

Council meeting, 29 February 2016

Participants: John Wood, Andrew Treloar, Ross Wilkinson, Satoshi Sekiguchi, Juan Bicarregui, Françoise Genova, Walter Stewart, Fran Berman, Mark Parsons, Kay Raseroka, Stefanie Kethers (minutes)

John welcomed everyone

The group reviewed and shared information about the expected participants at the Funders' forum. About 15 participants confirmed they would attend.

ACTION: Juan to check with Tony / STFC about connections to [RIKEN](#), the large Japanese research organisation.

Council Subcommittees

Mark had an action from the last meeting to propose the membership for the Council subcommittees. The latest version (updated during the meeting) is here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TaMdjpBhrLXfBnRZGppl75QfrK9I73-zQz0W0B-zOt4/edit>.

Council needs to discuss and agree.

Neither Fran nor John will chair any subcommittee; however, Council will need to elect new a co-chair once the new Council is established.

There are three primary Council subcommittees (Strategy, Sustainability and Funding, Finance). The other two (Engagement and Communications, and RDA Operations and Coordination) are advising committees

Discussion of membership for each subcommittee resulted in an updated document. Subsequently, the Secretariat has created private workspaces for each subcommittee. They are private to Council and other subcommittee members.

ACTION Fran: Ask Josh Greenberg if he was willing to be on the Sustainability & Funding subcommittee. CLOSED

Action Juan: To ask Amy Nurnberger if she is willing to be chair for Engagement and Communications. CLOSED

Summary of subcommittee membership (which has evolved some since the meeting):

Strategy – Sandra (chair), Tony / Bernard, Kay, Fran, Françoise, Juan

Sustainability: Ross (chair), John, Patrick, Fran, Josh Greenberg

Finance Doris (chair), Satoshi, Walter (or replacement), Mark

Engagement & Communications: Amy Nurnberger (chair), Michal Stanton, Tony, Rebecca Koskela, Bernard, Kay

RDA Operations: Rainer Stotzka (chair), Mark / Stefanie, Andrew, Leif, Yasuhiro Muryama

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TaMdjpBhrLXfBnRZGppl75QfrK9I73-zQz0W0B-zOt4/edit>

Discussion of what Council would expect of the subcommittees:

Fran will have a kick-off meeting with the subcommittee chairs and to talk about how they will meet. It was discussed if the subcommittee chairs should join Council meetings. The outcome was that the subcommittees are supposed to work on issues, then provide Council with reports and/or discussion / briefing papers, which Council then decides on (similar to the model used with the Future Directions initiative). All subcommittees have either Council chairs (Ross, Doris), or Council liaisons (Bernard, Michael, Andrew), so there is a direct connection to Council, and discussions in Council can be had if necessary.

Subcommittees are supposed to have reports at Council meetings, starting in May. The first one may just be to confirm membership, and to report on an initial meeting.

Action Mark: Discuss Secretariat support for subcommittees in Secretariat meeting on Friday. CLOSED

Secretariat support would include taking minutes, making sure meetings happen and are organised.

The initial mandate for the subcommittees would be to be following up on Future Directions, and to ensure that the Future Directions actions are happening. The implementation of the Future Directions document is the main function of Engagement & Communications, and Operations & Coordination subcommittees. Future Directions is now to be passed on to Mark, who is looking at priorities.

On Council elections, Bernard will likely be joining Council after the election period, which finishes in two weeks. Tony will step down then. There is no formal induction process for new Council members, but a new member needs to be welcomed, and given information. They need 1) a list of information (names, acronyms, etc.) and 2) briefing of tacit knowledge. A global picture is important.

The meeting also discussed to consider the candidates who did not (yet) make it onto the slate for Council, or who did not get voted into TAB, as potential subcommittee members.

Action: Mark to send round TAB and Council candidates.

Tuesday, 1 March 2016

Meeting Chair: Fran

Attending: John, Kay, Doris, Walter, Juan, Satoshi, Fran, Mark, Ross, Andrew, Francoise, Stefanie (minutes)

This was the first plenary in Asia, and it was important that the Funders' Forum worked (and it did).

Satoshi reported that more Japanese were expected, but there were still approx. 370 registrations.

Fran thanked Satoshi and asked him to pass our thanks to local hosts and an offer to help advance their agenda.

ACTION: John and Stefanie to draft a paragraph to give to Satoshi about how pleased we are to be here, how much we appreciated this and how we look forward to continuing engagement / interaction

Approve agenda and minutes from last time — files 01a and 01b

Comments, changes? (Action on John – look at plenaries in Africa – ongoing)

The meeting welcomed Francoise Genova as the new TAB co-chair.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Finance committee report

This contains the Fiscal policies – v1.0, some small gaps. The Finance subcommittee has blessed it. Two financial reports from foundation. **Decision: Approved.**

Debrief from Funders Forum and confirm follow up actions

It was agreed that the Funders Forum was very helpful, and we should try and keep it as vital part of RDA Plenaries. Clare did an excellent job as chair. It was clear that there is a lot of support, but we need new strategies for what we can most effectively do over the next few years.

Action John, Fran write note thanking participants etc – this should come from Clare on behalf of Council. CLOSED

This was a lengthy discussion that explored many possible funding scenarios and actions. We need to gain a better awareness of what's going on in all regions and we need to get a sense of what international projects are happening. Private foundations will play an important role along with government agencies. Plenaries could also be restructured to be a revenue source. We need to figure out models that can be replicated around the world.

Possibilities include:

- 1) Step away and define projects
- 2) Push harder to get regional agreement / coordination
- 3) Use the current model including some tweaks, e.g. plenary money
- 4) Bid for office of Secretariat for a period of time

We don't know yet what to choose – we need a small group to go away and work on this. There are harder structural questions to ask.

Actions:

Mark will follow up on P9 money with Hilary.

Mark to see if writing a communications / engagement / advocacy proposal would be viable.

Ross to convene open meeting of Sustainability subcommittee, inviting all members of Council (including observers).