



**ASSOCIATION DES SECTIONS INTERNATIONALES
BRITANNIQUES ET ANGLOPHONES**

Association subject to the law of 1st July 1901 and the Decree of 16th August 1901
Association régie par la Loi du 1^{er} juillet 1901 et le Décret du 16 août 1901

Registration no. / No. d'enregistrement: **28028455**

Registered address / *Siège social*: 21 allée de Bourrienne, 92500 Rueil-Malmaison

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PROCÈS-VERBAL DE LA
RÉUNION DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION**

DATE: 26th September 2011

PLACE: Lycée de Sèvres, 21 rue du Docteur Ledermann, 92310 Sèvres (Salle de réunion, Bâtiment D).

PRESENT

1. Paddy Salmon (Sèvres), President
2. Ivan Karaïvanov (EAB Étoile) Treasurer
3. David Gage (St. Germain parents), General Secretary
4. James Cathcart (St. Germain-en-Laye)
5. Shaun Corrigan (Fontainebleau)
6. Derek Erb (Balzac parents)
7. Anna Parry (EAB Étoile, parents)
8. Peter Woodburn, (Ferney-Voltaire)

IN ATTENDANCE

Anne Potonnier (Chef de Section, Sèvres)

MEETING

The President opened the meeting at 10:00.

1. History-Geography

- 1.1 Peter Woodburn gave the meeting an up-date on developments related to the proposed reforms to the History-Geography programme within the OIB (which affect to all national versions of the OIB). He reminded the meeting that in around April M. Lecoq had taken over the role of *Inspecteur Général* responsible for the History/Geography programme of the OIB with a brief to introduce certain reforms in a short timeframe (before the 2012 elections).

- 1.2 In brief the reforms were changing both *Terminale* and *Iere* programmes in OIB History-Geography, in line with changes being made for this subject within the 'mainstream' *baccalauréat général*. The 2nde programme would also be changed. The Bac S with OIB is a particular concern because of the fact that History-Geography is no longer a compulsory subject for all students in S.
- 1.3 The underlying concern for the British OIB community is that any dilution of the H/G content could damage the OIB's standing as being equivalent to 3 high grade A Levels and hence the willingness of Cambridge Assessment to validate it. Some discussion took place on the bi-cultural nature of the British OIB, British pedagogical culture, the need for mother-tongue teachers or eventually non-mother tongue teachers who had substantial experience of teaching within the UK system.
- 1.4 A text has belatedly been published stating that OIB candidates in S will take a History-Geography course in parallel with students in ES and L series, and that all OIB candidates will be examined at the end of the 'terminale' year.
- 1.5 Peter Woodburn reported that a meeting had taken place recently with M Lecoq. The OIB community has been seeking to influence the reforms with a view to preserve the quality and specificities of the OIB. The applicable legislation (article 7 of the 2006 law) requires "*concertation*" with the educational partners and the OIB community is pressing for real consultation. It is anticipated that a meeting with M. Lecoq will be held sometime after 17th October.
- 1.6 Peter Woodburn suggested that a more united front could be presented by the many national OIB sections concerned by these reforms through the FDEI and he agreed to contact its President, F-X d'Aligny with a view to setting up a meeting.
- 1.7 It was noted that Mme. Kamoun, *Inspecteur Général* responsible for the Language/Literature programme had made school visits at the start of her mandate to understand the pedagogy being used in the classroom and it was suggested that ASIBA might seek to encourage M. Lecoq to do something similar and/or to visit Cambridge.
- 1.8 A discussion took place on the possibility of ASIBA acting as facilitators of a conference at some future date perhaps at the CIEP at which UK pedagogical methodology as used for the British OIB could be presented. James Cathcart suggested that the British Council could be a partner and a teacher trainer brought over from the UK.

2. Funding requirement

- 2.1 Peter Woodburn explained that a funding issue had arisen as the DRIC has unexpectedly revised and formalised their budgeting process and have implemented a cap on the amount available for the teacher-examiner training sessions i.e. it has limited the number of participants whose food and accommodation costs at the CIEP it will bear.
- 2.2 This has caused a shortfall which, if not covered, would mean that a number of teacher-examiners would not be able to attend the up-coming autumn H/G (6th-7th

October) and L/L meetings and obviously cause huge problems such as which attendee would now have to be excluded, cancellation of reserved travel and so on.

- 2.3 The shortfall is €900 for the H/G meeting and €500 for the L/L meeting i.e. a total of €1,400. These sums relate to food and accommodation costs at the CIEP covered by DRIC (the schools themselves pay the travel expenses). Peter informed the meeting that he would raise the issue with M. Jannot of the DRIC but requested that the meeting approves the use of ASIBA's funds to cover this sum.
- 2.4 The meeting reaffirmed the critical importance of these training sessions in maintaining the high standards of the OIB and accordingly to assure the continuing support and validation of Cambridge, without which its very existence would be in jeopardy. Therefore the Board resolved unanimously to finance this shortfall from its existing funds which are adequate to cover this expense without putting into question its ability to meet its on-going financial commitments.
- 2.5 This was on the clear understanding that it should be viewed as an exceptional one-time expense and that ASIBA could not accept an on-going commitment of this magnitude. The President would write to the CIEP making it clear that this would be an exceptional payment to solve the problem created by the unexpected change in practice by the DRIC.
- 2.6 As to the future James Cathcart expressed concern as to the number of schools / centres increasing if the budget is decreasing and it was acknowledged that ASIBA will need to use its efforts to find solutions, perhaps some streamlining would be needed. Shaun Corrigan and Derek Erb underlined how important these meetings are to teachers and the great value to them of meeting teachers from other schools and the inspectors.

3. Next Board Meetings

It was agreed that the next Board meetings would be held in Sèvres on Monday 5th November 2011, Monday 6th February 2012 and Monday 14th May 2012 (Board and AGM) all at 10 a.m.

4. New Director and Vice President

- 4.1 The Board noted the resignation of John Cadden as a Director and as the Vice President of the association with effect from this day and thanked him for his contribution to ASIBA over recent years.
- 4.2 On the proposition of the General Secretary, Robert (Rob) Miller (who has succeeded John Cadden as the Head of the Anglophone Section at the CSI Lyon) was unanimously elected as a Director of ASIBA with immediate effect, in accordance with the Board's powers under clause 11 of the Articles of Association.
- 4.3 Robert Miller was unanimously elected as Vice-President for a term of office expiring at the end of the next Annual General Meeting.

5. UCAS Qualifications Guide

- 5.1 Paddy Salmon had received a comment from a parent that Appendix D of the UCAS International Qualifications guide (last edition dated 2006) dealing with the British version of OIB was too vague as to the equivalence of the OIB to A Levels.
- 5.2 The meeting expressed the view that an exact equivalence is difficult to establish and there is a risk with any particular methodology, for example one principally based on relative percentages of the two systems, might lead to an unfair result. It was felt that the OIB Brochure (which includes gives an indicative comparison include the University of Bristol's evaluation) already gave a reasonable guide to those concerned and that students' UCAS applications should include a link to that document.
- 5.3 The meeting recognised that an official UCAS "tariff" might be needed one day and noted that communications were on-going in connection with a NARIC recognition.

6. Website

- 6.1 Derek Erb (webmaster) reported that he had made an innovative technical improvement to the site so that persons connecting via a French language browser were automatically directed to the French version and those using an English browser to the English version.
- 6.2 The Directors who had not yet done so were reminded to provide a recent photo and a few short paragraphs of biographical text.
- 6.3 Derek advised that he had started work on proposals for a new ASIBA logo and would revert as soon as possible but he welcomed any ideas from the Board.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 12:15

Signed

Paddy Salmon, President

Signed

David Gage, General Secretary