



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE PHILOSOPHIE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES

www.fisp.org

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Beijing, PRC, August 18th, 2018

MINUTES

As approved by the Steering Committee of Fisp
in Mostar, BIH, on May 22nd, 2019.

PRÉSENTS / PRESENTS

BUREAU DE LA FISP / FISP BOARD

Luca Maria SCARANTINO
Dermot MORAN

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Ancien Président / Past President

COMITÉ DIRECTEUR / STEERING COMMITTEE

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Anat BILETZKI
Tanella BONI
Suleymane Bachir DIAGNE
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Wolfgang KALTENBACHER
Vassilis KARASMANIS
Ivan KOLEV
Mislav KUKOC
Ernest LEPORE
César LORENZANO
Noburo NOTOMI
Graham OPPY
Emmanuel PICAUVET
Riccardo POZZO

Mogobe B. RAMOSE
Jacob DAHL RENDTORFF
Suwanna SATHA-ANAND
David SCHRADER
Gerhard SEEL
Andrey SMIRNOV
Yu-Suk SUH
Sigridur THORGEIRSDÓTTIR
TU Weiming
PHAM VAN DUC
Lourdes VELÁZQUEZ
Stelios VIRVIDAKIS
WANG Bo
Robin WANG
Jure ZOVKO

PRÉSIDENTS HONORAIRES / HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Evandro AGAZZI
Ioanna KUÇURADI
William L. MCBRIDE

Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 1988-1993
Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 1998-2003
Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 2008-2013

**SECRÉTARIAT / SECRETARIAT**

Johanna LOTT-FISCHER

Secrétaire administrative / Administrative Secretary

EXCUSÉS / EXCUSED

Gholamreza AAVANI

Membre du CD / CD Member

Maria BAGHRAMIAN

Membre du CD / CD Member

Husain HERIYANTO

Membre du CD / CD Member

Wenchao LI

Membre du CD / CD Member

Giovanni SCARAFILÉ

Membre du CD / CD Member

Gabriel VARGAS LOZANO

Membre du CD / CD Member

João J. VILA-CHÃ

Membre du CD / CD Member

Stella VILLARMEA

Membre du CD / CD Member

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The new President of FISP, Prof. SCARANTINO, opened the meeting. He congratulated all newly elected members of the Steering Committee, and wished them a most fruitful experience within the Committee. He then invited Prof. MORAN, the former President of FISP, to co-chair the meeting.

Prof. MORAN and SCARANTINO expressed the deepest gratitude of FISP, and of the international philosophical community at large, for the wonderful organization of the Congress that was made possible by the massive effort realized by the hosting institution, Peking University. They particularly thanked Professor WANG Bo, now also a member of the Steering Committee, for his personal commitment to the Congress over the past years; and recalled the seminal role of Professor TU Weiming in this endeavor since 2007.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In order to become better acquainted with each other's interests, background, and current work, each member of the Steering Committee provided a brief self-presentation. At the end of this round of addresses, Prof. MORAN and SCARANTINO invited all members of the Committee to send a brief self-description to Dr Leaman, in order to post it on the new website of FISP. Portraits of each Steering Committee member can now be found on a dedicated page on FISP website.

3. ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD

As customary, the first task of the newly elected Steering Committee was to appoint a new Board. Prof. MORAN recalled that, according to the rules of FISP, Vice-Presidents shall be elected from members who have already served on the Steering Committee for at least three years.

President SCARANTINO explained that, following informal consultation with previous members of the Board, and in consideration of the actual composition of the new Steering Committee, he would like to nominate names for each position which he hoped would receive general consensus from the Steering Committee.

3.1. Vice-presidents

President SCARANTINO considered that a good balance of cultural, gender, linguistic, and disciplinary diversity should be reflected in the composition of the Board. He underlined the importance of giving proper recognition to the extensive involvement of the Asian philosophical communities in the preparation of the World Congress, which he considered as a turning point in contemporary philosophical debates.



He added that, in order to reflect these forms of diversity in the composition of the new Board, he had consulted with former members of the Board and with new members of the Steering Committee. As a result, he proposed to the Steering Committee to nominate Professors Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Noriko Hashimoto, and Tu Weiming for Vice-Presidents.

Prof. SCARANTINO explained that a vote had to be taken in order to establish a formal order among the Vice-Presidents, adding that members of the Steering Committee could also express other preferences.

As a result of the vote, the new Vice-Presidents were elected in the following order:

1. TU Weiming
2. Souleymane B. DIAGNE
3. Noriko HASHIMOTO

3.2. Secretary-general

Professor SCARANTINO stressed that the Secretary-general plays a key role in the life of FISP, being called to work closely with the other members of the Board. He considered that the Secretary general's profile should combine high scholarly reputation with the capacity of bringing cultural and gender diversity into the action of FISP. He considered that Professor SATHA-ANAND's profile perfectly fits these requirements, and explained that previous consultations showed a very large consensus on her name. He therefore proposed her name to the Steering Committee for the position of Secretary-general.

Professor MORAN seconded this proposal, and asked whether Prof. Satha-Anand would be ready to take over this duty. She declared that she accepted this nomination.

Several members of the Steering Committee (BILETZKI, KUÇURADI, RAMOSE) underlined the importance of having a woman as the new Secretary-general.

Professor Suwanna SATHA-ANAND was elected as the new Secretary-general of FISP by acclamation.

3.3. Treasurer

Professor Gerhard SEEL was re-elected as the Treasurer of FISP by acclamation.

Prof. MORAN congratulated the newly elected members of the Board on behalf of the Steering Committee. He expressed his personal satisfaction with the smooth transition to a new team, underlined the high profile of the new members of the Board, and wished all the success to the new Board of FISP.

4. COMPOSITION OF STEERING COMMITTEE

A long deliberation was generated by the result of the elections for the Steering Committee. The last position to provide for the composition of the Committee was indeed shared by two candidates, who received the same number of votes. This unprecedented situation put the Steering committee before a dilemma: each of the two candidates was elected to the Steering Committee, but the election of both would exceed the maximum number of members set by the Constitution of FISP.

President SCARANTINO brought this case to the consideration of the Steering Committee, explaining that neither the Statutes nor the Bye-Laws were of any help to deal with it. In short, this was a truly unforeseen situation.

Professor SCHRADER, the chair of the Committee on General Policy, explained that the Statutes set a very clear limit of thirty-nine members in addition to President and Secretary-general. Any future decision taken by the Steering Committee could be voided on a legal basis were this limit in membership overcome; this would apply, in particular, to decisions that would involve financial commitments.



A very thorough examination of the case took place. Virtually all members of the Committee expressed their views, or suggested possible solutions. A controversial issue was whether art. 24 of the Statutes (“Decisions as to matters not covered by these Statutes are left to the Steering Committee and may be fixed in Bye-Laws elaborated by that Committee”) could apply; alternate membership, membership without right of vote, part-time membership, alternate proxy, choice by lottery, choice by gender priority, and other solutions were successively considered and discarded on various bases. Professor RAMOSE volunteered to resign, in order to leave a place for the two candidates; the Committee unanimously invited him to remain.

At the end, the Committee agreed to assign to the President, the Secretary-general, and the chair of the Committee on General Policy the task of finding a solution to this legal dilemma. In the meantime, it was decided that the two candidates would be associated with the work of the Steering committee in the same way as the other elected members of the Committee; the Treasurer agreed that partial refund of travel expenses would also apply for them as a general rule.

5. NEXT MEETINGS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

President SCARANTINO recalled, especially for the newly elected members, that the Steering Committee usually meets once a year, although regular e-mail communication takes place on a constant basis within the Committee. The next session shall take place in 2019, possibly by April-May.

Two proposals were submitted to the consideration of the Steering Committee for 2019. Professor SEEL mentioned the possibility of a meeting in Brussels upon invitation of the Association des Sociétés de Philosophie de Langue Française; Professor ZOVKO invited the Steering Committee to hold its annual session in Sarajevo.

Professor OPPY considered that a meeting in Melbourne would also be possible, and considered that April or May of 2020 might be a possible option for such a meeting.

President SCARANTINO informed the Committee that Prof. BAGHRAMIAN, a newly elected member of the Steering Committee, mentioned in an e-mail communication her wish to possibly host a session of the Committee in Dublin. Prof. HASHIMOTO expressed the wish that the Committee would meet in Tokyo before 2023.

Prof. MCBRIDE wondered whether it would not be problematic to hold a meeting in a country where there is no member society of FISP. Prof. KUKOC seconded his remark, underlining that it might be difficult to raise local funds. Prof. ZOVKO considered that a meeting in Bosnia would have a highly symbolic meaning for cultural dialogue and understanding, adding that it would be possible to raise all necessary funding.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Secretary-general, the Treasurer, and the President would explore the two actual options for 2019 – Brussels and Sarajevo – and make a decision in due time.

6. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

As usual, the composition and chairpersonship of the Consultative committees of FISP had to be renewed.

Prof. SEEL explained the particular situation of the committee on Aesthetics. The former chair of this Committee, Prof. SASAKI, was no longer a member of the Steering Committee and would not continue as chair of the committee on Aesthetics; Prof. SEEL would not be able to succeed him due to his already high workload as Treasurer. He therefore proposed to appoint an external member, Prof. CARTER, as chair, adding that Prof. Carter would be willing to carry out the task.

After short deliberation, the following chairs were appointed:



- Prof. SCHRADER was confirmed as chair of the Committee on General Policy.
- Prof. CARTER was appointed as chair of the Committee on Aesthetics.
- Profs DAHL RENDTORFF and VELÁZQUEZ were appointed as co-chairs of the Committee on Bioethics and the Ethics of the Sciences.
- Prof. THORGEIRSDÓTTIR was confirmed as chair of the Committee on Gender issues.
- Prof. LI was confirmed as chair of the Committee on the History of Philosophy.
- Prof. BILETZKI was confirmed as chair of the Committee on Human Rights. She solicited more support from the members of the Steering Committee and from FISP constituency.
- Prof. SWEET, although no longer a member of the Steering Committee, was confirmed as chair of the Committee on Intercultural Research in Philosophy.
- Prof. VARGAS LOZANO was confirmed as chair of the Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy.

Prof. SCHRADER invited the Committee on gender issues to promote women nominations for the next election of the Steering Committee.

7. INITIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WCP 2023 IN MELBOURNE

7.1. Programme Committee

President SCARANTINO recalled that a few months are usually necessary to define the composition of the Programme committee of the World Congress; he therefore proposed to include the nomination of the Programme committee in the agenda of the Steering Committee meeting of 2019, as it has been the case for the past WCPs.

Prof. SCARANTINO observed that a general consensus seems to exist about a possible chair of the PC, and proposed to appoint Prof. LEPORE to that position. He explained that he had served in the last two Programme committees, and added that his chairpersonship would be seen as inclusive by the community of analytic philosophers, who are likely to play a significant role in the Melbourne Congress; he considered that FISP should reflect the diversity of philosophical debates across the world, and Prof. LEPORE would be a guarantee for everyone.

Prof. BILETZKI seconded this proposal.

Prof. Lepore was elected as chair of the Program committee for Melbourne Congress.

7.2. Upcoming meetings

Prof. OPPY brought several issues to the attention of the Steering Committee. The duration of the Congress, its tentative dates, the schedule of the Programme committee, the timetable for invitations and the legally binding value of the Memorandum of Agreement were especially discussed.

Prof. OPPY suggested that, due to the academic calendar in Australia, the Congress might possibly take place within the first three weeks of July 2023. Prof. MORAN recalled that, depending on the dates of the Steering Committee, the PC should probably meet on a yearly basis around the end of each year. It was also agreed that invitations for plenary speakers should be sent at latest two years before the Congress, and followed by regular communication from the local organizing committee.

There being no other matter of discussion, the meeting adjourned on August 18th at 17h00.

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