



Minutes of the general assembly at Liptovski Jan, September 1998

The President, Maria Luisa Dalla Chiara, opens the meeting. She expresses her regret for the fact that the Vice President, Peter Mittelstaedt and the Treasurer, Dick Greechie, could not be present in Liptovski Jan: Karl Hellwig, the European assistant to the Treasurer, will replace Dick Greechie for this meeting. She welcomes all the members. Then she turns to the agenda.

1. Reading of the votes.

The total number of votes that have been counted is 54 and the outcome is the following: David Foulis is elected for President. Diederik Aerts and Dick Greechie are elected for Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The newly elected Councillors are: Bugajski, Butterfield, Dvurecenskij, Mittelstaedt, Pulmannova and Harding. Cattaneo and Hellwig are elected as new members of the Nominating Committee.

After this election the IQSA executive structure is the following:

President: D. J. Foulis
Vice President: M.L. Dalla Chiara
Secretary: D. Aerts
Treasurer: D. Greechie

Council:

E. Beltrametti	S. Bugajski
G. Chevalier	J. Butterfield
C. M. Edwards	A. Dvurecenskij
P. Busch	P. Mittelstaedt
P. Lahti	S. Pulmannova
R. Werner	J. Harding

Nominating Committee

R. Guintini	G. Cattaneo
M. Navara	K.E. Hellwig

The word is given to the new President of the association: David Foulis. He thanks the members for the confidence that they expressed in him and promises that he will give it back.

2. Discussion about the perspectives of the Association.

The day before the general assembly the perspectives of the research field 'quantum structures' as conceived by IQSA were discussed during a forum organised by Springer, and therefore the President suggests that now the discussion may continue about the aspects of these perspectives more directly linked to the existence and structure of the association.

Pavicic: what to do about the scepticism of the physics and philosophy community about the IQSA?

Foulis: there is indeed a certain amount of scepticism of these two communities towards what happens in IQSA. I do not have a clear view for the reason for this and do not see immediately how to formulate a strategy to answer to this criticism. As mentioned already by Stanley Gudder during the discussion of yesterday evening, it would be good for IQSA to attract also scientists that are now working in newly emerging fields that are connected to our interests - such as quantum computing and quantum information.

Aerts: We do not have to be too pessimistic. Some of the scepticism that we encounter is quite general and will always be there. It is the typical scepticism that the physics community always feels towards very theoretical fields. In my opinion the future will show quantum structures to become more and more important just because technology wants to manipulate energy and information



ever faster and in ever smaller regions of reality. This technology will hence inevitably encounter - and this is happening already - the quantum problems. We should see that we do not get detached from this important technological development and indeed quantum computing and quantum information are important aspects of it.

Busch: I think that it will be important to focus on the possibilities of addressing young scientists and making them aware of the research on quantum structures that is going on. The contact with, and recruitment of, young researchers will be crucial for the future of quantum structures research.

Pykacz: I would like to make three remarks in this respect; (1) we should stop repelling the physicists from our research and hence get more close to real quantum structures again, (2) we should also join our efforts with the fuzzy set people, who have a big audience, also in the physics community, (3) why not organise some schools on topics of quantum structures, and here I join the remark by Busch, in this way we could attract young scientists.

Dalla Chiara: The proposal of Pykacz to organise schools on different topics seems to me very important and interesting. And we perhaps do not have to pay too much importance to some of the scepticism, but better counter it with positive actions, like the organisation of schools for example. Another remark that has been made and that I would like to bring forward here is the following: it has never been decided officially, but there has been this idea to organise a smaller intermediate conference (the first took place in Brussels as a satellite conference and the second in Atlanta). Now this idea of a smaller intermediate conference is perhaps not a very good one. It has only negative connotation - small and intermediate - and it would perhaps be better to focus on the big biannual conference and to put the energy that has been gathered for the small intermediate conference into the organisation of workshops and schools. Workshops can be organised in different places on the initiative of the local scientists that are members of IQSA. They can do this under the umbrella of IQSA. And for schools we have to reflect about the possible formula's. The big biannual conference should then also make an effort to broaden the actual scope of IQSA by attracting other scientists that work in fields that interest us.

Hellwig: A school could be organised together with the conference or together with a workshop. Also more efforts have to be made to inform our colleagues about the IQSA events and conferences. Students could be offered reduced rates to participate.

Aerts: I find all these very good ideas, and indeed it is also internationally more easy to find money to organise a school than a conference. For example with the European community.

Beltrametti: I agree completely. It would be very good for IQSA to make an effort to attract the young people and the organisation of schools would be a good way to do this. We could also try to find money with Nato for example. Also Erice would be possible for such a event.

Wilce: I just want to mention that a workshop has been organised in Brussels by Bob Coecke, David Moore and myself on an IQSA topic this spring and that it was such a good experience that we have the idea to repeat it next year.

3. Were to organise the next Biannual IQSA meeting?

Dalla Chiara: It seems not to be possible to propose already a definite place for the organisation for the next biannual IQSA conference. There are three places where the possibility for the next conference will be investigated: (1) Budapest (Szabo and Redei), (2) Vienna (Svozil) and (3) Brussels (Aerts). So we can not make a decision now. We also have to reflect about the best time to organise the conference. The two weeks of September seem very bad for our American members.

After some discussion - to fragmented to write up in detail - it is decided that these first two weeks of September should be avoided. It is also decided that the three candidates for organisation will report to Karl Hellwig before Christmas about the state of affairs and their possibilities to organise.

4. Possible changes of the Constitution.

No proposals



5. Varia.

Pavicic; I propose to give the IQSA website in the hands of a professional, because in my opinion the now existing website is not good enough.

After a discussion - too fragmented again to report in detail - it is decided that this proposal will be looked at.

Diederik Aerts,

Secretary, IQSA.