

SUMMARY OF THE IOP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2023

The meeting was preceded by training for all trustees from a specialist charities lawyer on a number of key areas. This included training on trustee duties and powers and recent and upcoming legal developments.

Following the formal business of apologies, declarations of interest and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, Council reviewed in depth the ongoing strategy review, noting that positive consultations with a number of members had been undertaken and that further consultations would be carried out, including a broader survey of all members which would be developed with the Council Members Reference Group. A further update on the development of the new strategy will be taken to the September Council meeting, with a view to it being approved in December and then implemented from January 2024.

Sukhraj Dhadwar, Group Chief Financial Officer, set out a plan for the IOP's financial strategy to 2030. It was noted that, in line with prior expectations, savings would need to be made in future years as a result of the anticipated drop in income from IOP Publishing which was caused by the broader industry move to open access publishing. Council approved the proposed level of overall expenditure for 2024 to enable more detailed budgets to be prepared.

Council also discussed proposals for the adoption of a new investment strategy taking into account ethical investment decisions. It also reviewed the current management accounts.

Each of the Executive Team then gave updates on key executive priorities, including membership and the wider physics community, the IOP's influencing work, and 'Shaping the Debate' projects. A detailed presentation was given on IOP Publishing and its future plans.

The summer meeting of Council is where the Annual Report and Accounts are reviewed. These were accordingly considered in detail and were approved. These will in due course be filed with the Charities Commission, published for members, and presented to members at the AGM.

The plans for the AGM were discussed and it was agreed that this should be a hybrid meeting in 2023 as this was now permitted under the Bylaws. Council agreed the draft resolutions to be tabled at the AGM and also agreed to hold a Special General Meeting to approve further minor changes to the current Bylaws.

Council then reviewed all the recommended winners of awards in 2023, noting that these had been reviewed and were recommended by the relevant award committees and panels and were also approved by the Nominations Committee. Council ratified all the award winners proposed. These will all be announced later in the year. It was also agreed to undertake a short focussed review of the awards process to ensure that the awards are being run in an open and meaningful way for the community.

A presentation was given by Professor Nicola Wilkin (Chair of Juno Steering Group) on the plans which were progressing well in collaboration with the physics community for the development of a new inclusion model to, in due course, replace the Project Juno award.

Professor Helen Gleeson (current Representative to Council for Inclusion and Diversity) then gave a presentation reviewing the two years of her term and making recommendations for the future. Professor Gleeson was thanked for her services during her term of appointment.

Council reviewed and discussed or approved a number of other matters, including a review of the IOP risk register, the approval of the appointment of a new non-executive director to the IOP Publishing Board, the approval of a member fundraising proposal, and noting a number of updates on matters including the Council elections, IOP's application for registration as a charity in Ireland, its gender and ethnicity pay reports and other business reporting.

Professor Sheila Rowan CBE, IOP President

July 2023