the IFSR has 44 members, of which 39 are Full Members.

Vote on the membership of SCiO (SYSTEMS AND CYBERNETICS IN ORGANISATION LTD) .

HANDOUT: tabled + distributed: membership information on SCiO

- A copy of the application was already distributed to IFSR members on March 26, 2016 via e-mail
- The members were informed that the Board on April 8, 2016 will vote on the membership.
- Members were invited to comment, 17 positive comments and no negative comments were received.

<GC> calls on a vote on the membership of SCiO:

DECISION: <Board> : (unanimous) The Board accepts SCiO as a new FULL Member of the IFSR

Potentially new member :

- Cyprus Society FOR Systemic Studies (Yiannis Laouris) (invitation sent)
- Malik Management Zentrum St. Gallen AG (via Nam Nguyen) (under discussion)
- Systems Dynamics Society (no contact)
- the Czech Society (no contact)
- a Russian Society (no contact)

Other membership issues :

- gfk@piotrowski.de - unreachable
- President@giftsociety.org - difficult to reach
- Non-paying societies - No immediate action, to be re-considered May 2016

Inactive members :

The Korean Society for Systems Science Research <GC> reports that he was unable to establish any contact with the "Korean Society for Systems Science Research" (No 22) since at least June 2010, when Yong Pil Rhee, the president, unfortunately passed away. <GC> was also unsuccessful to contact the supposed successor. An additional effort to contact the society was also unsuccessful.

<GC> motions to remove 'The Korean Society for Systems Science Research' from the membership of IFSR according to the constitution.

DECISION: <Board> : The Korean Society for Systems Science Research is removed as a members of the IFSR (unanimous)

As a consequence the has IFSR has now 44 members

3.3 New Fellows

Robert Trappl On Jan. 10, 2014 the EC decided to appoint Prof. Robert Trappl as a 'FELLOW OF THE IFSR'. It is the first such appointment. Robert Trappl was Founding Vice-President of the IFSR 1980, President 1984-1988, and Editor of the IFSR Newsletter 1985-1986.

Charles Francois Following the motion by Gerhard Chroust, Secretary General of the IFSR, the IFSR-EC in an e-conference on Oct. 07, 2014, bestowed on Charles Francois , Argentina, Honorary President of GESI, the title of "FELLOW OF THE IFSR".

The new Fellows received an appropriately framed certificate.

3.4 Membership fee 2017 and 2018

<GC> points out that most societies are in arrears with respect to the fees. However, the introduction of the option to pay via PAYPAL has improved payments response and has reduced the costs. The invoices will go out around April 20, 2016 *(Amendment, October 2016: Due to problems of transfer to Karin Vorsteher (ouir external book keeper) the invoices went out in October 2016)*

<GC> motions that the fees for 2017 and 2018 should be the same as for (120 Euro)

DECISION: <Board> : Membership fees stay the same as in 2015

- Full Members: (these have to be societies) : euro 120
- Affiliated Members: no membership fee
- Honorary Members, Fellows: no membership fee
- Supporting members (fee to be negotiated)

DECISION: - <Board> : Membership Fee: The fee for the members are as listed above

4 IFSR-Events and Collaborations (past & future) <GC>

Collaboration with sister organizations :

WOSC (World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics) :
Main Contact: Prof. Raoul Espejo

UES-EUS (Union Europenne de Systemique/ European Union for Systemics) :
Main Contacts: Prof. Pierre Bricage and Prof. Mrs Andree Piecq

IFSR-Reflective Meeting 2014 <> :

- Ockie Bosch and <NN> offered to perform Think2Impact survey (according to their methodology) among the IFSR membership.
- <AG> explained the situation of the Journal, problems and issues. A long discussion resulted about how we could improve the circulation for the Journal (citation index, etc.)

EMCSR 2014 - IFSR presentation and Ross Ashby Memorial Lecture <StB> :

Prof. Markus Schwaninger, University St.Gallen, Institute fuer Betriebswirtschaft, presented the Ross Ashby Memorial Lecture at the European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research 2014 on 24.4.2014 with the title "Sustainability and Development".

The IFSR Conversation Linz 2014 <ME> The IFSR Conversation held Saturday, April 27 to Thursday May 2, 2014 in St. Magdalena, Linz was a big success. We had the highest number of participants of our history (41 persons).
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HANDOUT: tabled: IFSR Conversation 2014, Linz 2014 proceedings

Proceedings will be published as: EDSON, M.C., G. METCALF, G. CHROUST, N. NGUYEN , S. BLACHFELLNER, (eds.) Systems Thinking: New Directions in Theory, Practice and Applications, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria, SEA-SR-41, March 2015.

The Board thanks especially Mary Edson and Gary Metcalf, and also the Team Leaders:

- Janet Singer
- Alexander Laszlo
- Michael Lissack
- Gordon Rowland
- Jennifer Wilby

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HANDOUT: IFSR Newsletter with reports on 2014 Conversation

<GC> tables a copy of the IFSR Newsletter (IFSR Newsletter No. 32-1 (August 2014)) the Fuschl 2014 Proceedings. Copies are available on the IFSR home page.

ISSS 2015, Berlin <StB> We had a presentation of IFSR at ISSS 2015 in a plenary session. The presentation can be found on IFSR's home page in 'http://www.ifsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/IFSR-ISSS-2015-final2-cp.pdf'

4.1 The 18th IFSR Conversation Linz 2016 <ME>

The IFSR Conversation 2016 ran into several problems: one team finally did not materialize several invited participants finally could not show up. Thus only 24 participants attended the Conversation from Sunday, April 3 to Friday April 8.

The Board thanked especially Mary Edson and Gary Metcalf, Peter Tuddenham, and the Team Leaders:

- Brigitte Daniel-Allegro
- Gary Smith
- Jennifer Wilby

A report is planned for the IFSR Newsletter no 33-2 (December 2016), see IFSR's homepage. The proceedings are also planned for late 2016 or early 2017:

M.C. Edson, G.S. Metcalf, P. Tuddenham, G. Chroust (eds.): SSystems Literacy"
Proceedings of the Eighteenth IFSR Conversation,
April 3 - April 8, 2016
St. Magdalena / Linz (Austria)
SEA-Publications: SEA-SR-47 Institute for Telecooperation, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
ISBN 978-3-902457-47-9

4.2 IFSR Conversation 2018 ?? and Conversation Committee <GM>

The IFSR Conversation is one of the flagship activities of the IFSR. There was a short discussion whether we could hold a Conversation already in 2017, but given the scarce personal resource, 2018 was targeted a s the next IFSR Conversation.

5 IFSR Projects

The following projects were initiated in the last two years:

Quality Project: Think2Impact <NN> There was only a poor response from the membership, therefor the project was cancelled.

Charles Francois - Encyclopedia - Online (ESCO) <GC> The BCSSS had negotiations with Charles Francois and the copyright owner, deGruyter Publishers, but no results yet.

System Archives Vienna <GC> No activities can be reported.

6 The International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic Sciences <GC>

The IASCYS has chosen to become independent of the IFSR. The Board wishes the IASCYS the best of luck and success. IASCYS and IFSR will maintain a strong cooperation,

7 IFSR Publications

Fig. 3:

Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science <> We had talks with Michael Jackson (Editor in Chief of the Journal) during the ISSS Conference in Berlin, 2015. We agreed to a closer cooperation and an improved representation of the Journal on the IFSR homepage.

IFSR Newsletter <GC> <GC> reported that the Newsletter is usually once or twice a year and is made available on IFSR's Website. For documentary and legal purposes, and VIPs etc. approx. 12 copies are printed and distributed. From Jan 1, 2014 until now he following issues were published:

- vol 31, No.1 (August 2014)
- vol 32, No. 1 (September 2015)
- vol 32, No. 2 (December 2015)

IFSR Book Series <GM> IFSR International Series on Systems Science and Engineering Series Editor : Klir, George J., ISSN: 1574-0463 "http://www.ifsr.org/index.php/publications/ ifsr-international-series-on-systems-science-and-engineering/"

- Tenekedjiev, Kiril, Nikolova, Natalia: Decision-making - Subjectivity, Reality and Fuzzy Rationality, planned for 2017
- Syropoulos, Apostolos: Theory of Fuzzy Computation, 2014

Early in 2016 George Klir announced his retirement from the job as Editor-in-Chief. He suggested a successor, but both Springer as the publisher and IFSR as the owner also need to agree. So negotiations are necessary. Short Discussion in the Board!

8 IFSR Web Site <GC>

The Website was rearranged and relaunchesd on a different base (WordPress) in 2012 by an external contractor but was not found adequate for the purposes of the IFSR. Starting with April 2015 it was therefore necessary to change most of it again.
<GC> took again responsibility and by February 2016 the web-site appeared in essentially a new format.
<GC> Thanks go to Christian Waltner (www.waltner-webdesign.at), the new subcontractor for his efforts in designing and re-organizing the new web site!
<GC encouragea the Board to go to "ifsr.org" and make comments and to send in announcements and report of events. A speedy publication is ensured.

Fig. 4:

A promise which did not come true with the old web-site was to provide a better two-way communication between the IFSR and its members. This is still a task for the future.

9 Financial Status and Outlook <GC>

To relieve <GC> from some of the work, the actual bookkeeping was transferred to Karin Vorsteher, the secretary of Prof. Robert Trappl .
<GC> expreses his thanks to the secretary to Prof. Robert Trappl, for her efforts in performing the book-keeping of the IFSR and creating the Financial Report! <GC> tabled a copy of the financial situation for 2014-2015 and an Outlook on 2016-2017.

- There are two sources of income for the Federation, the royalties from Journal "Systems Research and Behavioral Science" ("JSRBS"published by Wiley Interscience) and the membership fees.
- The financial situation is not very good. We have to reduce costs (difficult) and/or to increase income (very difficult!) We have a reasonable buffer for some future eventualities.
- The financial outlook of the Journal is very healthy, thanks to the great success of the Journal.

DECISION: <Board> : The Board thanked Prof. M. C. Jackson for his initiative and efforts and also Amanda Gregory, the Deputy Editor

- The income from membership fees and JSRBS is definitely too small to cover all expenses. For the near future the savings can be used to supplement the expenses, but in the future we might have to re-allocate funds and expenses.

9.1 Report from the Auditors (R.Trappl / W. Hofkirchner) <GC>

The financial reports for 2014 and 2015 were audited by our two Auditors, R.Trappl and W. Hofkirchner. They reported a flawless accounting and also a correct use of the financial meas as laid down by the constitution. They also emphasized that for the time being the IFSR can fulfil all its financial obligations.

9.2 Release of Obligation of the old Executive Committee

DECISION: <Board> : Based on the Report of the Editors the Board released the EC from duty the complete Executive Committee - unanimously

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The out-going Executive Committee thanks the Board for its vote of conficnence.

10 Election of the new Executive Committee

Decision on Number of Vice Presidents :

DECISION: <Board> : Upon the suggestion of the EC, there will be three Vice Presidents for the next period - Unanimously approved

Proposals and presentation of Candidates <GM> :

The <EC> presents the new slate for the officers of the IFSR.

- President: **Dr. Mary Edson** *(ISSS International Society for the Systems Sciences)*
- 1st. Vice-President: **Dr. Gary Metcalf** *(ISI - International Systems Institute)*
- 2nd Vice-President: **Dr. Jennifer Wilby** *(IASCYS - International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences)*
- 3rd Vice-President: **Ray Ison** *(ASC - American Society for Cybernetics)*
- Secretary General : **Prof. Dr. Gerhard Chroust** *(OSGK - Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies)*

Formal Election of the new EC :

<GC> asked the meeting

1. If there are other nominations - No further nominations
2. If secret ballot was desired - NO

   DECISION: <Board> : no secret ballot is desired

3. If en-bloc voting is acceptable - YES

   DECISION: <Board> : en-bloc voting is accepted

<GC> calls for a vote of the proposed candidates

DECISION: <Board> : The Board approves unanimously the Executive Committee for the Period 2016-2018 as proposed above

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In the IFSR Newsletter No. 33-1 (July 2016) the newly elected members of the IFSR Executive Committee present their views and plans for their 2-year office.

Election of Auditors :

Upon the proposal of <GC> the election of the Auditors was as follows:

- Prof. Dr. Robert Trappl (OSGK - Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies)
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hofkirchner (BCSSS - Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science)

11 Changes to the Constitution <GC>

<GC> tables a proposal for minor changes o the Constitution with the following rationale:

New Logo A new logo for the IFSR was created - thanks to <StB>

One vote for all Full Members, Art. 8, (3) - (6) : Each Full member will from now on only have 1 vote in the Board (up to now it was 2). After the founding of the IFSR, it was important for some members (travel permission!) to send two delegates, but it makes counting of votes complicated, (in e-voting each member has only 1 vote!), but we keep the 'two delegate' rule.

New definition of time intervals, Art. 9 (2) (4) (6) The base of elapsed time was converted from days to weeks, to avoid cultural differences with respect to differences in holiday celebrations. The actuals times were not changed.

Deadline for nomination of EC candidates, Art 11 (3) : Nominations for functions of the EC must be submitted 1 month in advance. This allows to vet applications and give the Board some time for deliberations essentially.

Clarification for in-between succession of a President, Art 11 (5) to (8) If a President becomes incapable to fulfil his/her office,aA new President *must* be chosen by co-option within 1 month. Vice-presidents may (but need not) be replaced by co-option.

DECISION: <Board> : The proposed amendments of the Constitution are approved

12 Other Business <GC>

12.1 Dates and Place of next Meetings (tentative) <GC>

- August 25- 29, 2016: ISSS 2016, Boulder, USA: Informal IFSR - Meeting
- 1st half of 2018 - Next IFSR Board Meeting

13 Closing <GM>

14 Appendix: Attendance List

Delegates of Member Societes at the Board Meeting April 8, 2016

No	acronym *	Name / (english form) *	country	status	represented by
7	ASC	American Society for Cybernetics	US	FULL	Ray Ison
41	BCSSS	Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science	AT	FULL	Stefan Blachfellner
46	INCOSE	International Council on Systems Engineering	US	FULL	Janet Singer
35	ISKSS	International Society for the Knowledge and Systems Sciences	JP	FULL	Xijin Tang
3	ISSS	International Society for the Systems Sciences	US	FULL	Jennifer Wilby
47	META PHORUM	Metaphorum Group	GB	FULL	Allena Leonhard
1	OSGK	Oesterreichische Studiengesellschaft für Kybernetik	AT	FULL	Gerhard Chroust

	Guest at the Board Meeting :	**April 8, 2016**
	Andreas Hieronymi	
	George Mobus	
	Tim Ferris	
	Sue Gabriele	
	Susana Herrerar	Virtual via Skype, unfortunately the transmission, was not very good