

ICUU Oberwesel 2007

Council session I – November 2

1. Agenda approved
2. JS presents rules of procedure. Moved by Brian Kiely, sec. by Will Saunders. Approved unanimously.
3. Global Indonesia to achieve full membership, moved it from chair. IK seconds and reports. Approved. unanimously.
4. Iva Fiserova reads the Nominating Committee report on behalf of David Usher, who is absent and will arrive later today. The report is received by the Council unanimously.

Bishop Szabo speaks against having one list of candidates: it seems like a practice from a communist regime. He rejects the procedure and expects for nominations from the floor

G. Oliver reminds that we are only receiving the slate and further nominations may be done today; elections will take place tomorrow. J. Slattery explains the role of the Nominating Committee. Will Saunders agrees with Bishop and reclaims when new nominations are done. J. Slattery answers that nominations are to be done today and election tomorrow
5. 2005 Minutes moved & approved
6. President's report read by Gordon Oliver
7. At the end of his report, Gordon Oliver explains that, according to Anastasia, she is the last member of the former Russian UU group. Since the group is non-existing, unanimous agreement to remove Russia from ICUU membership list
8. Will Saunders requires that there should be more openness on when ExCo meetings are held, particularly electronic meetings, so that others are informed and may join in
9. Treasurer's report, read by Barbara Beach
10. Due to lack of time, the nominations procedure is advanced to include it in today's session. Nominations for Executive Committee according to NC list. Barbara Beach is nominated as an at-large candidate (sec. A. Szabo) and is presented by Will Saunders. The result is that at-large members of ExCo are the only contested position and there will be elections. All candidates are allowed to speak on their talents to delegates and they do it briefly. Derek McCollough, as the ANZUUA delegate, speaks for Pauline Rooney who is not present.
11. Nominations for Nominating Committee according to NC list. No additional nominations.

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Council session 2 – November 3

Start time: 9:40 AM

1. Elections to Executive Committee: Uncontested candidates say a few words introducing themselves to the delegates

2. Call for votes on uncontested candidates: unanimously supported
3. At-large election: J. Slattery provides ballots to voting delegates and explains procedure. Votes are collected from delegates and given to ExCo. J. Slattery announces that the results will be counted today and shown at the entrance of the congress room tomorrow morning
4. Secretary's report, read by P.G. Marbaniang
5. J. Slattery reads the Executive Secretary's report on behalf of John Clifford, who is absent due to an accident
6. G. Oliver provides a report information on travels that were done during the past two years on behalf of ExCo: Cuba (Greta Browne and Jaume de Marcos) and several African countries (Gordon Oliver), to meet leaders and members of emerging groups in those countries and check their nature and development on the ground
7. A. Szabo (Transylvania) moves a motion on constitutional amendment for 3-year Council meetings. The reason is basically financial, this is a very small organization and needs to restrict expenses. Derek McCollough seconds.

Brian Kiely (Canada) has two concerns about it: IARF shows that it is hard to keep energy going with 3-year meetings; and the Executive must become more powerful in the organization. Will Saunders (USA) wonders if there is a cost analysis on impact on programs if we switch to 3-year meetings. Lene Shoemaker (Denmark) is concerned about 2-year mandates vs. a 3-year meetings. J. Slattery reminds that the motion includes a provision about that issue. B. Beach says to Will her concerns about planes tickets and the timing of meetings, she will do a more accurate analysis and distribute it. Jill McAllister makes a rough analysis of Council costs, what is saved may be expended in other impacts that we cannot evaluate (such as not seeing each other for longer time). Vicki Roberts—Gassler (EUU) says it will have a positive impact in raising funds for support money. David Usher reminds that Council meetings were initially for business meetings only, but now Council meetings are a program in itself. If Council meeting became the prime program, then it is a backward step. Business meetings need to meet every 2 years to enable programs, if we go to 3 years then the Council meeting becomes the program. Vote is called and motion is rejected.

8. Bylaw amendment on electronic meetings: JS makes presentation. Brian Kiely moves. Päivi Kesti (Finland) seconds. Vote is called, approved unanimously.
9. Mission statement: J. Slattery makes presentation of yesterday's workshop. Problem: if the statement is too short, it may miss some important areas. There were also concerns during the workshop about looking to the outer world as well and not just inwards. A small group gathered to make changes accordingly for consideration, but it's not quite ready to present results. Before the beginning of the last business session it is generally that it is necessary to write a final proposal for consideration and volunteers are called to participate in its rewriting. W. Saunders, A. Szabo, Jaroslava Dittrichova (Czech Rep.) and Matimoju (Nigerian delegate) will be in that task group.
10. Logo situation: B. Beach introduces the issue. Rather than having a lifetime purchase, the Council bought a 5-year usage of the logo. Designer presented a fee for final purchase to Iva = 2220 euros approx. Alternatives to buying the logo are to refer best decision to ExCo, or go for a new logo. Cost of logo for Women's Convocation was much lower.

Manfred wants to know what means "lifetime". Beach says it is "unending" (we own it). Iva explains we bought the right to use the logo for five years but not ownership. E. Cherry (USA) asks if it means that the cost is extremely high or not. GO reminds that having a new logo has other costs. Will Saunders says we may not be enthusiastic about the logo and would like to see an alternative. Richard Boeke reminds that this is not an excessive amount for commercial criteria. JdM reminds that we need the ownership and not just limitless use and this should be in purchase agreement. The UU-UNO representative at the meeting thinks that the price is reasonable for limitless use. Steve Dick (UK)

wants to refer it to ExCo because we may decide to change the logo somehow and we need full ownership to use it and modify it as we wish. Manfred Paul (Germany) asks about applicable laws and Slattery explains that the logo is subject to laws of Czech Republic. Philippine delegate says that for 400\$ you normally get ownership of a logo. Steve Dick moves to refer it to ExCo. Lene seconds. Brian agrees with Steve's motion and thinks that ExCo should provide a clear choice. Lorella Hess says that a large part of the intention of adopting the logo was to have a logo that was consistent and permanent. Will Saunders asks which motion is to be voted or amended. Brian says he did not intend to make an amendment. Steve's motion stands.

Will amends that all possibilities are explored, including a new logo. Brian wants an open straw poll. Mary Bennett summarizes that we only want this logo if we have full rights. She likes it and finds it expensive, but consistency is worth sth. And it would be good to pay just to keep consistency. Steve says we can refer to ExCo and still do the straw pull. Gevene Hertz says that this is difficult enough and a new logo would generate a lot more discussion. Istvan Kovacs urges to reflect whether we should change it for identity reasons, because it is not good to change the logo frequently. We already had a long discussion to approve this one. Vicky Roberts asks for clarification of amendment. J. Slattery reminds that we could be "logo-less" if not approved. Brian: we do have time. Jaume de Marcos (Spain) reminds that it is important to be sure about ownership and not just "limitless use" (which may mean no changes allowed without permission from author). Motion voted unanimously to refer issue back to Executive Committee to make the best decision about logo.

Session is adjourned.

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Council session 3 – November 4

Start time: 9:40 AM

1. Greeting from president of German Unitarians
2. G. Oliver: Formal announcement of result of elections for At-Large positions: Pearl-Green Marbaniang, Jill McAllister, Pauline Rooney have been elected.
3. "Straw poll" asked by Steve Dick on: "Participants prefer that the ICUU continue to use the current logo if full possession is possible"?; majority of Yes
4. J. Slattery: Recommendation from workshop for reform of election of members of ExCo and NC. Copies are distributed to delegates.
 - 4.1. Moved sections 1 and 2 of proposal by Brian Kiely, sec. Steve Dick. Carried unanimously.
 - 4.2. Moved sections 3 and 4, moved by Celia Midgley, sec. Derrick Parriat. One against, vote carried.

- 4.3. Moved sections 5 and 6, moved by Nigeria, sec. Brian Kiely. J. de Marcos moves amendment that the agreement of changes in slate are in written form. Derrek McCollough sec. Approved. Amended section voted and carried unanimously.
- 4.4. Moved sections 7 and 8, moved by Derrick Parriat (India), sec. Paivi. B. Beach suggests that short statements on qualifications is provided in writing for distribution at or before the council meeting. Amendment is moved by Steve Dick, sec. by Brian. Carried. Brian suggests that info on Nominating Committee duties and prerogatives are included in the info package. Amendment by Vicky Roberts-Gassler that "they must still be nominated and seconded according to the bylaws". Defeated. Mary Bennett amends that "they must still be nominated, all bylaws and policies apply". Sec. Paivi. Amended sections are carried.
- 4.5. Moved sections 9 and 10 by Steve Dick, sec. Paivi. Brian Kiely moves amendment that sections 9 and 10 are voted separately, sec. by Lene Shoemaker. Approved.
- 4.6. Moved section 9 by Brian, sec. by Derek. Celia suggests if a nominee could be nominated by more than one group. Slattery clarifies that it is so for seconders. Section 9 approved.
- 4.7. Moved section 10 by Mary, sec. S. Dick. Jill McAllister says that the largest groups favor the section at the workshop and this points at the issue of power in the organization. Small groups may prefer to nominate a person from another group that defends their interest. Derek McCollough does not see the purpose of this section. Vicky amends that "candidates should be either nominated or seconded by the member group". Defeated. Section voted, passed.
- 4.8. David Usher says that the current policy is now very restrictive. The previous NC did the best they could and having to "fudge" the guidelines. Trying to deal with member groups around the world is very difficult. What happens if the next NC cannot follow all these policies? Gevene says that as a past NC convenor, she agrees with David about concern on restrictions. Celia Midgley (UK) asks if this comes into force now. Group answer: yes. Richard Boeke, as a member of the next NC, asks that groups start thinking now about their nominees. Will Saunders encourages the next NC to present the best single slate but democracy requires that there should be the expectation that the slate can be contested. Richard says that the NC wants to keep open the prerogative to have more than one candidate for election.
5. Moved that Derek, sec. by Celia, that the revised bylaw is referred back to ExCo.
6. It is notified that Polly is quitting as webmaster.
7. It is not considered necessary by de Marcos to deal with legalization of Unitarian groups.
8. Richard Boeke announces meeting of Friends task force
9. Report on Theological Symposium 2006. Jill announces that books are

available from proceedings and some from the Servetus event are still left.

10. Group reports. ExCo feels that we need to establish criteria for admitting Associates. List of new emerging groups during the past two years (Burundi, 2 in Cuba, 2 in Mexico, Congo, Kenya, Italy, AFCU France) is announced and applauded.
11. Regional Groups: J. Slattery wonders if Regional Groups are still a valid way of organizing. No conclusion on this issue.
12. Developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the UUA. Gordon Oliver admits that we need to work on a specific procedure for this.

Meeting is adjourned.

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Council session 4 – November 5

Start time: 9:40 AM

12. Mission statement produced by Task Force. Moved by Matimoju (Nigeria), sec. A. Szabo (Transylvania).
13. Proposed text:

The mission of the ICUU is to:

build relationships, thru communication and collaboration develop spiritual community among member groups and their leaders identify and nurture emerging groups foster our U*U faith for mutual inspiration, development and growth"
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14. Discussion follows on the scope and how it applies to member groups and emerging groups and to the ICUU strategic priorities. Mary moves a change in section c: "identify and nurture prospective and emerging groups", sec. by Indonesia. Included automatically as friendly amendment and whole text voted. Passed unanimously.
15. Jill McAllister gives report on preparations for leadership development conference in Nairobi, Kenya, next February 2008 for 5 days and presents the faculty team. David Usher makes a broad reflection on changes in the ICUU from its beginnings in 1995 as new groups emerge around the world.
16. Jaume de Marcos reports on the Communications task force. Lorella Hess expands on the needs of Global Chalice lightings for brevity and usefulness. Pearl Green suggests that the ICUU brochure needs to be updated. Derek reminds that we should use months and not seasons for newsletter issues to deal with hemisphere differences. Mary Bennett moves a "motion of thanks" to Polly Guild for her service, warmly

applauded.

17. Richard Boeke reports on the Friends task force. There is already a USA sub-committee that will be present at the next UUA GA.
18. Derek McCollough reports on Australasia Regional Group. More groups (4) participated this time, which is a positive change after last meeting. Training ministers is an old target that is perhaps not realistic, so they are thinking of supporting candidates with scholarships funds. There is concern whether there is really a Sri Lankan group functioning or not.
19. Olga Flores reports on Latin American Group. They plan a continental meeting in Mexico and want to reactivate their mailing list.
20. John Slattery reports on organizational development. Among other things, increasing electronic meetings is a growing trend.
21. There is a task force on microcredit, it includes the UU-UNO office rep., Barbara Beach, and Patrice Curtis.
22. Mary Bennett will facilitate the session on priorities setting later today.
23. J. Slattery reminds that John Clifford is stepping down in 2 years' time and we need to start thinking about it, also that there is a new group of volunteers joining task forces and we need to keep track and communication with them. Barbara Beach mentions John Clifford's commitment and encourages Council to recognize it by using the entry on staff reserved in budget.

Meeting adjourned.

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Council session 5 – November 5

Start time: 5:00 PM

5. Mary Bennett leads several reports presented including communications and youth to establish priorities

Leadership development:

Priorities are 1- Pastoral skills, 2-Worship Leadership skills, 3-Congregational/institutional management, 4-Theological training, 5-UU Spiritual Practice, 6-Credentialing issues

Organizational development:

Priorities: 1-Better regional coordination, 2-ExCo accountability, 3-Review and development of funding, 4-Unitarians at large and Friends

Communications

Priorities: 1-Raise ICUU profile, 2-Website, 3-

Communications from members to ICUU, 4-More information
Youth

Priorities: 1-Communication among U*U youth, 2-Developing values and spirituality and face to face meetings, 3-Skill training

6. Budget discussion and approval:

Barbara Beach presents budget, Derek McCollough asks for clarification on currency. Beach answers it is US dollars. She points out that we have an African grant that needs to be resubmitted and is very likely to be obtained. Strategic planning has been left blank because it will not be necessary to spend extra money. Another source of income could be Friends of ICUU and interest income. Everything is subject to change due to economic developments and interest rates. Visits to Poland and Mexico may be implemented in the near future and they need funding. They will probably require extra money added to current budget money. Payment for John Clifford is budgeted half in General admin and half under Programs. Bank expenses covers normal movements. For electronic meetings we could not go on with Skype and had to find a fee-based provider. There is a provision for website maintenance but we need Brian's feedback on his Edmonton team. Regarding issue of CM costs in Kolozsvar: in September we can use the Kolozsvar dormitory or a hotel at low-season rates if in November. We need to know which current placeholders need to be expanded and it's up to Council to decide. Slattery suggests that up to 20,000\$ may be taken from reserve to start programs in expectation of getting grants for them later.

Discussion: G. Oliver asks on CM costs. Beach: We still don't know the specific data, current budget is worst-case scenario, travel costs are just getting higher. Vicky Roberts-Gassler asks if John Clifford's salary is for 1 year or 2 years, Beach explains it is for 2 years because this is a 2-year budget. Beach further explains that budget is a draft document and she understands that delegates may be concerned about so many pending items. Eric Cherry asks about the amount of cash reserves. Beach: a large amount of money has been taken to pay for this conference, we will need to get back to it. The reserve is in an investment account.

Budget is moved by Steve Dick, sec. Arpad Szabo. Passed unanimously.

7. E. Cherry presents 2009 Women's Convocation. ICUU may want to sponsor which not necessarily financially. Presents motion that ICUU sponsors the conference, sec. by A. Szabo. B. Beach presents Mary Overton as one of main organizers and commends her for her work; member groups may also want to be sponsors. Jill McAllister explains that they are using a similar acronym and ICUU seems therefore to be already involved, it will need to be clarified. The convocation is not directly attached to UUA. More clarification on kinds of sponsorship needs

to be done. Mary Overton explains that UUA and UU Partner Church Council among others are already sponsors; ICUU could add a link in its website. Sponsorship is about promoting information on this event happening. This is a first-time event and there is a big need for women to meet and share ideas. If ICUU wants to be a sponsor, member groups may also be involved as sponsors and establish the international presence of the convocation. Arpad Szabo reminds of ICUU financial possibilities but this sponsoring or supporting is not a big amount of money and it would be very important that ICUU supports the women's conference. GO clarifies that it is mainly about lending ICUU name not money. Mary Overton explains that it will be in february- march 2009 and there is time for sponsorships. Brian Kiely says that we expect to have a table at that conference promoting our own conference. Motion passed unanimously.

8. GO: Council is adjourned 5:45 PM. Induction of new ExCo will take place at 8 PM.