

**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

Reference no. / No. de référence: **W922003590**

Registered address / *Siège social*: **Section Britannique, Lycée International,
2bis rue du Fer à Cheval, 78101 St. Germain-en-Laye**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

DATE: **Friday 11th December 2020**

PLACE: **Remote meeting on Zoom platform**

PRESENT

1. James Cathcart (St. Germain), President
2. Rob Miller (Lyon), Vice President, Strategic Liaison Leader History-Geography
3. Shaun Corrigan (Fontainebleau), Treasurer
4. David Gage (St. Germain parents), General Secretary
5. Katharine Axten (Balzac parents)
6. Betty Lau-Vanchet (Sèvres)
7. Laura Martin-Clark (Ferney-Voltaire)
8. Xavier Vuiller (Colomiers)

ABSENT EXCUSED

9. Alan Geary (Lyon), Subject Leader History-Geography
10. Nick Baker (St. Germain), Strategic Liaison Leader English

MEETING

The meeting started at 08:10.

1. Agenda

The Vice-President had circulated an agenda for the meeting by email.

2. Directors

- 2.1 The Board unanimously elected Xavier Vuiller, Head of Section at Lycée Victor Hugo, Colomiers (Toulouse), in accordance with its powers under its Articles of Association.
- 2.2 DG raised the question of other persons potentially interested in joining the Board: LMC will follow up as regards someone from her section's APE who had shown interest in joining; JC did not presently have a St. Germain parent to replace DG; BLV

confirmed that the new Directeur at Sèvres is interested in getting more involved with ASIBA but has other priorities this year; BLV is also in contact with a parent who is willing to help ASIBA with translation work and who could conceivably be a candidate at a future date; Katharine may have a parent at Camille Sée who is interested.

3. Feedback from University Survey

- 3.1 ASIBA had sent letter co-signed by the Director of the British Council France to a number of UK universities via the British Council providing information about the Bac reforms and the resulting changes to the OIB. The letter also requested universities differentiate OIB offers from those of the French Bac Général (see https://www.asiba.fr/university-admissions_-2/). JC suggested monitoring this and contacting universities as appropriate.
- 3.2 JC advised that some universities have already adjusted their websites such as Loughborough whose site states that OIB students will receive a lower offer than general Bac students. BLV said that some admissions departments still do not seem to be aware of the difference.
- 3.3 A discussion took place on the present uncertainties surrounding “overseas” / European students notably as regards the level of fees and the eventual need for a student visa. It was noted that St. Andrews and Edinburgh now consider EU students to be international students, rather than treating them the same as non-Scottish British / European students. It was mentioned that some universities, such as Sheffield, Royal Holloway and Kent, may be offering reduced fees for EU students as compared to other international students.
- 3.4 JC suggested the university entrance group researches which universities apply any reduction for EU students..
- 3.5 LMC raised the issue of certain universities such as HEC Lausanne requiring candidates to have taken a Spécialité in maths to be able to apply for degree courses in subjects such as management, which had not been known in advance. RM added that McGill also requires the maths specialisation option to have been taken.
- 3.6 RM observed that there was a clear move away from UK universities towards European universities offering English language courses. JC suggested organising a webinar for those universities to present the OIB, if possible with the participation of Cambridge.
- 3.7 BLV proposed that the Board puts together a mailing list of university contacts. It was agreed that a column should be added to the survey questions regarding special fee rates for EU students and another requesting contact details of the relevant person in the admissions department. JC suggested adding a column for any specific maths specialisation requirements.
- 3.8 It was noted that where there was formerly an iGCSE requirement, for example in maths this is now being converted to Spécialité maths or the complementary maths option in Terminale. JC noted that in some schools students would need to do both because they cannot take the complementary maths option unless they have taken Spécialité maths in Première.
- 3.9 JC reminded the meeting of the online maths iGCSE course provided by Greene’s to ASIBA school students pursuant its agreement with ASIBA that has been piloted in St. Germain since September, where it is being taught remotely on Thursday evenings by a maths teacher, who is a French national, based in the UK.

3.10 JC referred to the service proposed by MyCareerChoices that, in particular, can help pupils in Seconde to choose their speciality option in Première. It costs around £30 and can be paid by a system of credits acquired by the school; it is all done online. The related MyUniChoices is useful to students in Première. At Ferney-Voltaire LMC recommends students to use this service independently; JC said that doing this through the school has the potential advantage of the school seeing the results.

4. University Services

4.1 SC referred to DG's summary feedback that had been circulated after the UniFrog and SPW Careers presentations of 4th December. He confirmed that UniFrog had given a good presentation and that the platform has a plethora of tools and a very impressive database that seems to have information on all English language courses worldwide. SC thought that there would be little need for training to use the platform as it seems very intuitive. DG confirmed that the SPW Careers offer a more personalised service and that its service offering is the successor to FutureWise.

4.2 RM confirmed that users of UniFrog can research careers as well universities, for example students can understand what subjects are relevant or required for any particular career. He also mentioned the many helpful videos, for example on how to draft a personal statement, and the platform's functions as a management information system. SC pointed out that ASIBA knows higher education in the UK best but that post-Brexit ASIBA schools will need this sort of support and knowledge base more and more. XV said that he had explored the platform and found it very user friendly and that he had been impressed.

4.3 JC mentioned another product called BridgeU, SC said that he had tried it but was not convinced it met his needs. RM confirmed that he had done significant research and had found UniFrog to be the best for the requirements of our students and schools. JC commented that it would be sensible to have a suite of tools available so that the OIB community can have a range of choices and use those that meet their needs and are within their financial means.

5. UniFrog

5.1 Rob Canning of UniFrog joined the meeting to follow-up on his presentation of 4th December. He stressed that the pricing model he would present was based on all ASIBA affiliated schools participating. If the UniFrog platform is merely a recommended tool that only some ASIBA schools / students would use then it would be economically less interesting for UniFrog.

5.2 RC explained what is included such as sustained support; he is the area manager for Europe and normally travels to meet users and make presentations to students if so requested. In the absence of travel they have created a number of helpful video presentations.

5.3 RC presented the proposed pricing model for ASIBA schools. JC explained the composition of ASIBA with state schools, fee paying sections within state schools, French schools abroad and private schools. A discussion took place on various details such as likely numbers of schools participating, the possibility of an ASIBA platform, GDPR issues and the possibility of ASIBA affiliated (but non-members) entities joining. DG agreed to up-date the list of ASIBA members separated into state schools, private schools, fee paying sections and schools abroad.

5.4 The meeting thanked Rob Canning for a clear presentation and it was agreed to follow-up in the new year. RM and BLV suggested including this topic at the Schools' Forum in January.

6. ASIBA Budget and Fees

- 6.1 JC shared a document showing a calculation of the cost of a part-time OIB Administrative Coordinator, a cost that ASIBA would need to bear at a not-too-distant date on the incumbent's retirement. It remains uncertain whether a new coordinator could be engaged by ASIBA as a self-employed person or whether St. Germain might take on a part-time employee against a guaranteed reimbursement from ASIBA.
- 6.2 Based on ASIBA's current budget it would be necessary to increase the fee calculation from €10 per Terminale student to €20 or alternatively to extend the €10 fee to Première students as well.
- 6.3 XV raised the possibility of Colomier being able to provide some of the services of the OIB Administrative Coordinator role and a discussion took place on the possibility of the functions being shared around the sections with some administrative flexibility.
- 6.4 JC agreed to produce a breakdown of the OIB Administrative Coordinator's functions and how these are distributed throughout the academic year, eventually with a proposal as to how the job could be split between several sections.

7. Future Meetings

The next Board meetings are scheduled for:

- 21st January 2021 immediately after the AGM, being a short formal meeting to appoint the Officers for the year
- 26th March 2021
- May 2021 – date to be confirmed

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9:40.

James Cathcart, President

David Gage, General Secretary