

NOTES OF THE 43rd JACoW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6 December, 2021

Present: Board of Directors: Ivan Andrian, David Button, Regis Neuenschwander, Johan Olander, Christine Petit-Jean-Genaz

1. Approval of the Agenda of JBoDM#43 and the Notes of JBoDM#42

The Notes of BoD#42 and the Agenda of BoD#43 are approved without modification.

2. Actions Outstanding, Continuing Discussion

There is one action outstanding from the last meeting, i.e. for Ivan to contact Volker concerning the feasibility of upgrading his JPSP scripts to render them Indico-compatible as an intermediary measure pending development of new JPSP. This issue is dealt with in a wider context elsewhere in these Notes.

3. JACoW 2021 Team Meeting

Ivan reports that while the number of cases of Covid has recently been on the rise in Europe, the numbers have stabilized. The situation is under control in Italy, with strict regulations in place concerning transport, hotels, restaurants. Only fully vaccinated people are allowed in restaurants. PCR tests will be arranged for those needing them to return home.

Unfortunately Thomas has had to cancel in-person participation which is particularly unfortunate given the need for in-depth discussion at this crucial point in the Indico Project. He will attend via zoom.

The number of registered participants is over 50. Virtual registrations should cover the IT costs.

Based on his recent experience with the IPAC'23 OC/SPC in Venice Ivan judges that zoom/remote participation is a less than satisfactory solution for TMs and should be avoided in future. Time difference issues for remote participation make it extremely difficult with only 2.5 or 3 hours per day of "useful" time.

Johan will find it difficult to attend the whole Pre-TM. He should be able to attend at least throughout Monday.

David reports that it will also be difficult for him to participate due to time differences.

Christine will send a reminder the Pre-TM to ask for confirmation of presence. Ivan will send a zoom link to those concerned before the end of the week.

David reports recent progress in the organization of a virtual poster session. He has contacted all representatives of conferences to provide photos of themselves and a couple of slides describing the conference, which he will mount into a slide show. A local "facilitator", probably Massimiliano, will ensure that presenters introduce themselves, and stay strictly within time limits to be able to cover all conferences within the time slot for the session.

On "Ask the Experts", we do not expect many requests, but a reminder at the beginning of the TM should be sufficient to get this under way and arrange for one-on-one meetings. Ivan has zoom licenses to cope with this, and if there is any shortage Johan could also provide them.

4. Status of Elections of Chair and Coordinator

According to Ronny's recent communication, 10 and 8 candidates have been proposed respectively for the positions of Chair and Coordinator. None have so far accepted the nomination. Four candidates for Chair, and 3 candidates for Coordinator are currently still considering.

Ivan expects that by the deadline this Thursday one or more positive responses should be forthcoming.

In the unlikely event that there are no candidates, the remaining Board members may, according to the Charter, invite up to 3 new members.

The Charter stipulates maximum mandates of 3+3 years. Due to exceptional circumstances this was extended by a year for the Chair and Coordinator. Ivan would not wish to extend any further.

In response to a question from Johan on the positions of Ivan and Christine in the future, Ivan responds he has a commitment until 2024 because of IPAC'23. He is willing to serve the team at least during this time.

Christine prefers to await the result of the elections before considering further commitments.

5. Full Migration from SPMS to Indico

There is lengthy discussion on this topic, in particular with respect to JPSP. These issues are discussed in the following Agenda item and will be examined in more depth during the Pre-TM in Trieste.

6. Long Term Sustainability, and Continuity

Recent initiatives to fund tool development outside of the current JACoW-Indico project have given rise to discussion as to the sustainability of the JACoW model. Can good will continue to suffice?

In the past the cost of developing tools was absorbed by the larger laboratories and the larger conference budgets.

Training of editors through attendance at TMs and within the larger events for hands on editing training, was partly absorbed by conference budgets, and partly by

laboratories either organizing events, or actively supporting the JACoW initiative.

The move from SPMS, the JACoW-Indico project, is being financed by the CERN IT and Accelerator Departments.

But important tool development, outside of the project needs to be defined and funded:

- a) Adapting “old” JPSP used to produce SPMS proceedings to run with Indico while b) is in preparation
- b) Completely “new” JPSP
- c) New JACoW Central Repository
- d) Various plug-ins

How to adapt old JPSP, to fund new JPSP as well a new JACoW Central Repository and the numerous plugins not included in the current project, is still unclear.

Furthermore, when the JACoW-Indico project is completed, there is likely to be a cost to use Indico.

The JACoW BoD has shared its concerns as to its lack of resources for the above with Stakeholders, representatives of conferences and institutes, and with its larger founder events, the regional PACs.

Most conferences know what JACoW provides: via the Central Repository, an effortless maintenance of mailing lists that facilitate conference announcements, and an effortless compilation of author lists. JACoW also provides the tools that facilitate the organization of a scientific programme, the tools that facilitate the compilation of references, the scripts to produce the publication package, and publication on JACoW.org.

The above comes free of charge, but there is a cost to be found somewhere.

The conferences via their budgets (or through the institutes) provide for the training of their editors at the annual JACoW TMs, and also at the larger events to get hands on editing experience.

The conferences should, once their proceedings are published, and to contribute to JACoW continuity and sustainability, continue to send their editors to at least one JACoW TM to teach and pass on the knowledge and experience gained, and in particular provide continuity within their own conference series.

With the coming changeover of JACoW Management following the elections, the BoD focuses on the challenges facing the Collaboration as described above, the difficulties facing JACoW with its current model, and some possible initiatives to communicate with the whole community, to understand and contribute to possible solutions.

Possible actions to be undertaken:

- a) prepare a clear overview of the cost of production of conference proceedings according to the JACoW model from the perspective of conference organizers,
- b) prepare a clear overview of JACoW’s effort, what the Collaboration has to find, and how it is falling short of needs, with possible proposals to secure financial sustainability, with possibly more formal agreements with laboratories and conference series.

7. AOB. Indico Testing Status

Christine reports on latest testing of upload, and the workflow of the editorial module. She will try to open the editorial workflow to editor testers to provide them with some background prior to the presentation by Thomas Baron during the TM.

8. Next BoD Meeting

The date of the next BoD meeting (#44) to take place early in 2022 will be decided by the New BoD following the elections.

(Last) Notes prepared by Christine