

SUMMARY OF THE IOP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

Following the formal business of apologies, declarations of interest and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, Council reviewed in depth an update on the ongoing strategy review, noting that good progress was being made in the development of the strategy and that there was excellent alignment with the member survey. It was felt that the strategy was on schedule to be approved in December as planned and then launched and implemented from January 2024.

Each of the Executive Team then gave updates on key executive priorities, including membership and the wider physics community, the IOP's influencing work, 'Shaping the Debate' and the IOP Publishing business, including updates on productive meetings with the new Government Chief Scientific Advisor, UK Science Minister and appearances in front of a number of select committees in the UK and Ireland.

Council received updates on the IOP's latest financial position including updates on its financial forecasts and on its pension plan. It was noted that the updated 2023 financial forecast was favourable to budget and good progress was being made on reducing the 2024 expenditure budget by the planned amount.

Following the appointment earlier in the year of Crowe LLP as the internal audit partner for the IOP Group, an update was provided on progress with the 2023 internal audit programme.

Words of thanks were given to those trustees, including Sheila Rowan as President, who were standing down from their roles at the end of the Council year on 30 September.

The meeting then adjourned to enable the AGM to be held.

Following the conclusion of the AGM, the meeting reconvened.

Following the agreement at the June Council Meeting to undertake a short, focussed, review of the IOP awards process to ensure that the awards are being run in an open and meaningful way for the community, a report on that review was presented to the meeting and its recommendations approved.

A presentation was given by Professor Nicola Wilkin (Chair of Juno Steering Group) and the meeting approved the recommended criteria for a new inclusion model for the physics community to, in due course, replace the Project Juno award. It was noted that this new model will first be tested through a pilot phase and will be further developed as a result of that pilot.

Council then approved a number of matters presented to it. These included the appointment of Dr Clara Barker as the new I&D Representative to Council to replace Professor Helen Gleeson who was coming to the end of her term.

Council also noted the appointment of the recently elected trustees who will join Council from 1 October and approved the extension to 30 September 2024 of Dr Yvonne Kavanagh's term as co-opted trustee.

Council noted / approved (as appropriate) the directors of IOP Publishing and other subsidiary companies and various Council committees. Council also approved relevant Committee terms of reference, an updated Scheme of Delegation for 2023-24, and the auditor's fees.

Council then noted a number of further matters including progress on IOP's application for registration as a charity in Ireland, its annual governance schedule for 2023-24, an overview of its key policies, an update on its core programme work, updates from Council committees which had met since the previous Council meeting, key policy developments and IOP policy activities, and a plan to hold the February 2024 Council meeting at IOP Publishing's office in Bristol.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett CBE, IOP President

October 2023