

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday 23 July 2021, 15:45 (GMT+2)

University of Łódź conference – online.

Present and Absent: see Appendix 1

1. Minutes of TCD meeting (2019)

Proposed Katharina Rennhak.

Seconded Donald Morse.

Minutes approved.

2. Chair's address

The IASIL community has been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, like everybody else: many on personal level, and all members professionally, since our conference in 2020 had to be postponed, and while we were hopeful that we would be able to meet in Łódź in 2021, the decision to hold the conference as a fully online event had eventually to be made. From the time of our last face-to-face conference which was held at Trinity College Dublin, we have also lost several outstanding scholars and cherished colleagues: Robert Tracy, who passed away in January 2020, Margaret McCurtain, who died in October 2020, and recently Seamus Deane (May 2021), who all gave memorable keynote lectures at IASIL conferences and were long-standing members of the association.

Immense gratitude is due to the University of Łódź organising team – Michal Lachman, Katarzyna Ojrzyńska, Joanna Kruczkowska and Wit Pietrzak – for their extreme dedication and resolve to making the conference happen against all odds, an effort that has been extended over an unusual period and has involved, first, a cancellation at the height of preparations, followed by a protracted period of uncertainty and ultimately a speedy organisation of the technology for the online format. Last but certainly not least, appreciation is due to the organisers' efforts to minimise the costs and thus allowing for merely a token registration fee for fully waged participants to be charged (with modest assistance from IASIL, as approved by the Executive). Despite taking place amidst a general weariness with the online environment, the conference was a major success, being attended by 132 presenting delegates.

Scholarships awarded for the 2020 conference were transferred to 2021 and some of their holders will be participating in the conference; as the conference ultimately had to move online, the actual payment of the bursaries became unnecessary (details are included in the Scholarships Report). Regrettably, the PhD forum could not be held this year since no application have been received, despite the extended deadline which was followed by Michal Lachman's generous pitch of the forum to Irish Studies colleagues and their students across Poland. The forum will be given enhanced visibility for next year's conference, which, hopefully will not be affected by "zoom fatigue" any more. For the moment, thanks are due to those Executive members who

have volunteered to serve as tutors at the forum; their assistance will be appreciated next year if still available.

Much of my time as IASIL Chair has been dedicated not only to consultations on the Łódź conference but also to securing venues for the following years. Details of the negotiations will be presented at a later point in this meeting but for the moment, let me express my gratitude to all colleagues who have been approached in this matter; I would like to single out, in particular, Brian Ó Conchubhair at the University of Notre Dame who has been extremely kind to stall his work on the planned 2021 conference there, only to find himself in a situation in which he will not be able to proceed with the plan in the foreseeable future.

As much as this may not be immediately apparent, considerable effort has been dedicated to the reconstruction of the IASIL website. This has been beset by a range of unexpected impediments but the work is on track again and we are hopeful that the rebuilt website will be launched in the course of the autumn (details will be given later in this meeting).

A decision was made at the last meeting of the Executive to form a subcommittee in order to draft an Equality and Diversity Statement for IASIL, to be presented for approval at the present meeting. Let me issue an apology concerning this important matter: the IASIL Secretary, Cormac O'Brien, who is the chair of the subcommittee, has been personally affected by the COVID pandemic in a number of ways that have prevented him from completing the task, and indeed have removed him from much of his professional life for some time. Cormac's dedication to IASIL has been exemplary and I am fully confident that he will be able to accomplish the work in a short time now.

I would like to note a couple of changes on the IASIL Executive. Our Postgraduate Representative, Laura Loftus, had agreed to stay on the Executive after the completion of her PhD and hand over the post to a successor in July 2020. As the conference had to be postponed, Laura decided to step down and proposed Rosanne Gallenne as her successor. Given the extraordinary circumstances, I approached the Executive with a proposal to co-opt Rosanne as the Postgraduate Representative, which the Executive has endorsed. Rosanne has already made a significant contribution to IASIL activities, continuing Laura's excellent work, as will become apparent later in this meeting. Another change concerns one of the Representatives for North America, Susan Cahill. Susan has left academia and has recently informed me about her wish to step down from her post. Since time did not allow for an appropriate consideration of potential successors and their discussion by the Executive, I have proposed to the Executive that the post remains vacant until a new representative is properly voted in as part of the regular Executive election next year, which the Executive has endorsed.

The relationship with the *Irish University Review* and Edinburgh University Press has been continually excellent. The fixed price per copy for IASIL members has been

raised by a tiny margin in 2021, which has been approved by the Treasurer and by the Executive of IASIL Japan, and a new contract is due to be signed in 2022. Gratitude is due to EUP for their proficient production and promotion of the journal, and particularly to Emilie Pine, Lucy Collins and the editorial board for making the journal a principal showcase for the most exciting work in Irish literary studies globally.

At the last meeting, I informed you about new developments at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland as regards the support for Irish Studies programmes under the Global Ireland strategy. Following further discussion between senior officers of the Department and the IASIL and EFACIS Chairs, the Emigrant Support Programme (which was used for applications in 2020) has been modified, and now features a separate Irish Studies sub-programme, geared specifically to the needs of Irish Studies. The constructive approach of the DFA to the matter has been much appreciated, demonstrating yet again the dedication of the Irish government to the promotion of Irish culture via Irish Studies scholars internationally.

I would like to record my debt of gratitude to Tina Morin, our Treasurer, for not only keeping the IASIL budget under control but also being ready to discuss things IASIL at all times, and to our Secretary, Cormac O'Brien, who has been an equally wonderful co-worker any time the circumstances have allowed him.

Respectfully submitted,
Ondřej Pilný

No questions or comments.

3. Changes on the IASIL Executive

Laura Loftus replaced as Postgraduate Representative by Rosanne Gallenne.

Susan Cahill has decided to step down from her post of Representative for North America due to having left academia. The Executive has endorsed the Chair's proposal for the post to be left vacant until next executive election to take place next Spring.

4. Secretary's report

I am delighted to have served as IASIL secretary since the 2019 conference held at Trinity College, Dublin. It had been a privilege to be of service to the IASIL community, which, as I've learned from my short two years in the position of Secretary, is truly global in scope and reach. Moreover, the umbrella term of us being an Irish Studies scholarly association, I have learned, flatters to deceive; because the scholarship, teaching, and public engagement activities of the IASIL community are as wide as they are varied, truly far-reaching in breadth and scope, with work that touches all arenas of Irish artistic culture, work that ranges from Beckett to Boyzone, work that

truly moves through the whole of Ireland and which – to steal a phrase from the RTE weather reports of old – carries us from Malin Head to Mizen Head.

Covid-19 Pandemic and its impact on my role as Secretary

Like many here today, I am directly affected in very challenging ways by the Covid 19 pandemic, which, I'm very sorry to report, has had direct and at times negative impacts on my ability to carry out my duties as IASIL Secretary. Without going into too much personal detail, as many of you will know, my family lost our dearly beloved father, Noel, to Covid in April of 2020. My father's untimely death has had a ripple effect on my professional life and career with most of my scholarly work and research put on hold. Moreover, my father's death has put me in the position of primary carer to my elderly mother who has myriad health problems. Add to that an involuntary separation due to travel restrictions from my long-term partner, and one can see how this pandemic has made my professional life at times untenable. I want to, therefore, give huge thanks and praise to our Chairperson Ondřej Pilný and our Treasurer Tina Morin, who carried more than their fair share of my workload since April 2020, and did so without judgement or question. Without their unerring support and guidance, I'm not sure if I would have the strength to even begin writing this report. Grateful thanks due also to our outgoing Membership Secretary Lucy Imbusch and incoming Membership Secretary Loic Wright, both of whom also carried me through these challenging times. And also, most importantly, to all those members of the IASIL community who continually send support and assistance, I express deep and grateful thanks.

News, Weekly Email Digest and Social Media

Posting news items such as details of new publications, Calls for Papers, conferences and webinars is one of the regular recurring tasks of the Secretary and website manager. Since I took the post of secretary there has been an average of 3 posts per week, or 12 posts every month. Each week, at some point in the early hours of Sunday morning (Irish time) the website automatically generates a news bulletin that goes out to all members, past and present. As Ondřej will shortly be giving detailed account of the hurdles and pitfalls we've encountered in the construction of a new website (agenda item 9), I won't pre-empt the report that he has prepared on this matter. Suffice here to say that the old website has 3 membership databases, when we really only need one. The membership database which the website uses to send out the bulletin is one which contains the email addresses of anyone who has ever been a member of IASIL, regardless of their current standing with the association. This situation will, it is hoped, be rectified, with the launch of our new website near the end of this year, whereby only current, paid-up members will receive the bulletin.

A note now about submission of items for the website. If you are submitting something for inclusion on the IASIL website and subsequent bulletin, please submit it on a MS Word document rather than a PDF, with any images attached separately, preferably in Jpeg format. I won't bore you with the details of why I ask for this, but it's to do with the archaic nature of the back end architecture of posting items to the site. It is hoped, of course, that the new website will do away with such requests.

I myself manage the IASIL Facebook page, with every post that goes onto the Website then posted to Facebook. However, and this is to be encouraged, anyone who follows the IASIL Facebook is able to post items to the Facebook page.

Quite recently last month, we had a problem with the IASIL Twitter account whereby due to an overhaul carried out by Twitter, the account became melded with a personal, individual account; a situation which caused great distress both emotional and physical to our previous and very beloved secretary, Dawn Duncan. For this situation, we can only apologise. However, thanks to some intrepid forensic work by our IASIL postgraduate representative, Rosanne Gallenne, the situation now seems to be resolved and a new IASIL twitter account has been set up. However, this new Twitter account needs followers so, please, get following! The new Twitter handle is @IASIL3 – so, like I say, get following.

As before, the Twitter account will be maintained by the postgraduate representative. Roseanne's postgraduate report contains detail statistics for both the Facebook and Twitter accounts and I would like to extend my grateful thanks to her, and to outgoing Postgrad Rep, Laura Loftus, for their ongoing hard work with the social media side of IASIL.

Passwords

Currently, the old IASIL website requires a login or username and a password to access certain areas of the site. When the new site is up and running, there will no longer be a need for passwords. Please note, and this is important, with the current website set up, that whatever email address you used when you originally signed up to become a member of IASIL will always be your user name for the purposes of logging into the site. You can, of course, change the email address to which IASIL sends any correspondence and the weekly bulletin, but the old site does not allow us to change the login/user name. This of course causes confusion and problems, because most of us become IASIL members when we are post-graduates and then once we finish our PhDs we will most likely become affiliated with a different university and therefore use a different email address. The important thing of note here is that you can send me your new email address for contact with IASIL, but that very first email address you used to become a member of IASIL will always be your username for the purpose of logging into the site.

With lost or forgotten passwords, the current system does not auto-generate new passwords. Members currently need to email me to request a new temporary password, which I email to them and they then log into the site and change the temporary password to one of their own choice. Obviously, this is quite labour intensive and really not a sustainable situation; however with the launch of the new site, there will be no need for passwords. And if there are any passwords needed, for example to access *Irish University Review*, the new website will auto-generate new passwords and send them directly to the member concerned.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity sub-committee.

At the 2019 Executive Committee meeting, I was tasked with chairing an EDI subcommittee. Due to the challenges I've been facing with Covid and its impact, I have not made the progress I would like to have with this task. However, several members of the IASIL, both ordinary and from the executive, have agreed to be on the EDI subcommittee, namely Kate Costello-Sullivan, Emma Penney, and Chris Cusack. We need to source one or two further members and hope to produce an EDI statement and strategies before the end of the calendar year, which will then be circulated to the Executive for approval via email.

Respectfully submitted,
Cormac O'Brien

No questions or comments

5. Treasurer's report

IASIL Treasurer's Report 2021

a) Accounts Audited Accounts 31 May 2020/2021 (presented as an on-screen Appendix)

b) Paid-up Membership (without IASIL Japan members¹)

(see Appendix 2 for regional distribution by country, 2021)

Paid up to date

2021 (Lodz)	276	(incl. 116 students, 3 life members) ²
2020 (Lodz – Postponed due to Covid-19)	310 ³	(incl. 132 students, 4 honorary/life members)
2019 (Dublin)	338	(incl. 126 students, 4 honorary/life members)
2018 (Nijmegen)	328	(incl. 106 students, 4 honorary/life members)
2017 (Singapore)	318	(incl. 96 students, 4 honorary members)
2016 (Cork)	392	(incl. 103 students, 37 3-year, 4 honorary/life members)
2014 (Lille)	390	(incl. 77 students, 65 3-year memberships, 20 couples, 4 honorary/life members)
2013 (Belfast)	366	(incl. 72 students, 17 couples, 4 honorary/life members)
2012 (Montréal)	358	(incl. 77 students)
2011 (Leuven)	333	(incl. 74 students)
2010 (Maynooth)	405	(incl. 71 students)
2009 (Glasgow)	378	

¹ This total does not include IASIL Japan members, who have their own organisation.

² We have three life members – Heinz and Gillian Kosok and Maurice Harmon. Our one honorary member, Margaret McCurtain, sadly passed away in 2020.

³ This number is based on PayPal records for the period 1/6/2019-31/5/2020, as the usual account documents and audit were not compiled on 31 May 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2008 (Porto)	419	
2007 (Dublin)	519	

Membership

Membership numbers have been severely impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The usual bump in numbers that we see around the time of the conference didn't materialise in 2020 for obvious reasons, and the 2021 numbers reflect the ongoing and uneven impact of the crisis. Student numbers have not dropped as much as might be expected, but the events we have relied upon in the past to cater specifically to PhDs, including the IASIL PhD Forum, have not been able to run for 2 years. We risk losing more student members if we cannot return to our usual activities or find suitable alternatives that pg students themselves find appealing for progressing their research and becoming involved in IASIL. More generally, a key post-pandemic initiative will be to bolster membership numbers to ensure the continued vitality of the society.

Scholarships

In 2020, we awarded 4 postgraduate bursaries, including two funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The successful candidates were Loic Wright, Moonyoung Hong, Mariia Bondarenko, and Aisling Cahillane, with the latter two taking up the DFA funding. When the 2020 conference was postponed, the decision was taken to offer these same students bursaries for 2021, if at all possible (re-applying for the DFA funding). In the event, however, the bursaries were unnecessary due to the move entirely online.

Members' donations continue to be the main source of funding for postgraduate bursaries, and we've seen a steady trickle of donations, both through PayPal and at the annual conference. In Trinity in 2019, we collected over €200 from members at the AGM and received donations through PayPal that brought that amount up to €545. This compares favourably to the €358 raised in the previous year. In 2021, we collected €390,⁴ despite lower membership numbers and no conference in 2020, which is a testimony to the generosity of our members. However, vigilance is required to maintain and boost donations in future.

Of course, this has been an area of concern for some time. Indeed, in advance of the 2020 conference, a fundraising subcommittee was convened with the aim of brainstorming and putting into effect new money-raising initiative specifically to support our postgraduate scholarships. Through its efforts, an application was submitted to the Irish Embassy in Poland and money secured for two scholarships, as noted above. This funding was time-bound, however, and could not be used in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

⁴ There is an error in the accounts whereby two 3-year memberships and one ordinary membership were understood to be donations. Unfortunately, I didn't pick up on this until it was too late. Factoring these figures into the accounts reduces the donations listed therein from €670 to €390 and also increases our membership fee income from €8,676 to €8,956. Another error to take note of: the accounts for 2020 mistakenly omitted the payment for the spring 2019 issue of *IUR* (€3051.20). I have amended the figures accordingly below.

Conference expenses

Our conference expenditure in 2020 was roughly in line with that of 2019 (€961/€992) and involved costs associated with the 2019 conference in Trinity. In 2021, we have had no conference costs as yet, but the executive has approved bursaries to be paid from IASIL funds for all invited speakers (total: €1,500).

Payment and membership procedures

PayPal continues to work extremely well for us as an association, despite the reduction in memberships earlier noted. Issues with automatic renewals do still occasionally arise and end up costing the society a nominal fee each time a refund is processed. As noted in 2019, members are increasingly opting out of the automatic renewal option on PayPal, which is positive in terms of further reducing the number of members experiencing issues and/or requesting refunds, but could become a negative in the long run if regular or longstanding members omit to pay their dues.

As in 2019, a handful of members who chose not to use PayPal and were not in a position to pay by cheque were offered the option to deposit their membership fees directly into the IASIL current account in 2020 and 2021. This has worked well and could provide a useful solution for more members in future, particularly as it also opens up the option of setting up a Standing Order. As with refunds via PayPal, fees need to be monitored.

c) Membership & Fees

2021

Income	€8,956
Scholarship Income	€390
Total	€9,346
Outgoings	€10,948
Excess of Income	(€1,602)
Closing bank balance	€24,618

2020

Income	€14,095
Scholarship Income	€545
Total	€14,640
Outgoings	€12,824
Excess of Income	€1271
Closing bank balance	€26,220

Our annual income in 2020 (€14,095) dropped from 2019 (€15,869), reflecting the beginning stages of the pandemic, the postponement of the annual conference, and the associated reduction in membership numbers. The continued decline in membership numbers has significantly impacted our income in 2021, pushing us back into a deficit which had been eliminated from 2019. However, it should be noted that the income for 2021 does not include the usual IASIL Japan membership payment (€1000), which was held up for various reasons, including the pandemic. Factoring this

into the accounts significantly reduces but does not wholly eliminate our deficit. As noted above, membership recruitment will be crucial in the coming year to combat the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Journal

Payments for *IUR* fully up to date; €9,099 paid in total in 2021; €8,991.60 in 2020.

Thanks

Our long-serving membership secretary, Lucy Imbusch, retired in August 2020, handing over her responsibilities to Loic Wright, who has been serving in this capacity since then. Sincere thanks to Lucy on her many years of faithful and truly efficient assistance. A warm welcome, too, to Loic, and many thanks for his assistance in preparing this report.

Thanks also to Ondřej Pilný, Cormac O'Brien, and Shaun Richards.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Morin

No further questions or comments.

6. Future conferences

a. University of Limerick 2022

Dates: 25th – 29th July, 2022. Theme: “Intersectional Irelands”.

Keynotes confirmed: Zélie Asava, Pat Palmer, Fiona McCann, Riona Ní Fhrighil.

A video message from the organising committee with details was shared with the AGM.

As per the agreement of the Executive, the elections that are to take place prior to the Limerick conference will use the same nomination procedure as in the previous years, with the view for these to be eventually updated in order to avail of the possibilities of digital technologies. Any proposal for a modification of the election process will be put forward to the AGM for approval, regardless of whether they might necessitate a change in the IASIL Constitution.

b. Venue for 2023

The Chair’s proposal that the 2023 conference be organised by Dr Rania Khalil of The British University of Egypt, Cairo has been unanimously endorsed by the Executive, with the proviso that Ondřej Pilný continue working closely with Dr Khalil and her team.

An invitation on behalf of the Chair of IASIL Japan was proffered by OP to the upcoming IASIL Japan conference, to be held online on 9-10 October 2021.

7. Scholarship subcommittee

a. Report on 2020/2021

There were 11 applications for the scholarships for the 2020 conference. That's higher than the 7 received for the 2019 conference at TCD but lower than the 18 received for the 2018 conference at Nijmegen. There's no obvious explanation for these year-on-year variations: there's no correlation between the overall number of conferees in any one year and the number of scholarship applications, neither does the location of the conference appear to be a major determinant. And as I reported at TCD, the means for the dissemination of information and the dates for application submissions have remained constant. So while it would be nice to have a wider global spread of applicants I don't see that there's anything we can do to increase the number.

Of the 11 applications, 7 were from Ireland, 2 from the UK and 1 each from Brazil and the Ukraine. But that refers to the country in which applicants were studying and one interesting point about the applicants from Ireland is that they included Taiwanese, Italian, Indian and Singaporean as well as Irish. So the global reach of IASIL is actually a little hidden. Also noteworthy compared to previous years was the number of Irish universities, with only UCC and Maynooth not represented.

From the group the committee selected Moonyoung Hong (TCD) and Loic Wright (UCD) to receive scholarships but thanks to the generosity of the Department of Foreign Affairs we were also able to offer scholarships to Mariia Bondarenko (University of Lviv) and Ashley Cahillane (NUI Galway). Unfortunately, as we know, the pandemic forced the postponement of the 2020 conference and it was agreed to carry the awarded scholarships forward to 2021 and not seek new applications.

Thanks as ever to the sub-committee for their work on this: Laura Izarra, Tina Morin, José Lanteris and Ondřej Pilný.

Shaun Richards (delivered by OP)

No further questions or comments.

b. Decision for 2022

The Executive has agreed that the wording of the call for applications for the Lodz conference be retained, using the Erasmus+ travel bands for the expenses, with a tentative cap on the overall expenses set at EUR 1 500. The cap would be increased in case the received donations allow for that.

No further questions or comments.

8. IASIL postgraduate activities, including the PhD Forum

Report from the Postgraduate Representative

Changes

I took on the role of Postgraduate Representation in late August 2020, following Laura Loftus's graduation. Ellen Howley (who graduated, too) passed on the role

of social media manager around the same time. Since then, I have been in charge of the maintenance and expansion of the online platforms.

For the time being, I am in charge of this role too, but when more mobility and subsequent possibilities will be available again, I will need someone to assist me with the IASIL social media in order to keep the community active and well alive. I have been asking around but there seems to be a large turnover at the moment (many Ph.D. candidates have just finished or are finishing, new ones starting and not readily available to take over the responsibility). The COVID-19 crisis has not helped either as it was 1) difficult to connect with the other members and 2) research having been slowed down, there is now a desire on behalf of the Ph.D. candidates and postdocs to focus on their research due to the time that was lost.

Online activity

Due to the exceptional circumstances, not much has been done since the last conference. The Facebook pages ('IASIL' and 'IASIL postgraduates') have however been active throughout the pandemic.

Issues with the Twitter account have been fixed (hopefully) and the account is ready to be active during the 2021 conference. The main Twitter account has however lost a good few followers as we now have only 127 followers (as per Monday, July 12th). I however managed to recuperate the list of accounts that was followed by the previous profile and subscribed to a few more. The IASIL postgraduates Twitter account now possesses 858 followers.

The Facebook pages – the Postgrad and the main one – keep gaining views and subscribers and have the following figures:

- Main IASIL page: 1787 likes, 1987 subscribers.
- IASIL Postgraduates: 311 likes, 337 subscribers.

Consequences of the covid-19 and projects

The COVID-19 drastically reduced our activity and the engagement of the postgraduate community. The Zoom fatigue is also very present; with the English Graduate Society in UCD we organised a workshop directed by Prof. Emilie Pine and advertised it to the IASIL postgrad community but very few people attended considering the audience it should have reached.

I was considering re-organising another 'IASIL Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Information Day' – similar to the one that was organised in UCD's Humanities Institute in Feb. 2019. This time, however, the event would be organised in another Irish institution (i.e. outside Dublin), for fairness of access.

If needs be, a hybrid information day could be held (i.e. both online and *in situ*) so the non-Irish postgraduate and early career researchers could still benefit from it.

Representation/EDI

The ‘Are We Doing Diversity Justice?’ event that took place during the 2019 Conference in TCD was very appreciated by the postgraduates and early career researchers. However, it regularly comes in discussions that more could still be done regarding this aspect in order for the IASIL to be even more representative of the richness and diversity of Irish culture and of its contributors (be they artists or scholars...). The IASIL charter mentions that one of the organisation’s aims is to ‘facilitate international contact between scholars researching in the field of Irish literary studies’, but that can only be achieved if there is a clear desire for diversity and inclusion (i.e. an environment where people would feel represented).

It was mentioned that an EDI committee would be set up during the previous AGM/EGM and many postgraduates have asked questions regarding its progress.

Having a clear EDI statement would also concern the cultures that host the conferences in order to avoid repeating the last-minute changes that had to be brought to the programme of the last conference.

Other areas of concern

Many postgraduates and early career researchers are very concerned regarding the post-Ph.D. opportunities and the state of the academic job market. Due to the accumulation of tasks they have to undertake (academic and administrative, if they do not have a part-time or even full-time job on the side) as well as the rush of the end of the Ph.D. (finish the thesis + research of postdoc opportunities and/or academic positions...), it is difficult for precarious researchers to research opportunities and project themselves past the Ph.D. and postdoctoral phase. I was then wondering if it would not be possible to create a collaborative database of funding, awards, positions and other opportunities available across the countries and continents involved in the IASIL, and that would be regularly updated?

The ECRs and postgrads are however very grateful to the IASIL board and organising committee to have waived their conference fees for this year; though everybody was impacted by the COVID-19, it is a sign that their precarity (and particularly the financial difficulties they may be facing) is taken into consideration. It also demonstrates that IASIL has managed to establish a truly supportive community.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Laura Loftus and Ellen Howley for their help and advice since I took over the roles they had done so much for. Many thanks to Ondřej Pilný for his time and continued support; it was very much appreciated, particularly in those difficult circumstances. Finally, I would like to highlight that this work was a collaborative effort. It would not have been possible to maintain the activity of the organisation and its online presence without Cormac O’Brien and Sean

O'Rourke, who regularly posts and shares on the IASIL Postgraduate Facebook page.

Rosanne Gallenne

OP thanked RG for her extensive work with and for the IASIL postgraduate community. He informed the meeting that the Executive has endorsed his proposal that 1) IASIL support a future PG careers day outside Dublin and offered any assistance that may be needed; 2) a Jobs and Funding dedicated page be set up on the IASIL website, which the Secretary has offered to regularly update. CO'B proposed that a suitable postgraduate representative should become a member of the EDI sub-committee, and will be working with RG to this end. The delay concerning the EDI statement was explained in the Chair's and Secretary's reports, and apologies were proffered.

9. IASIL website and social media

OP gave a detailed update on website issues and the unexpected circumstances that have occurred. A fully functional website is expected to be delivered in the course of Autumn 2021.

10. Report from IUR representative

Golden Jubilee

In 2020, the *IUR* marked its Golden Jubilee with the publication of the Special Issue: 'Irish Studies Now'. The issue features reflections from all of the journals' editors: Maurice Harmon (founding editor), Christopher Murray, Anthony Roche, Anne Fogarty, and John Brannigan. Issue 50.1 also includes contributions from established and emerging critics on diverse areas of literary studies, including: gender representation, trans-literature, class, disability, #MeToo, whiteness, activism, children's literature, forms from poetry to memoir, the role of the archive, weak comparison, digital humanities, and languages; as well as perspectives from IASIL colleagues on teaching and researching Irish studies in Australia and New Zealand, Japan, Continental Europe and South America.

Issue 50.2 as usual was our 'General Issue', and featured an opening section, 'Amplifying Us', a collection of new Irish writing.

In Spring 2021, the *IUR* published a Special Issue on Elizabeth Bowen, brilliantly guest-edited by Tina O'Toole and Anna Teekell. This is a landmark issue and represents the journal's continuing commitment to critically examining the work of Irish women writers. 51.1 features articles on Bowen's work in relation to: themes of death, the politics of consent, intimacy, heroic technique, *The Bell*, the visual arts, 'excess', transatlantic crossings, and the relationship between Bowen

and Eudora Welty. The issue publishes for the first time a range of correspondence between Bowen and Welty, edited by Allan Hepburn.

Editorial Team

It has been my immense privilege to edit the *IUR* for the past five years. The scope of work that is submitted to us demonstrates Irish studies as an exciting and evolving field, and I have loved working within this space. The support of Lucy Collins as Associate Editor, Paul Delaney as Books Editor, and Katie Mishler and Laura Loftus as Editorial Assistants has been wonderful. The Board of the journal has been encouraging and constructive in equal measure. A huge thanks to everyone!

I am pleased to announce that the new editor of the *IUR* (from issue 51.2) is Lucy Collins. Lucy has been an extraordinary colleague and will be a fantastic general editor!

The role of Associate Editor is now taken on by Emma Radley, whose work on Irish screen culture will bring an exciting and important new perspective to the journal.

***IUR* and IASIL**

The relationship between the *IUR* and IASIL continues to be a vital and important connection for the journal – not only in terms of subscriptions and readership, but in terms of submissions to the journal for essays and special issue proposals. The editor wishes to say a particular word of thanks to the IASIL members on the Management, Editorial and Advisory Boards for the support – both figurative and literal in the form of peer review – that they provide to the journal. The IASIL bibliography continues to be published on the *IUR* website as a vital resource.

Emilie Pine

11. Bibliography subcommittee report

Representation

- All the existing posts are currently filled, with the exception of South Africa. According to the previous SA representative, there is very little activity in the field there at the moment, but suggestions for new SA representatives are welcome.
- I've had a query about Indian representation. According to my contact, there's a fair amount of Indian scholarship on Irish literature, and I'm considering to add an Indian representative to the Bibliography subcommittee. And how is India represented at the IASIL executive level?
- It is my intention to seek a representative to cover Irish-language scholarship, which is currently not included in the Bibliography, despite IASIL's broadened remit. Suggestions are welcome.

Users and uses

- The Bibliography now includes DOIs or URLs for most publications that are readily available online. However, in the current format (as an online – and paywalled – PDF supplement to *IUR*), these cannot be hyperlinked. As the Bibliography is online-only, though, it would make more sense to offer it in a format that supports this functionality and enhances digital accessibility.
- Many representatives report that there is usually very limited response from members to the annual call for entries. The call is shared via several IASIL channels, and individual representatives usually also share it within their own networks. Ideas for boosting member participation in compiling the Bibliography are welcome.
- More generally, I would like to send out a questionnaire to IASIL members to ascertain who uses the Bibliography and for what ends, and to invite suggestions as to how it might be improved for the end user. And if it appears the Bibliography is hardly used, we might want to reconsider its existence.
- I'd welcome the opportunity to brainstorm these issues with a few volunteers from the executive committee.

Chris Cusack

OP informed the meeting that Kate Costello-Sullivan, Tina Morin and Tom Walker have volunteered as brain storm committee to work on digital bibliography and questionnaire.

12. Reports from IASIL representatives

Tabled, to be collated by the Secretary and posted on the IASIL website after the conference.

13. Any other business

No other issues were raised.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Cormac O'Brien

Appendix 1: Present and Absent

Cormac O'Brien

Barry Houlihan

Ellen Howley

José Lanthers

Jun Du

Donald Morse

Moonyoung Hong
 Youngmin Kim
 Leszek Drong
 Tina Morin
 Sean O'Rourke
 Ondřej Pilný
 Aileen Ruane
 Melih Levi
 Alessandra Boller
 Beatriz Bastos
 Britta Olinder
 Wit Pietrzak
 Chiara Sciarrino
 Jooseong Kim
 Tom Walker
 Csilla Bertha
 Emilie Pine
 Ian Walsh
 Jennifer Slivka
 Katarzyna Ojrzyńska
 Katharina Rennhak
 Laura Izarra
 Lucy Collins
 Michał Lachman
 Phyllis Boumans
 Rui Carvalho Homem
 Rosanne Gallenne

Appendix 2: IASIL Membership by Country, 2021

Spring Autumn Students

Ireland	21	18	48	
Northern Ireland	2	5	10	104

UNITED KINGDOM

England, Scotland, Wales,	10	10	19	40
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UNITED STATES

U.S.A.	10	25	16	
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Mexico	1			
Canada	2	2	3	59

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil	1	1	3	
Argentina				5

EUROPE

Austria				
Belgium	1		1	
Croatia				
Czech Republic	3			
Denmark				
Finland	1			
France	3		4	
Germany	3	3	1	
Hungary	3		1	
Italy	1	2	1	
Netherlands	2	1	2	
Norway				
Poland	2	2	1	
Portugal	1	2		
Spain	5	3	2	
Sweden	2		1	
Switzerland			1	54

AFRICA

Egypt	2	
Israel	1	3

ASIA

China		
Japan	2	
Russia	1	
Singapore	1	
South Korea	1	
Taiwan	1	1
		7

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND

Australia	3	
New Zealand		1
		4

GRAND TOTAL :**276**