



General Assembly

This meeting was held during the seminar in Turku/ Åbo, on the 30th of September 2011.

ISHA sections present:

- Belgrade (Serbia)
- Berlin (Germany)
- Galway/ Gaillimh (Ireland)
- Groningen (the Netherlands)
- Helsinki (Finland)
- Jena (Germany)
- Kaunas (Lithuania)
- Leuven (Belgium)
- Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Marburg (Germany)
- Nijmegen (the Netherlands)
- Osijek (Croatia)
- Reykjavik (Iceland)
- Roma (Italy)
- Turku/Åbo (Finland)
- Utrecht (the Netherlands)
- Zagreb (Croatia)

Observing sections:

- Tbilisi (Georgia)

Present members of the International Board:

Stephanie Bakker (President), Sanna Hellstedt (Secretary), Frerik Kampman (Treasurer)

Agenda:

- 1) **Opening**
- 2) **Appointment of Speaker**
- 3) **Appointment of Minute-taker**
- 4) **Taking down of Attendance, Checking the Quorum**
- 5) **Reading the agenda**
- 6) **Review of minutes of the GA in Pula and the SAM in Bucharest**
- 7) **Upcoming events**
- 8) **State of affairs**
 - a) The International Board
 - b) Council
 - c) Treasury Committee
 - d) Webmaster
 - e) Sections and Observers
- 9) **Cooperation with Other Organizations**
- 10) **Relocation of ISHA?**
- 11) **Revision of voting system**
- 12) **Application(s) for Carnival Editor-in-Chief (and Editorial Board)**
- 13) **Proposal of ISHA-Jena, adding articles to the Statutes and Standing Orders Concerning the Board of Patrons**
- 14) **Approval of the minutes of the GA in Pula and the SAM in Bucharest**
- 15) **Voting on the new Carnival Editor-in-Chief (and Editorial Board)**
- 16) **Voting on the additions to the Statutes and Standing orders concerning the Board of Patrons**
- 17) **Questions and Closing**

1. Opening at 15.20.

2. Appointment of Speaker: Stephanie Bakker is appointed.

3. Appointment of Minute-taker: Sanna Hellstedt is appointed.

4. Taking down attendance of Attendance, Checking the Quorum: A list is passed around. There are 17 sections present, thus the requirement of 2/3 of the sections is established.

5. Reading of Agenda: Stephanie reads the agenda and suggests moving point number 8e "*Sections and Observers*" to the end of the agenda, as the new point number 17. Previous point number 17 "*Questions and Closing*" will then become the new point number 18. The GA accepts this.

6. Approval of Minutes of the GA in Pula and the SAM in Bucharest

- Minutes of the GA in Pula and the SAM in Bucharest are passed around. Stephanie goes through them page by page.
- **Remarks for the Minutes of the GA in Pula:** There are some spelling mistakes which will be corrected. Stephanie asks Bodil (Turku) if Turku has used the Workshop Manual. Bodil was not sure whether they had been used or not. Turku also wants its information to be corrected on page 8 to "*A week ago accepted as a member of the other local student union. This is in addition to the one they already are members*". The GA will get back to the Weekend Seminar and the Board of Patrons later on the agenda.
- **Remarks for the Minutes of the SAM in Bucharest:** There are also some spelling mistakes which Stephanie suggests should be sent directly to the IB. Stephanie also wants to make it clear that questions concerning the *European Association for Urban History Conference* (29.08.-01.09.2012) in Prague should be directed to Sven Mörsdorf at projects@isha-international.org. Galway promises to keep ISHA posted on their Seminar which is going to be held on the first weekend of March 2012. The IB will also be looking into the possibility of a PhD Weekend Seminar. During the SAM, Bucharest had asked to see the votes given for the Vice-president during the Pula conference. The votes are now included in the Minutes of the GA in Pula. The votes show that it was a majority that voted for Jernej Kotar. Since no-one from Bucharest is now present,

Stephanie will ask them if they want to proceed on this. Otherwise the matter will be considered concluded.

7. Upcoming events

- **Regional Seminar in Zagreb:** Zagreb is late for the meeting but the Seminar will start on the 26th of October and it will be held in Serbo-Croatian. Stephanie and Jernej are going to attend.
- **New Year Seminar in Belgrade:** Milos (Belgrade) informs the GA that Belgrade is facing some financial difficulties but otherwise the preparations are going well. They are expecting around 40 participants and will know the exact participation fee when the accommodation plans are finalized. Stephanie will be in contact with Belgrade and Nenad in particular about the seminar.
- **Annual Conference in Jena:** Anne (Jena) tells the GA that everything is going well with the preparations and Jena has secured financial assistance from the University. Sven is also busy preparing for a grant application at the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The preparations will gain force once the new semester begins.
- **Summer Seminar 2012:** ISHA Rome is unable to organize it as they did not get financial support from the EU. Stephanie informs the GA that she has been in contact with Thessaloniki. They are interested but think that they will not be able to organize it due to financial and organizational difficulties. The spot for the Summer Seminar is thus open and Stephanie asks the GA if any other section would be interested in it. No section volunteers but Elsa (Helsinki) asks whether St. Petersburg would be able to organize the Seminar. Stephanie wonders if there are problems with getting visas but promises to contact Anastasia. Stephanie also concludes that if no other section is able to have the Summer Seminar, Utrecht could organize it again but only as the last resort.
- **Autumn Seminar 2012** is going to be held in **Zagreb**.
- **New Year Seminar 2012 in Ljubljana:** things are going well.
- **Annual Conference 2013:** Stephanie asks whether anyone is already interested in organizing the Annual Conference 2013. No-one volunteers so the matter will be left for now.

8. State of Affairs

a) The International Board

- The old and the new IB met in Brussels (1.3.-3.3.2011) for the Handover Weekend. Stephanie concludes that a Handover Weekend should be held again next year.
- The Policy Paper will be published online next week and the IB calls for everyone to take a look at it and report back with possible comments.
- The new ISHA leaflets are printed. They are a bit thinner than usually and there is a slight mistake: it says "*International Board 2010-2011*" instead of "*International Board 2011-2012*". Frerik asks a member of every section to give their hotel room number so he can deliver them.
- Frerik reminds the sections to pay their membership fees. This Seminar is the last possibility for the normal fee. Frerik urges sections to make an appointment with him in case paying now is not a possibility. Frerik also reminds the sections about ISHA merchandise and free magnets. Bodil (Turku) and Björn (Reykjavik) show the t-shirts. Elsa (Helsinki) makes an official request for new buttons and asks whether the IB would consider printing name tags for each section. The IB promises to look into this.
- Pieter (Leuven) asks whether Provence/ Marseille could become an observer in the second half of the year. Frerik answers that their money would not be refused in that case.
- Teresa (Marburg) asks about the membership fee price. Frerik answers that it has been 75 Euros for a long time but it has been decided that it is 50 Euros for those who pay in advance. Late fees are going to be 75 Euros. Frerik wants to make it clear that paying the fee is the only way for us to know that the section involved is interested in continuing.

b) Council

- Björn (Reykjavik) is present and is already excited to know what his task is going to be. Stephanie assures him that the task will come to him soon.
- Other Council members are not present but the IB will be in contact with them. Marjolein (Groningen) has already a task, helping the IB with the EU grant application. The deadline for it is November the 15th 2011.

- Pieter (Leuven) asks whether the money that we might get from the EU could be used for sections outside the Union. Stephanie assures that the possible grant can be used for events outside too as cross-border cooperation is something that the EU supports.

c) Treasury Committee

- Is not present, there is no news.

d) Webmaster

- Fabian is still working as our Webmaster.

e) Sections and Observers

- Moved to point number 17.

9) Cooperation with Other Organizations

- Stephanie asks whether members in general are familiar with the organizations with which ISHA is cooperating. She urges all to take a look at the ISHA website where you can find a link list.
- Stephanie tells the GA that she is going to the IFISO meeting in Thessaloniki and is positive that we can learn a lot from other student organizations. There is also an ESU meeting in Sofia at the beginning of November and the IB will see if it can send someone there. The project with Euroclio did not get funded. Elsa (Helsinki) asks whether we still can get financing from Euroclio for our events. Jena might get that but it is very difficult. In the past Euroclio has been keen to work with ISHA and the IB continues to be in contact with them. Euroclio will have their biggest event in Antalya, Turkey at the same time as we have the Annual Conference in Jena. This will make participation very difficult. The IB will think about this further. Stephanie also adds that the copies of the conclusions of the joint-project with Europaeum (2009-2010) are now in The Hague.

Break 16.10-16.30.

10) Relocation of ISHA?

- **General:** ISHA International is now located in Zürich, Switzerland but according to Fabian, the section there is dead. That is why it would be more convenient to move ISHA somewhere else. There was talk about moving it last year but because of the EU grant application the old IB decided to postpone the relocation. ISHA can apply for the grant as a Swiss organization but it should be in the trade register. The reasons why ISHA was moved to Switzerland in the first place was to avoid just this (not needing to change the names of the Board every year saved ISHA money). Fabian has told Stephanie that putting ISHA in the Swiss trade register is difficult. Stephanie also found out that it would be very expensive.
- This is why it would be better to **relocate ISHA International for example in Belgium** where Brussels and the EU institutions are closer. The problem here concerns another EU grant application requirement. In order to be qualified to apply, the organization needs to have existed at least a year. Stephanie has been in contact with a law professor who has promised to look into the legal matter of having two ISHAs existing at the same time and of possible agreements between Belgium and Switzerland recognizing each other's legal entities. This would mean that the old and the new organization would coexist for a year before ending the old one.
- **Discussion:**
 - Pieter (Leuven) points out that when ISHA was still located in Leuven, there were complications of movement and that there always needed to be Belgian in the Board. Stephanie answers that this is not so anymore. She has also thought about the Netherlands as a relocation place because there are people who are willing to help ISHA at least for the next ten years (e.g. with mail).
 - Elsa (Helsinki) asks whether there is a person now to check ISHA's traditional mail and what would happen after the relocation. Stephanie answers that Fabian checked the mailbox a few weeks ago and there was nothing. Everything goes now in e-mails but if traditional mail is needed, the address should be the President's home section's address.
 - Elsa (Helsinki) asks what is happening with the ISHA bank account in Switzerland. Frerik replies that we still use it. The money on the bank account in Belgium was given to ISHA Leuven which has supposedly already used it for the Weekend Seminar.
 - Elsa (Helsinki) points out that it could be useful to contact Elsa – European Law Students Association and ask them for advice.
- The IB asks for **permission from the GA to relocate ISHA International**. The GA decides unanimously in favor of relocating ISHA International from Switzerland to another country.

11) Revision of voting system

- **Sasa (Pula) has sent a proposal** to change the voting system and rules. In Pula, there was a discussion about the use of proxy votes but it was decided that they would not be used there. Sasa's proposal is passed around. The proposal would change the Statutes and Standing Orders.
- **Discussion:**
 - Karen (Berlin) remarks that one of the Committee members should come from the organizing section. Stephanie answers that this is ideally the case and the members should represent different sections and be probably coming to the Conference. The point is that applications should come earlier and be online before the Conference, making everything clearer.
 - Elsa (Helsinki) wants to know if it possible for a member of an Observer Section to run for the Council or the IB. Stephanie says that it is not specified, so yes. Frerik adds that the IB will look into it.
 - Elsa (Helsinki) continues by stating that the IB should take the biggest responsibility for the proceedings in the actual meeting and make the Committee's role just a practical one. Authority should remain with the IB. Stephanie clarifies that this is mostly about collecting votes. Frerik points out that with this proposal, the whole procedure will be more neutral and it does not change so much in the end.
- The GA decides that **the GA in Belgrade will vote on this** so ISHA can use the new system already in the Jena Conference.

12) Application(s) for Carnival Editor-in-Chief (and Editorial Board)

- Stephanie states that some people have expressed their interest for the back team but we still need to find someone for the position of the Editor-in-Chief. A call for the position is heard but no-one volunteers. The IB will look into this and if one is found, we can vote on it in Belgrade. In Belgrade it will be the last possible moment to find an Editor-in-Chief.

13) Proposal of ISHA-Jena, Adding Articles to the Statutes and Standing Orders Concerning the Board of Patrons

- The proposal made by ISHA Jena is passed. Elsa (Helsinki) asks it to be explained.
- The IB agrees mostly on the proposal but suggests a few changes:
 - Article 10a of the Statutes: Cut out "*in a more intensive way*" and change "*shall have*" to "*has*". The GA agrees to this.
 - Point 5 of Article 11a of the Standing Orders: Cut out the part "*are expected to actively promote the Organisation and its mission and*". Stephanie explains that this should be for promotional purposes but the people who would be in the Board of Patrons are expected to be so important that they cannot be expected to do this. She clarifies that we cannot force them to do something because this might make them less likely to agree becoming a Patron.

- **Discussion:**
 - Anne (Jena) says that it is more about formulation. Ideally, the potential Patrons would have worked with ISHA earlier so they may be expected to promote ISHA in this way too. “Important people” is not that realistic. Maria (Helsinki) states that she agrees more with Stephanie.
 - Anne (Jena) asks whether we want the Patrons to just give us their name or also actively promote ISHA? Maria (Helsinki) says that it depends on what we want. But if we want them both, the statement should be as vague as possible. Elsa (Helsinki) agrees on that this is a good opportunity for ISHA. She prefers a clause that would be a recommendation, not something mandatory.
 - Anne (Jena) would like to see an exclusive group. Bodil (Turku) remarks that the Board will probably grow in the future. Frerik says that he does not support every local section having a Patron and also wants the Board to be exclusive. But the wording should be as loose as possible. Stephanie points out that the Board would be there to give us their name and it depends on the person if they want to invest more in ISHA.
 - Elsa (Helsinki) wants to know who would be in the Board, nationally or internationally known people and where does the line go. Frerik says that a GA would decide upon it every time because we need a check on the matter. Karen (Berlin) points that local people could be for example Patrons of a Seminar.
 - Pieter (Leuven) raises the question whether the Patrons need to be historians or not. Stephanie reads the phrase where it is stated in the proposal and says that a Patrons should have something to do with history. Pieter does not agree and gives people who have been/ are important for the European integration as an example. Stephanie concludes that the formulation is wide enough for those kind of people to be included too. Hanne-Mette (Galway) agrees that the Patrons should have something to do with history as we are International Students of *History*. Maria (Helsinki) finishes by saying that the wording now accepts a lot.
- Point 1 of Article 11a: Frerik suggests that we cut out the part *“Patrons are not expected to support the Organisation financially; they may, however, decide to do so by becoming Friends of ISHA in addition to their patronship.”*
- Discussion:
 - Sanna asks whether the part about allowing them to be Friends with ISHA should still be there. Frerik does not think that this is necessary. Bodil (Turku) agrees with keeping the Friends of ISHA wording. Karen (Berlin) agrees to cut the financial part but prefers to keep the Friends of ISHA wording.
 - Elsa (Helsinki) asks whether the Patrons need to sign a paper to be a Patron because this would make it possible for us to use their name without complications. The IB agrees to this. Elsa suggests that a paper like this would be formulated and voted on in Belgrade.
 - The IB suggests that the GA will vote on Article 10a now and 11a to be specified in Belgrade. The GA agrees to this.

14) Approval of the minutes of the GA in Pula and the SAM in Bucharest

- Both Minutes are approved by all the sections.

15) Voting on the new Carnival Editor-in-Chief (and Editorial Board)

- It was decided earlier in point number 12 that no voting on the Editor-in-Chief shall take place in Turku. This will be postponed to the GA in Belgrade.

16) Voting on the additions to the Statutes and Standing orders Concerning the Board of Patrons

- It was decided earlier in point 13 that no voting on the Article 11a of the Standing Orders shall take place in Turku. This will be postponed to the GA in Belgrade.
- Voting on the new phrasing of Article 10a of the Statutes: *“The Organisation has a Board of Patrons, consisting of persons who wish to support the Organisation and its mission. Details will be specified in the Standing Orders.”*:
 - Open votes are used. In favor: 17 sections. Against: none. ISHA Marburg withholds from voting. Article 10a in the Statutes is officially accepted. The new Statutes shall be known as Turku Statutes.

17) Sections and Observers

- Stephanie suggested and it was decided by the GA that only those sections with urgent news should tell about their situation.
 - **Nijmegen**: It is not going that well for ISHA Nijmegen as Lia is the only member. And because Lia will be leaving Nijmegen quite soon, the matter will be discussed with the IB later. Stephanie will have a talk with the GSV Excalibur in which ISHA Nijmegen has been made non-active.
 - **Zagreb**: There is a new university which opened during the last Academic Year. ISHA Zagreb is in contact with it and there is one person who is already interested.
 - **Helsinki**: There is a new president as the last one moved to the Netherlands and became a member of the IB. There are some new active students who will be sponsored possibly in Belgrade. ISHA Helsinki also found some old ISHA documents while cleaning their closet. The oldest of the documents is from 1993. Helsinki is thinking about scanning some of the old found Carnivals and putting them online. Elsa (Helsinki) also asks whether anyone has ever done a thesis on ISHA.

18) Questions and Closing

- Pieter (Leuven) asks whether the contacts in France are becoming Observers. The IB will give them the ISHA-address.
- Stephanie reminds everyone about the merchandise still on sale.
- Speaker closes the GA at 17.40.