

Newsletter No. 6 of December 2016

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1. Outcome of the election to president of ISIMM for the period 2017-2020.

The two candidates received the following votes

Klaus Hackl 33

Giuseppe Saccomandi 48.

On this basis Giuseppe Saccomandi is proclaimed president of ISIMM for the period 2017-2020, starting with January 1, 2017.

Giuseppe Tomassetti will be the new secretary-treasurer.

2. Outcome of the election of 5 members of the Executive Committee.

The 11 candidates received the following votes:

Bettina Detmann (Albers) 14

Michela Eleuteri 7

Martin Kružík 21

Alexander Movchan 30

Giuseppe Mulone 31

Andrea Piccolroaz 17

Elisabetta Rocca 33

Riccarda Rossi 20

Anja Schlömerkemper 22

Antonio Segatti 9

Philip Stelzig 8

On this basis, the new 5 members of the EC are

Martin Kružík, Alexander Movchan, Giuseppe Mulone, Elisabetta Rocca, Anja Schlömerkemper.

3. Composition of the new Executive Committee.

By the end of this month,

L. Truskinovsky and U. Stefanelli

and seven ordinary members will leave the EC, after 4 years of service:

D. Bigoni, M. Brokate, W. Dreyer, M. Ostoj-Starzewski, T. Roubicek, G. Saccomandi, M. Sugiyama.

(The constitution prescribes that the former president remains as vice-president.)

Since January 1, 2017 the Executive Committee will be composed as follows:

Officers:

G. Saccomandi (president), A. Visintin (vice-president), G. Tomasetti (secretary-treasurer).

Ordinary members:

H-D. Alber, P. Colli, M. Kružík, A. Miranville, A. Movchan, G. Mulone, E. Rocca, A. Schlömerkemper.

With our best wishes,

Augusto Visintin and Ulisse Stefanelli

(president and secretary-treasurer for the period 2013-2016)

A letter of the outgoing ISIMM president

Few days before completing my period of service as president of ISIMM, I would like to revisit these four years briefly.

Wolfgang Müller and I were elected respectively as secretary-treasurer and president, and started our service at the beginning of 2013.

The elections for the renewal of the Executive Committee (EC) had been delayed: for reasons that are not known to me, the period of service of most of the members of the EC had been tacitly extended of several years, even doubled in some cases. I then decided to renew a large part of the EC; the elections took place in the first months of 2013. (Details may be found in the Newsletters, that are still available on the ISIMM website.)

I also invited Hans-Dieter Alber to organize the ISIMM-forum, in order to allow all members of this society to communicate scientific achievements and opinions, essentially with no filter. Several contributions were published (in particular an informal history of ISIMM due to Ingo Müller). But I have the impression that the opportunities offered by this forum are still to be fully exploited. The book series coordinated by Lev Truskinovsky is also an initiative worth of more consideration.

Activity was concentrated in a short period. Somehow this was too much for Wolfgang, who dismissed from his office of secretary-treasurer after few weeks. I then asked Ulisse Stefanelli to replace him in that office.

We then started to organize the Symposium on Trends on Applications of Mathematics to Mechanics (STAMM) of 2014. We made a call for an organizer: Alain Miranville proposed us to have it in Poitiers, and was also able to collect the necessary budget. This allowed us to support the speakers, to fund not only the (senior) ISIMM prize, but also to launch a junior ISIMM prize. (By the way, after some delay the proceedings of the Poitiers STAMM are now in press.)

In 2014 I also rewrote the constitution, in order to improve some procedures, keeping also account of new technologies (e.g., use of email for voting and exchanging information). I brought the new redaction to the attention of the ISIMM fellows, we discussed it in the EC and then at the STAMM in Poitiers, and finally submitted it to the agreement of all ISIMM fellows at the end of 2014. This new constitution was approved at each of these stages; of course it is available at the ISIMM website.

Not to abuse of the patience of readers, and I shall go directly to the second mayor engagement of these four years: the STAMM of 2016. Also in this case we made a call, but nobody was able to make a proposal and to provide the necessary budget. The finances of the society have always been rather meager, and could not allow us to cover the expenses of invited speakers. Eventually, Ulisse and I applied to INdAM (the Italian national institute of mathematics): our proposal was accepted, and this granted us the necessary budget (about 15.000 E).

Unfortunately this came with the constraint of having the conference at the INdAM headquarters in Rome, in a room which could accommodate no more than about 60 persons. In our invitation, we then had to anticipate the risk of having to select the participants. As it easy to understand, this induced a number of colleagues not to apply. We then had less participants than in Poitiers, although the venue of Rome was regarded as attractive and well connected to the rest of Europe. Anyway everything went smoothly, thank also to the collaboration of Elisabetta Rocca, who joined us for the organization of this conference. (Presently we are producing the proceedings.)

The final main events of these four years were the elections that are reported above.

Before wishing good luck to the new presidential team and EC, I would like to express my gratitude to the already mentioned colleagues, and to the members of the EC who collaborated in these years.

Most of the decisions were taken jointly by me and Ulisse. I am indebted to him for all the assistance, and for all the work he made as secretary and treasurer. Anyway I take full responsibility for the faults of the presidential team.

I would also like to express a final consideration, concerning the financial problem. So far contributing an yearly fee has not been mandatory, and only few fellows paid it.

The new president might consider the possibility of requiring an obligatory yearly fee from all members (maybe distinguishing a senior and a junior fee). But then one should make an estimate of the expected income.

Nowadays less than 100 fellows answer the email for a ballot. Would 50 of them be ready to contribute an average fee of 50 E/year? I am not sure... This means about 7 times the number of fellows who are used to contribute the present voluntary fee of 30 E/year.

Anyway, all in all this optimistic hypothesis would yield less than 2500 E/year. Minus the 10 percent which is subtracted by the CISM administration (we are cannot make it by ourselves) — not to mention all the

administrative constraints that are raised by that administration. This would still be far from allowing us to fund the STAMMs (at least 10.000 E each) and the prizes (about 2.000 E) every second year. Not to mention that by doing so the 100 fellows would be reduced to the optimistic figure of about 50.

This is just a simulation exercise, everyone is free to provide different figures. Would that yield a different conclusion, too?

With my best wishes to all ISIMM fellows,
Augusto Visintin