
Annual General Meeting 2020

Record of the Annual General Meeting of The Institute of Physics (IOP) held at 2.00 p.m. on 8 September 2020 as an on-line meeting.

In Conversation

Prior to the formal business of the meeting, two 2020 prize winners, immediate Past President Professor Dame Julia Higgins (winner of the Sam Edwards Medal and Prize) and Bethan Cornell, winner of the Jocelyn Bell Burnell Medal and Prize, held an open conversation where they discussed their work, why they chose physics, and the changes they've seen and would like to see.

Quorum and welcome

A quorum being present, the President, Jonathan Flint, took the chair and welcomed members present to the formal part of the Annual General Meeting. The Notice of the meeting was taken as read.

It was noted that the meeting was, of necessity, being held as an on-line meeting due to on-going COVID-19 restrictions but this had the benefit of enabling many more members to attend.

Record of previous meeting

The President advised the meeting that the record of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 July 2019 had been approved by Council. Actions and matters arising from the 2019 AGM were reported as follows.

The first action was, as part of delivering the new strategy, for the IOP to conduct more of its delivery through the lenses of AI, machine learning and nano-technology. It was reported that this had been included in the Programmes that will deliver the strategy. By way of example, the new campaign on bringing more people in to physics from under-represented groups post-16 would showcase different areas. A recent bid to BEIS on Physics for Africa had also focussed on AI and Machine Learning, along with climate, energy and health.

The second action was for details of those in the most senior staff positions to be put on the new website when launched. It was reported that biographies of the Executive Team and all Heads of Department had been included on the website launched in August when the IOP's legacy websites were closed.

Elections to Council

Following a members' ballot, the President reported that the following had been elected to serve on Council as trustees of the IOP:

Dr John Bagshaw as **Vice-President for Business** with effect from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2024.

Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright as **Vice-President for Education** with effect from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2024.

Professor Claudia Eberlein as **Ordinary Member of Council** with effect from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2024.

A record of votes cast in the election is attached.

Voting had been validated by the IOP trustee scrutineers, Dr June McCombie, Professor Martin Freer and Dr Mark Telling.

Resolutions

The meeting then moved to the consideration of the formal resolutions set out in the Notice of AGM.

Resolution 1 - Re-appointment of Auditor

On behalf of Council, the Honorary Treasurer, Professor David Delpy proposed the following resolution:

That PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP be re-appointed as the auditor of the Institute of Physics to hold office until the conclusion of the AGM in 2021 and that its remuneration be determined by Council.

Professor Brian Fulton seconded the motion.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that, when PricewaterhouseCoopers had first been appointed auditor, their fee had been, and remained, competitive and it was considered they had the required expertise to audit an increasingly complex group with significant overseas income and a group structure containing a number of overseas entities.

Resolution 2 – Membership Subscription Fees and Registration Fees For 2021

On behalf of Council, the Vice-President for Membership, Dr Mark Telling, proposed the following resolution:

That the membership subscription fees and registration fees from 1 January 2021 be as follows:

- Membership subscription fees in all categories are frozen for one year and shall be as set out in the table below.
- The undergraduate, apprentice and trainee subscription fee is extended for three years following graduation/end of training programme.
- The low earnings threshold is increased from £20,500 to £21,000 in line with the London Living Wage for 2019/20.
- The professional registration fee for Chartered Physicist (CPhys) is frozen whilst work is undertaken to commence the sampling of CPD returns.
- That IOP does not add any additional annual charges to the externally set professional registration fees from the Engineering Council and the Science Council to encourage uptake.

Membership Category	2020	2021	Change
Honorary Fellow	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fellow	£146.00	£146.00	No change
Fellow concession*	£44.00	£44.00	No change
Member	£117.00	£117.00	No change
Member concession*	£35.00	£35.00	No change
Associate Member	£105.00	£105.00	No change
Associate Member concession*	£31.00	£31.00	No change
Associate Member: Undergraduates, Apprentices and Trainees	£15.00	£15.00	No change

* To be eligible for the concessionary rate, a member must be earning less than £21,000 per annum (this amount being based on figures provided by the Living Wage Foundation).

Professor Brian Fulton seconded the motion.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that:

- whilst reducing fees was not considered appropriate given the same level of services and support were largely being provided to members as before, the IOP recognised the financial challenges some members were experiencing and so had set aside £100,000 to provide additional resources to complement the Benevolent Fund's work in supporting members in financial difficulty; and
- an undergraduate would still benefit from the discounted fee for the three year period even if they discontinued their studies.

Voting on both resolutions then opened.

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2019

The Honorary Secretary, Professor Brian Fulton, gave a presentation highlighting some of the IOP's activities in 2019 and presented to members the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2019.

The Honorary Treasurer, Professor David Delpy, gave a presentation on the IOP's financial position and presented to members the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019.

There were no questions.

Retiring members of Council

On behalf of Council and all members of the IOP, the President thanked the retiring members of Council:

Dr James McKenzie as Vice-President for Business (noting that Dr McKenzie would continue as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee);

Dr Carol Davenport as Vice-President for Education;

Professor Becky Parker MBE as Ordinary Member of Council; and

Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE as Co-opted Member of Council.

Results of Voting

The President announced the results of the advanced and in-meeting voting on the two resolutions, as follows:

Resolution 1 - Re-appointment of Auditor.

Votes cast were 907 (92.93%) in favour and 69 (7.07%) against.

Resolution 2 – Membership Subscription Fees and Registration Fees For 2021

Votes cast were 986 (98.01%) in favour and 20 (1.99%) against.

Dr June McCombie, on behalf of the scrutineers (Dr June McCombie, Professor Martin Freer and Dr Mark Telling), confirmed that the votes had been scrutinised and validated.

The President accordingly declared both motions carried with the necessary simple majorities.

Questions

The meeting was then opened to questions from members, details of which are as follows, together with the responses given:

- What can the IOP do to make physics more welcoming for women?
A key pillar of the IOP strategy is to open physics to more people and to make physics more diverse. This includes addressing barriers to entry, addressing ways of valuing contributions particularly for early career physicists which is wider than publications, eradicating gender specific language, helping with support at key stages in a person's career, and addressing other issues around appointments and promotions that include things like role descriptions that are gender neutral.
- What is being done to address gender balance in IOP Publishing, including on editorial boards?
The IOP has worked with the Royal Society of Chemistry to look at diversity and inclusion across publishing and, with the RSC, published a report and framework to which a number of STEM and other publishers have become signatories (<https://www.rsc.org/new-perspectives/talent/joint-commitment-for-action-inclusion-and-diversity-in-publishing/>). This framework addresses diversity of reviewers and editorial boards. IOPP is also trialling full blind peer review and wants to make this an option for all our journals.
- Can the IOP offer careers advice services to women and other underrepresented groups? What mentoring schemes are available?
The IOP Careers Hub in 'MyIOP' on the website has a number of services including training programmes and mentoring. If the mentoring information on the website was not sufficient, members were welcome to contact the Membership Team for direct advice.
- What can the IOP do to help black researchers in the physics community, especially early career physicists?
At the heart of the IOP's strategy is addressing all underrepresented groups in physics. Specifically, there are two programmes of work. The IOP's Influencing Campaign, which is due to launch shortly, is designed to encourage all people to study physics from the age of 16. The Ecosystem programme is there to ensure that physics is welcoming and inclusive. We will be publishing more information on both of these later in the year.
- Who is leading on the review of Awards and Honours and when will its findings be delivered?
This was being led by Dr June McCombie for Council. There was no specific date for reporting, but it was being addressed as a high priority and its findings would be communicated to the membership when completed.
- Should the IOP make greater use of virtual format meetings?
The benefits of virtual meetings were recognised, including enabling greater participation at meetings by a more diverse range of members, environmental benefits, and time savings for attendees. It was expected that there would be a greater use of hybrid or virtual meetings in future, even after COVID restrictions were lifted.
- What is the latest news on the IOP acquiring a building in Dublin?
The IOP has recently completed its purchase of a building in Dublin. The building was secured for a very competitive price and is ideally located, close to Trinity College and the Irish Parliament. It will enable the IOP to have a space for the Irish physics community (as Ireland's National Physical Society) and the general public where it will be able to run educational and public engagement events in a similar way to how we operate the building in London.
- Is there a plan to open a branch or Chapter in India?
There was historically a Chapter in India, but this closed because of lack of active members. There are no current plans to reintroduce a Chapter, but this could be revisited if there was sufficient demand from local members.

- Is the IOP's strategy published?

The strategy is published on the IOP website and over the next few months we will be able to publish more on the programmes through which we will deliver the strategy. The Campaign is due to launch in a few weeks' time and all information on it will be on-line. The Ecosystem Programme is due to launch a consultation in October/November which will be put on-line then. Other elements of the strategy will be put on-line as they are launched. The Challenge Fund will also launch shortly. This will be a £10 million fund into which bids will be invited for new ideas and initiatives to develop partnerships and accelerate the delivery of the strategy.

Close of Meeting

As there was no other business, the President thanked the panel and all attendees and closed the meeting at 3.50pm.

Council Elections Voting Records

Vice-President for Business

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage
Dr John Bagshaw	553	33.4%
Dr Graeme Malcolm OBE	432	26.1%
Michael Valente	374	22.6%
Dr Mark Scibor-Rylski	189	11.4%
EUR ING Bishnujee Singh	107	6.5%

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST: 1655

Vice-President for Education

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage
Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright	1388	80.7%
Professor Kenneth T.V. Grattan OBE	332	19.3%

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST: 1720

Ordinary Member of Council

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage
Professor Claudia Eberlein	370	21.4%
Angelina Anderson-Groves	262	15.1%
Dr Hugh Deighton	156	9.0%
Dr Cecilia Mattevi	142	8.2%
Dr Dominic Galliano	105	6.1%
Professor John Baruch	99	5.7%
Dr Peter J.M. van der Burgt	99	5.7%
Sachin Jogia	93	5.4%
Paul Cook	83	4.8%
Michael Valente	79	4.6%
Dr Neil Gaspar	78	4.5%
Professor Richard Boudreault	75	4.3%
Dr Edward Little	54	3.1%
Alexander Francis Baker	36	2.1%

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST: 1731