

# Wednesday, May 22, 2024

## Attendees

**Voting:** Allyson Beall King, Lees Stuntz, Jenson Goh, Inge Bleijenbergh, Eliot Rich, Martin Kunc, Diana Fisher, Hazhir Rahmandad, Asmeret Naugle, Raafat Zaini, Bob Eberlein, Brad Morrison

**Non-voting:** Meagan Colvin, Raquel Buzogany, Rebecca Niles

## Agenda

0:05 Welcome and Agenda (Allyson)

0:05 Motions (Allyson)

0:10 Dashboard and Exec Director Report (Meagan)

0:10 Scholarship Motion and Update (Bob)

0:10 VP & Committee Reports

0:10 APCC (Jenson)

0:20 Retirement Pricing (Inge)

0:15 Publications (Bob)

0:05 DEI Respect and Inclusion at the Conference (Allyson)

Adjournment

## Minutes

**President**, Allyson Beall King, brought the meeting to order, and introduced the agenda.

**Secretary**, Lees Stuntz, moved to approve the April 2024 Policy Council Meeting Minutes. Inge seconded. Motion passed.

**Executive Director**, Rebecca Niles, introduced the dashboard and Meagan presented a focus on sponsorship fundraising, which is on track. The main factor leading to this success is the sponsorship fee increase, which has been updated this year. Automations are also helping to improve the process and to reach out to more people.

Bob Eberlein moved to create a designated fund for all scholarships, combining monies from the current Summer School Scholarship designated fund, and the Conference Scholarship informally designated fund and removing those designations. All SDS School honorariums not claimed by their recipients will be paid into this designated fund. Eliot seconded. Discussion ensued on clarification, earmarking and the difficulties involved in this, tax deductions. Motion passed.

**APCC chair**, Jenson Goh, shared that the committee is planning a conference in November, it is yet unclear if there will be need for funding and/or additional resources as the conference team has not been very responsive. Jenson faces challenges to keep the APCC members focused, thus, changed strategy in the last year and focused his efforts to support one chapter only, the China Chapter. He highlighted the activity status of the different chapters in the Asia Pacific region. Jenson shared the need for a succession

plan and a clearer vision of objectives for the committee. Ideally, the committee structure would also be rethought. He suggested that the Strategy Committee take up this discussion.

**VP Membership**, Inge Bleijenbergh, presented a retirement membership proposal where retired members would be allowed a reduced membership fee. This is in alignment with other societies and would allow for retaining knowledge and members. After running several scenarios, the expected outcome is a conservative profitable result. Meagan mentioned that some retired members do ask for reduced fees and the Society currently extends a discount coupon, but the assumption is that most do not ask and just drop their membership. Jenson shared that other organizations have an angel structure where older members are invited to support younger. Overall feeling is that introducing this new membership category is the right thing to do. Eliot seconded. Motion passed. The change is effective immediately. There will be no double-checking of retired status, members will be trusted. The new category should be promoted. There were different views on how to deal with people that might already have registered for the full price. The sense of the meeting was that if a retired member brings up the change and asks for the discount for a current paid membership, that will be honored.

**VP Publications**, Bob Eberlein, highlighted main points of the most recent publisher's report received from Wiley: open access publications, finance floors and ceilings, and mechanics of acceptance/rejection rate. He also shared other activities from the publications committee, including developing the practice category, an upcoming review recruitment, thoughts on funneling work from the conference, and the forthcoming contract renewal work.

**President**, Allyson, shared the request by David Wheat regarding conference waiver fees. Discussion ensued on consistency, regional matters, inclusiveness, other scholarship/volunteer opportunities. Hazhir suggested to waive the 2024 conference fees for the Ukrainian participant's from David Wheat's workshop. Eliot suggested a budget amendment that would make a country specific motion unnecessary. Discussion ensued on other countries affected by war and requests from Society member groups (Iran). Bob mentioned that there should still be sponsorship funds to cover additional registrations. Bob moved to authorize the Executive Director to make a decision on eight additional conference scholarships related to people listed by David Wheat and Saeed P. Langarudi. Seconded by Eliot. Motion passed. Jenson mentioned there could be a more limited enabled access (e.g., to a workshop only) for specific individuals, so as not to create an impression of being biased towards specific groups.

Allyson shared that SPOC recommends minor changes to the Conference Code of Conduct (report 1013). Bob moved to adopt the updated document that has been revised to include a link to the SDS code of conduct, add VP Membership as a point of contact, and make the contact emails specific but position based so that the statement itself does not need to be updated as people change positions. Inge seconded. Motion passed. The DEI statement could be displayed at the conference with flyers and/or QR codes. Eliot stated his preference for a display at the registration desk, not flyers scattered around the site reminding people of the issue.

**Allyson** asked who would like to adjourn the meeting. Bob moved. Inge seconded. Motion passed.