



## **International Federation for Systems Research**

Secretary General: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Chroust

c/o OSGK – Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies

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URL: <http://www.ifsr.org>

FRIDAY, April 13, 2018, 13:30 - 16:10

Seminar Hotel Sankt Magdalena "Bildungszentrum" Linz, Austria

Schatzweg 177, 4040 Linz, Austria

G.Chroust

**SHORT VERSION** created July 11, 2018

### **1 Opening**

- *Note: Mary C. Edson and Edit Fabo (WCSA) attended via SKYPE*
- The final Agenda (tabled) is approved
- The Minutes of the previous meeting (April 2016) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **2 Report from the President (Mary C. Edson via Skype)**

see attached report

### **3 Report from the Secretary General (Gerhard Chroust)**

**Electronic Voting** was very successful: faster and more responses

**Change of Constitution** introduction of Classes of members

#### **Full Members :**

**Scientific Members** (they are usually non-profit organizations with a primary interest in research in the systems area)

**Educational Members** (they are primarily interested in education and dissemination of knowledge about Systems Sciences, like Systems Literacy etc.),

**Systems Practice Members** (their main interest is in the application of Systems Science, its theory and methods),

**Sponsoring Members** they provide the IFSR with financial or in-kind support.

**Affiliate Members** (they are primarily interested in receiving information),

**Fellows** (honored for having provided outstanding contributions to IFSR)

Change of Constitution approved!

*Note(after the Board Meeting): When submitting the new constitution to the Austrian Authorities they found that in the meantime some changes cause additional changes to our constitution (not related to the member ship categories). Therefore the Constitution is not yet in effect for the IFSR - there are some changes needed. The new General Secretary will take care of this*

**New members** MALIK Management Institute, St. Gallen, Switzerland (Full member, 2016-11-01 ).

SDS (Systems Dynamics Society) per 1. 5. 2016

## 4 IFSR-Collaborations

- WOSC (World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics) : Main Contact: Prof. Raoul Espejo
- UES-EUS ( Union Europeenne de Systemique/ European Union for Systemics) : Main Contacts: Prof. Pierre Bricage and Prof. Mrs Andree Piccq
- IASCYS (International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences ) : now 58 Academicians, became independent from the IFSR in Sept. 2016; "<http://www.iascys.org/>"

## 5 IFSR Publications

**Proceedings of the 18th IFSR Conversation Linz 2016** . A successful change of procedure was to publish these proceedings by BoD, a print on demand publisher. They are offered by several electronic book stores (e.g. Amazon and BoD)

*Edson, M.C. and Metcalf, G.S. and Tuddenham, P. and Chroust, G.,  
Systems Literacy - Proceedings of the Eighteenth IFSR Conversation 2016,  
Books on Demand, Norderstedt, Germany, Feb. 2017,  
104 pages, ISBN 978-3-7431-7913-4*

**19th IFSR Conversation Linz 2018** Sunday, April 8 to Thursday April 13, 2018 in St. Magdalena, Linz.  
26 participants in 4 teams:

- Team no 1 Systems Practice - Leader: Nam Nguyen, Constantin Malik
- Team no 2 What is Systems Science -Leader: Gary R Smith
- Team no 3 Active + Healthy Aging - Leader: Gerhard Chroust, Shankar Sankaran
- Team no 4 Data Driven SE Approaches - Leader: Edward Carroll

Proceedings to appear in November 2018!

**IFSR International Series on Systems Science and Engineering** - Relaunch!!

With the passing away of George Klir the position of the Editor-in-Chief of the Series became vacant. After some consultations and discussions, also with the publisher Springer, George Mobus took this job:

Professor Em. George MOBUS  
Institute of Technology, Computer Science & Systems/Computer Eng. & Systems  
University of Washington - Tacoma, Campus Box 359592 4333, Brooklyn Ave NE,  
Seattle, WA 98105-9470, USA.

**IFSR Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science** The Journal is well managed by Michael Jackson and is - fortunately - also very profitable.

**IFSR Newflash** The IFSR sends important news directly to subscribers (via MailChimp) Currently approx. 280 subscribers, subscription can be made via the IFSR Home page.

## **6 Financial Status and Outlook**

A copy of the financial situation for 2016-2017 and for Jan. 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018 was distributed to the Board.

- There are two sources of finance for the Society, one are royalties from Journal "Systems Research and Behavioral Science"(JSRBS) (published by Wiley Interscience) and the membership fees.
- The financial outlook of the Journal is very healthy, thanks to the great success of the Journal.
- The income from membership fees and JSRBS together, however, is definitely too small to cover all expenses
- The Board approves the financial statement and relieves the Executive Committee from its duties.
- The financial situation is not very good. We have to reduce costs (difficult) or to increase income (very difficult!) We have still a reasonable buffer for some future eventualities.

## **7 Election of the new Executive Committee**

Ray Ison proposes a new Executive Committee which is approved by the Board

- President : Professor Ray Ison
- Secretary General : Mag. Stefan Blachfellner (nicht present)
- 1st Vice President : Dr Louis Klein
- 2nd Vice President : Dr Nam Nguyen

The new officers will take their office by May 1, 2018

## **8 Closing**

Gary Metcalf closes the Board Meeting



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## IFSR Board Meeting President's Report 13 April 2018

Good afternoon to the Members, Executive Committee, Colleagues, and Guests of the IFSR and welcome to the 2018 IFSR Board Meeting. We have just concluded the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conversation and now our focus shifts to updating you about where the IFSR is and where its future is going. Before we begin, let us take a moment to review and appreciate some of the accomplishments we have made in the last two years. Through the leadership of the IFSR's Executive Committee, the following projects have been achieved:

- The IFSR Book Series has been relaunched with the leadership of George Mobus as Editor-in-Chief and Springer as Publisher. George presented a Publications Workshop during the IFSR Conversation this week and will be reporting details of the progress of the Book Series later in this meeting. We thank Gary Metcalf for his sustained dedication to the development of the series for his assistance in achieving this goal.
- Outreach to existing member organizations by attending member meetings like the American Society for Cybernetics in Olympia, WAS (June 2016) and the INCOSE SysSciWG Workshop in Jacksonville, FL (January 2017), which strengthen ties within the Systems Community.
- Outreach to potential member organizations by attending conferences like the System Dynamics Conference in Cambridge, MA (2017), which build new ties within the Systems Community.
- Outreach to potential new interest groups like the U.S. National Laboratories, which build and broaden the reach of the Systems Sciences Community.
- Continued partnerships with existing Systems Sciences collaborators like ISSS, whose next meeting will be in Corvallis, OR, with David Rousseau hosting it as President and Jennifer Wilby continuing to master plan all details of its execution. The IFSR EC gave presentations at ISSS 2016 in Boulder and 2017 in Vienna.
- New memberships have been cultivated to widen the reach of the IFSR and the Systems Community, such as Malik Management.

- New projects, such as collaborations in Systems Science Education, which Ray Ison has pursued. Systems Literacy, championed by Peter Tuddenham, was the focus of the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conversation and continues to develop into new opportunities for the Systems Community.
- The Systems Research Team is an innovative collaboration between the IFSR and the ISSS that began at the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conversation. The SRT, through Springer, published *A Guide to Systems Research: Philosophy, Principles and Practice* in 2017. This type of collaborative project and publication is part of the IFSR's continuing educational mission.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial IFSR Conversation's Proceedings have been published and are now available for online ordering through an on-demand published on Amazon.
- The IFSR Website has been maintained by Gerhard. We thank him for keeping it current for the membership's information with announcements, activities, and publications.
- The IFSR Newsletter has been maintained by Gerhard. We thank him for keeping it current for the membership's information with announcements, activities, and publications.
- *Systems Research and Behavioral Science* (Wiley), edited by Michael Jackson, continues to be a vital part of the IFSR's educational mission and we appreciate the alliance as a platform for our members' contributions to the field.
- The IASCYS, also known as "the Academy," is now fully independent from the IFSR. It is now a collaborative working group directed by Stuart Umpleby as President.
- The administration of the IFSR membership has been maintained by Gerhard and we thank him for over 25 years of acting as Secretary General. He has been the glue that keeps this organization functioning and we wish him well as he moves into new ventures in the Systems Sciences and beyond.

These are just some of the projects that the Executive Committee has undertaken and I would like to recognize all the members of the committee Gary, Gerhard, Jennifer and Ray, for their time, dedication, and effort toward bringing these goals to fruition.

At this time, I would like to invite the members of the Executive Committee to comment before proceeding with the Board Meeting.

At this time, I would like to invite feedback from IFSR Member Representatives.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you and I look forward to working with the new Executive Committee as it develops its vision for the IFSR's future.

Truly,

*Mary C. Edson*

Mary C. Edson  
IFSR President (2016-2018)