
Annual General Meeting 2021

Record of the Annual General Meeting of The Institute of Physics (IOP) held at 2.00 p.m. on 15 July 2021 as an on-line meeting.

In Conversation

Prior to the formal business of the meeting, Imogen Small, IOP Public Engagement Officer, co-ordinated a discussion between Professor Sheila Rowan CBE, IOP President-elect and Sophie Martin of Imperial College and Blackett Lab Family, where they discussed the issues which had arisen in the recent IOP podcast series 'Looking Glass'.

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 had been sent to all members and was taken as read.

It was noted that the meeting was being held as an on-line meeting due to on-going COVID-19 issues 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 8 September 2020 had been approved by Council. It had been published to all members and was duly noted.

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:

Professor Sir Keith Burnett CBE as President-elect;

Professor Alison McMillan as Honorary Secretary;

Dr Elizabeth Cunningham as Vice-President for Membership; and

Rosalie Benjamin, Professor Philip Burrows, Professor John Dainton and Jane Weir as Ordinary Members of Council.

All shall serve for four years from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2025, with the exception of Professor Sir Keith Burnett CBE who shall serve two years as President-elect from 1 October 2021, followed by two years as President.

A record of votes cast in the election is attached.

Voting had been validated by the IOP trustee scrutineers, Dr Mark Telling and Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright.

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 2022 and that its remuneration be determined by Council.'

Professor Brian Fulton seconded the motion.

In response to a question about price competitiveness, it was confirmed that, in 2017, PricewaterhouseCoopers was appointed through a competitive tender process. A competitive tender was not undertaken every year, but the price charged by PricewaterhouseCoopers was still believed to be competitive and a further tender would be considered in the next two years.

Resolution 2 – Membership Subscription and Professional Registration Fees for 2022

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

‘That the membership subscription and professional registration fees from 1 January 2022 be as follows:

- Membership subscriptions shall be as set out in the table below.
- The low earnings threshold shall remain at £21,000 pa in line with the London Living Wage.
- The professional registration fee for Chartered Physicist (CPhys) is frozen at £25.00.
- 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	2021	2022	Change
Honorary Fellow	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fellow	£146.00	£148.00	£2.00
Fellow concession*	£44.00	£44.00	No change
Member	£117.00	£118.00	£1.00
Member concession*	£35.00	£35.00	No change
Associate Member	£105.00	£106.00	£1.00
Associate Member concession*	£31.00	£32.00	£1.00
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.’

Professor Brian Fulton seconded the motion.

There were no questions on the resolution.

Voting on both resolutions then opened.

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2020

The Honorary Secretary, Professor Brian Fulton, gave a presentation highlighting some of the IOP's activities in 2020 and presented to members the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2020.

There were no questions on his report.

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 2020.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that:

- No awards had yet been made under the Challenge Fund. It was hoped that the first awards would be made shortly. When made, details of the awards would be published.
- The IOP did not have plans to establish permanent offices other than in London and Dublin. It did rent space in Belfast and in the University of Cardiff and occasionally used space in the Royal Society of Edinburgh. It will continue to monitor its presence in other regions but did not contemplate purchasing any other freehold properties.

Retiring members of Council

On behalf of Council and all members of the IOP, the President thanked the following trustees who were all retiring from Council and as trustees on 30 September 2021 (with the exception of Dr David Boyce who had retired on 1 June 2021):

Professor Brian Fulton as Honorary Secretary;

Dr Mark Telling as Vice-President for Membership;

Professor Wendy Flavell as Ordinary Member of Council;

Dr June McCombie MBE as Ordinary Member of Council;

Professor Anne Tropper as Ordinary Member of Council;

Dr David Boyce as Ordinary Member of Council; and

Dr Peter van der Burgt as Co-opted Member of Council.

Also retiring was Jonathan Flint CBE as President and Jonathan welcomed Professor Sheila Rowan CBE as incoming President.

Sheila Rowan then gave a vote of thanks on behalf of Council and members for Jonathan Flint's service as President, and before that President-elect, and for leading the IOP so successfully through a challenging period.

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 294 (93.04%) in favour and 22 (6.96%) against.

Resolution 2 – Membership Subscription and Professional Registration Fees for 2022

Votes cast were 296 (91.93%) in favour and 26 (8.07%) against.

Dr Mark Telling, on behalf of the scrutineers (Dr Mark Telling and Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright), 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:

- Does the IOP have plans to expand beyond the UK and Ireland, and what wider international and Commonwealth plans does it have?

The IOP has done much work recently in Canada and in India and, during the COVID period, has worked with societies in other countries, forming an international round table to explore mutual challenges and opportunities.

- How does the IOP operate in India and with which Indian academies does it collaborate?

The IOP has a long-standing co-operation with the India Physics Association. India is also a key market for authorships for IOP Publishing.

- Who are the largest communities that IOP Publishing receives papers from?

Most publishing content comes from China and USA.

- How does the income from members balance with expenditure on member services?

Including expenditure on Groups, Nations and Branches, the IOP spends around double the amount on member services that it receives in income from members.

- How is the effectiveness of the Limit Less Campaign being measured, and how frequently?

The goal of the Campaign is to increase the number of people studying physics at the age of 16. There is a particular focus on under-represented groups. The measures of success will be based on data released by Government departments in the UK and in Ireland. Other measures include how the IOP is influencing others. An independent monitoring, evaluation and learning assessor has been appointed and is reporting six monthly. These reports will be published for members and other partners.

- What is the IOP doing for children with a lack of opportunities in the Midlands and northern England?

Focussing on education and skills, the strategy falls into four areas – programmes, policy, influence, and evidence. The IOP partners with universities and educational teams to raise awareness and increase impact. The Limit Less Campaign is an influencing campaign addressing many areas. A main aim of the Ecosystem programme is to give all young people access to a physics teacher. Specific projects which operated in the Midlands and North include the Stimulating Physics Network, the Inclusion in Schools Programme and the Levelling-up Project (to support Year 12 and 13 students). The challenge remained to reach people not already engaged with relevant organisations and this was where members could play a key role in increasing awareness and engagement.

- Should IOP members / authors get preferential support and benefits with IOP Publishing?

There are benefits for IOP members, for example access to Physics World. Members are entitled to a 30% discount on IOP Publishing books and a 25% discount on the article publishing charge for open access articles in journals. IOP Publishing nominates a number of Fellows and Honorary Fellows from its network.

- How is the IOP monitoring the use of the High Value Course Premium so that physics A Level students can benefit from the new funding?

This funding is for Level 3 courses including A Levels and T Levels. T Levels is a policy consultation that the IOP is engaging with, and is instrumental in forming policy advice and tracking consultation responses.

- What is the IOP doing to help young scientists move from education to employment?

The IOP provides a lot of support to early career physicists, including careers advice and support, mentoring and other resources. A recent Challenge Fund call was on careers. This is also being addressed through the Influencing Campaign in broadening peoples' ideas of careers in physics. There is also a lot of work being undertaken in showing the technical role opportunities in physics and there are new awards in place for technicians and apprentices.

- What policy steps are being made by the IOP on climate change?

The IOP is running a number of events in support of COP26 and is due (subject to any COVID restrictions) to jointly host a COP conference on oceans with the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology. IOP Publishing is organising an Environmental Research Conference in November 2021 (<https://iopublishing.org/er-2021/>) and is launching new environmental journals (<https://iopublishing.org/news/three-new-academic-journals-for-environmental-research/>). IOP has also discussed at Council how it may set out a Group approach to net zero and is looking at what would be on a road map to achieve that.

Close of Meeting

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

Council Elections Voting Records

President-elect

Name	Votes
Professor Sir Keith Burnett CBE FRS FInstP FLSW	631
Professor Brian Foster OBE FRS Hon FInstP CPhys	513
Dr J. Rogel-Salazar MInstP FRSA FRSS FIMA	108
EUR ING Dr Bishnujee Singh MInstP FRAeS CPhys CEng CSci	107

Honorary Secretary

Name	Votes
Professor Alison Jane McMillan FInstP FIMechE FHEA CPhys CEng	839
Professor Brian Fulton FInstP CPhys	465

Vice-President for Membership

Name	Votes
Dr Elizabeth Cunningham MInstP FRAS	666
Dr Hugh Deighton FInstP CPhys CSci	241
Dr Vincent Smith MBE FInstP	176
Sachin Jogia MInstP	104
Dr James Kneller MInstP	83

Ordinary Member of Council

Name	Votes
Rosalie Benjamin MInstP	289
Jane Weir MInstP CSci CPhys	260
Professor Philip Burrows FInstP CPhys	260
Professor John Dainton FRS FInstP FRSA CPhys	248
Rebecca Holyhead MInstP	246
Rachel Harding MInstP	239
Professor Colin Whitehouse FEng FInstP FIMMM	226
Lauren Crawford MInstP	223
Dr Noelia E. D. Noël MInstP	193
Mrs. Rizwana Shelley MInstP CPhys JP	176
Dr Laura Bovo MInstP MRSC	174
Professor Robert G W Brown FInstP	155
Professor Yoshi Uchida MInstP	137
Dr Dominic Galliano MInstP FRAS	125
Professor Alexei A. Kornyshev FInstP FRSC FIUPAC FISE	124
Philip Cooper MInstP CPhys	122
Dr Dermot Green MInstP	115
Dr Ric Allott MInstP CPhys	99
Nick Mitchener MInstP RSciTech	97
Dr Oisin Creaner MInstP	92
Professor Jan Sykulski FInstP FIET FIEEE FBCS CEng	90
Dr John T Bruun MInstP CPhys	72
Robert J Hughes MInstP CPhys	66
Anthony John Owen MInstP	65
Dr Ejay Nsugbe MInstP SMIEEE FIMA FRSA CPhys CEng CSci CMath	58
Anthony Quinlan MInstP	54
Dr Kanad Mallik MInstP	48
Mike Prewett MInstP MIEE FIET IEng	43
Professor Waheeb Alnaser FInstP	42
Dr Latha Chappa MInstP	29