

Meeting of the General Council of the EMA e-Meeting on June 24th 2020 – Minutes

Participants

PARTICIPANTS WITH VOTING RIGHTS (MEMBERS OF THE GC AND OFFICERS)

Leon Abelmann (The Netherlands), Franca Albertini (Italy), Christian Back (Germany), Mike Coey (Ireland), Tomasz Dietl (Poland), Cathrine Frandsen (Denmark), Olivier Fruchart (Vice-President), Elinor Galanis (United Kingdom), Pietro Gambardella (Switzerland), Burkard Hillebrands (President), Ricardo Ibarra (Spain), Vladan Kusigerski (Serbia), Nicoleta Lupu (Romania), Dennis Meier (Norway), Ivan Nedkov (Bulgaria), Dimitri Niarchos (Greece), Per Norblad (Sweden), Damir Pajic (Croatia), Alex Tovstolytkin (Ukraine), Bartel Van Wayenberge (Belgium), Ratislav Varga (Slovakia).

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

Diana Leitao (JEMS IAC and JEMS2020), Miciej Sawicki, Andrzej Wisniewski (Poland, bid for JEMS2022), Dino Fiorani (past president).

EXCUSED PARTICIPANT

Tomas Jungwirth (Czech Republic).

Agenda

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST GC MEETING IN UPPSALA, AUGUST 29, 2019

Approved by all.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved by all.

3. REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF EMA (BURKARD HILLEBRANDS)

Last meeting in Uppsala on August 28, 2019

JEMS:

Has been moved to December 7-11, 2020 in Lisbon due to the Corona pandemic

Awards:

Dominique Givord Award 2020: Wolfgang Wernsdorfer

Young Scientist Award 2020: Claire Donnelly

Award Ceremony will be during JEMS 2020 December 7-11 in Lisbon

Elections:

Explain, that, contrary to the invitation for nominations, local bodies can nominate EMA GC representatives

As of today morning, we have 20 out of 30 votes

System of officers: (item #6)

Officers:

1. Treasurer (Elisabetta Agostinelli)
 2. Officer for Awards (Christian Back, he agreed in Uppsala)
 3. Officer for Industrial Relations (Paulo Freitas, he agreed on 29.10.2019)
 4. Officer for Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint (Bertrand Dupé, he agreed on 05.11.2019)
 5. Officer for Communication (newsletter, website, mailing lists) (provisional: Olivier Fruchart)
 6. Officer for Higher Education (ESM): Olivier Fruchart.
 7. Officer for Gender Issues (NN)
- Today, GC needs to approve #2, #3, #4, #5 plus discussion on candidate for #7

Web Seminars: (Details in item #7 by Bertrand Dupé)

Our response to

- Virtual Science Forum: https://virtualsecienceforum.oerg/#/long_range_colloquium (bi-weekly)
- Online Spintronics Seminar: *Online Spintronics Seminar Series (OSSS)*
- Online SPICE -Spin+X Seminars: <https://www.spice.uni-mainz.de/spice-spinx-online-seminars/>

We plan

- **Plenary Web Seminars:** They cover a field and provide an introduction into this field to the broad audience, analogous to a plenary talk
- **Expert Web Seminars:** these are in-depth expert talks
- **Young Scientist Web Seminars:** to provide young scientists a stage for a broad audience experience. We might set up a special series of PhD seminars (presentation shortly after PhD defense)

Statutes, Bylaws: (item #8, Olivier Fruchart)

Changes in statutes, new are bylaws

Internationalization: (item #9)

- What is an European Country? (North Africa, Israel etc.)
- GC voting: candidates for Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, UK
- plus (no elections) Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Moldova, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Ukraine
- EPS-CMD: Kees van der Beek, signature planned for JEMS2020 Lisbon
- Asian Union of Magnetic Societies (AUMS) – MoU signed Dec 5, 2019
- IEEE-Magnetics Society – MoU signed 2018 and start on Jan 1, 2019

Gender:

Discussion with several GC members. Potential candidates: Virginie Simonet, Elsa Hotel, or Silvia Tachi?

List of female scientists in magnetism in Europe? Laura Heyderman maintains such a list for IEEE-Magnetics Society.

Our choice:

- Our own list (with much faster updates)
- Joint list with MagSoc (filling our MoU with life?)

4. JEMS ISSUES

4.1 Report by the president of the JEMS International Advisory Committee (represented by Diana C Leitão)

The full report will be made at the next meeting of the general council in December.

4.2 Preparation of JEMS 2020

JEMS has been shifted to December 7-11. No choice beyond end of 2020 was made possible at the time by the convention center. Note that the rooms are rather large, which would allow to implement social distancing measures. Other COVID-specific measures can be implemented, including raising questions through chat (no microphones in the rooms), poster clip presentations at a distance for remote participation.

4.3 Bid for JEMS 2022 (Andrzej Wisniewski, Maciej Sawicki)

- Facts : hosting site Warsaw, convention at the University of Warsaw, conference fees 500-530 € regular, 250-270 € reduced, dates 25-29/07/2022.
- A question is raised, whether this is fixed, as this is not the traditional planning for JEMS. The dates indeed cannot be changed, based on the availability of the hosting site.
- A discussion is held on the organization and program committees (so far 100% and 50 % from Poland, respectively). It is suggested to enlarge both to more international members. Gender balance should also be kept in mind. The proposers ask for the exact role of the organizing committee. The answer is that it should be flexible, depending on the situation, from supporting the practical organization to gathering ideas.
- A discussion is held whether app and abstract management systems from previous JEMS can be re-used. It is argued that a choice has been made for a complete bundle, with a PCO experienced with EMRS. Still, not reusing a unique system may incur costs and loss of information. This possibility should be explored in the future (see previous discussions at JEMS IAC).
- A comment is made on the fees, especially as the hosting is provided by the university. Members of the community have been complaining about the continuous rise of fees, which are now well above the US ones. The proposers argue that lunches should be included. The council would like that the bid comes with a detailed budget of income and spending, motivating the choice of fees.
- Carbon footprint should also be considered: through the organizations (e.g. catering etc.) and possibilities for remote participation. Contact should be made with Bertrand Dupé, EMA's officer for carbon footprint and digital networking.
- A question is raised as regards additional rooms for symposia, besides the plenary. A satisfactory answer is provided, with 8 rooms to accommodate 100-160 persons. The attendance of symposia in the past JEMS should be checked to size these rooms.
- The question raised to the GC, whether the approval is provided today. It is decided through vote that it should be reviewed again in Lisbon with additional information, although it is positively perceived today.

5. COMMUNICATION (OLIVIER FRUCHART)

- Newsletter
 - We maintain the mailing list, with circa 14 000 valid and relevant recipients. This is a strength of our communication.
 - We are trying to include more often an editorial part, including involving the Officers
- Web
 - Now including remote events and online seminars

- Adds, donations for job or event announcements provide more than 5k€ of income per year. No question is raised.

6. APPROVAL OF NEW OFFICER POSITION AND CANDIDATES

- Officer for Awards (Christian Back). A word of introduction from Christian.
- Officer for Industrial Relations (Paulo Freitas)
- Officer for Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint (Bertrand Dupé). A word of introduction from Bertrand.
- Officer for Communication (newsletter, website, mailing lists) (Olivier Fruchart). A word of explanation, seeking a replacement on the mid-term.

The above nominated officers are confirmed through a vote (12 Yes, no other vote).

- Officer for Gender Issues (NN). We need to consider such issues at the EMA. A discussion is held, several names being mentioned. We agree to wait for the renewal of the GC (expected early July), other names may arise. It is also mentioned that, more generally, the scope of the mission include equity and family balance.

7. INSTALLATION OF WEB SEMINAR SERIES (BERTRAND DUPÉ)

Short presentation of the project by Bertrand Dupé, Officer for Digital Conferencing and Carbon Footprint. Two series are scheduled: a high-level seminar of general interest, and a seminar made by young scientists. We aim at starting in September.

8. REVISION ON THE EMA STATUTES, BY-LAWS (OLIVIER FRUCHART)

Presentation of the motivation and main proposal for changes to the statutes. The text has been disseminated to the GC before the meeting, it is reviewed today, and open to discussion and suggestion until the next meeting for a formal vote (end of 2020)/

- The early statutes contained many aspects related to the creation of the association, and the rise of the GC. These are deprecated and have been removed
- The process for renewal of the GC was not practical, relying only on propositions by the countries. This was not solvable if no body representative for Magnetism exists in a country.
- The fine structure was not defined, such as Officers to conduct specific tasks, and a flexible relationship with other organizations.

Question and comments are made

- “In Europe” was added to the mission of EMA. We aim at having a worldwide impact, however Europe is a suitable perimeter to organize actions, such as JEMS and ESM, while limiting carbon footprint. We could also mention a European association promoting Magnetism.
- ESM and JEMS are the most important core actions of the EMA so far; we could make an emphasis on these in the text. Do not use “associated bodies” for JEMS and ESM (indeed a mistake of the draft text), and put more emphasis in the core actions.
- Should we grant voting rights for the officers, as proposed? Comparison is made with the IEEE Mag Soc, no conclusion is drawn during the meeting.
- By-laws: there exists a position for higher-education, which was not mentioned. The answer is that it is related to ESM.

9. REGIONAL COVERAGE OF EMA AND LINK WITH OTHER SOCIETIES (BURKARD HILLEBRANDS)

- A memorandum of Understanding is in the process of being signed between the EMA and the EPS, to make formal that EMA is covering most of the duties of a magnetism section of the condensed matter division of the EPS.
- A statement defining what an European country is, has never been written in the statutes. This should be defined. Specific countries raising questions are Turkey, Israël and more generally Mediterranean countries. It would be desirable that the definition it is commensurate with other bodies, such as the EPS or the ERC. It is suggestion that there could be the European countries with voting rights, and associated members with participating rights.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion is held how our community could contribute to tackling the COVID pandemia.

Attachments:

- Minutes of the last General Council Meeting 2019 during JEMS Uppsala
- Draft: revised statutes (in two forms, *i.e.*, the version to be published and a version with changes marked), bylaws; for reference: original statutes from 2016
- Proposal for EMA Web Seminar Series on Magnetism