

INTERNATIONAL ERGONOMICS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the fifth General Assembly, held at Amsterdam on the 7th of June 1973

President: Prof. B. Metz

Agenda

1. Minutes of the fourth General Assembly, 9 July 1970.
2. President's report
3. Treasurer's report and Auditor's reports
4. Election of the President, of the Secretary General, of the Treasurer and of seven Council Members
5. Election of federated societies and corresponding members
6. Election of auditors
7. Subscription fees for the period 197⁴~~5~~-1976
8. Date and location of the 6th International Congress
9. Other IEA activities
10. Other business

The president, Prof. B. Metz, opens the General Assembly at 16.50 hours and invites the secretary general to read the number of delegates appointed by each of the societies.

1)	Australia and New Zealand	none
2)	Germany (Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft)	8
3)	United Kingdom (Ergonomics Research Society)	10
4)	Soc. Ergonomique de la Langue Française	8
5)	Nordic Ergonomics Society	8
6)	Human Factors Society of America	11
7)	Polish Ergonomics Committee	4
8)	Netherlands Ergonomics Society	8
9)	Czechoslovakia	no representative available
10)	Japan	3
11)	H.F.S. of Canada	2
12)	Italian Society for Ergonomics	2
13)	Corresponding members (Mallart - Madrid, Bulat - Belgrade)	2
	Total	<hr/> 66

The delegates are invited to take seats in the central part of the hall to facilitate the voting procedure.

1. Minutes of the fourth General Assembly, 9 July 1970

The minutes of the fourth General Assembly, held at Strasbourg, 9 July 1970, are accepted.

2. President's report

3. Treasurer's and Auditor's reports

4. Election of the President, of the Secretary General, of the Treasurer and of seven Council Members.

The president reads a part of the IEA Newsletter nr. 5, dated May 1973. "For this election, the present Council of the IEA will present nominations taking into account the need for the Executive Council to be able to meet at shorter intervals, and for the other Council members to represent altogether the various disciplines involved in Ergonomics and the different parts of the world.

Other nominations will be accepted before or during the General Assembly either from delegates of Federated Societies or from delegates of corresponding members.

Following nominations are presently considered by the Council:

as President:

dr. F.H. BONJER

Organization for Health Research TNO
The Netherlands

as Secretary General:

Mr. R.G. SELL

Personnel Manager, Mullard Ltd.,
United Kingdom

as Treasurer:

Dr. J.R. DE JONG

Human Factors Consultant
The Netherlands

as Council Members

Mr. H.L. DAVIS

Supervisor, Human Factors Group
Eastman Kodak Company
U.S.A.

Prof. T.M. FRASER
Department of Systems Design
Canada

Prof. H. MONOD
Laboratory of Work Physiology
France

Prof. J. ROSNER
Polish Committee for Ergonomics and Labour
Protection

Prof. Dr. J. RUTENFRANZ
Institute for Work Physiology
Germany

Prof. B. SHACKEL
Department of Ergonomics and Cybernetics
United Kingdom

Prof. S. SUGIYAMA
Department of Psychology
Japan

Two of the seven nominees (B. SHACKEL and J. RUTENFRANZ) considered for election as Council members have served for three years in the present Council and are re-eligible by the General Assembly. According to the rules, four members of the present Council (A. CHAPANIS, B. METZ, W. ROHMERT and A. WISNER) are no more eligible as Council members, since they served already for two 3-years terms."

The secretary of the Nordic Ergonomics Society, Mr. Sjöflot, enquires about the nomination of Prof. Asmussen. This nomination is proposed in Newsletter nr. 5, but ^{not} mentioned by the president. The president replies that according to the articles one of the nominees should ^{not} be presented for election by the General Assembly. This is the nominee for the office of vice-president, who should be elected by the Council. The present Council has proposed the election of Prof. Asmussen as vice-president, but this election belongs to the policy of the new Council as he should have made clear before. After this explanation the president starts the election procedure.

The president asks for other nominations for the office of president. As there are no other nominations, he asks for the desire to vote. As there is no desire to vote the General Assembly agrees with the election of Dr. Bonjer as president. Following the same procedure Mr. Sell and dr. de Jong are elected as secretary-general and treasurer.

As there is no other nomination and no wish to vote H.L. Davis, F.M. Fraser, H. Monod, J. Rosner, B. Shackel and S. Sugiyama are elected or re-elected as Council members. → J. Rutenfranz

5. Election of federated societies and corresponding members

At present there are no applications for new federated societies or corresponding members. However, negotiations are in progress with societies in several countries.

6. Election of auditors

The newly elected treasurer suggests the election of an auditor in the Netherlands. He quotes the name of Klijneveld, Kraayenhof and Cy., auditors at Amsterdam.

7. Subscription fees for the period 1973-1976

The treasurer informs the General Assembly that it has been the intention of Council to raise the per capita fee from 2 to 3 Sw.fr. per three years, but that in view of the disturbed and uncertain state of the international monetary situation Council decided to propose an increase limited to 2,5 Sw.fr. per member and per three years period.

The fee of corresponding members has to increase proportionnaly to 25 Sw.fr.

The final proposal to the General Assembly reads as follows:

2,5 Sw.fr. per member of federated societies	} per three years
25 Sw.fr. for corresponding members	
100 Sw.fr. for affiliated members	
250 Sw.fr. for subscribing members	

Answering a question of Prof. Rosner of Poland, the president indicates that the three years mentioned here are 1974, 1975 and 1976.

E.N. Corlett of the ERS suggests an increase of the membership fee to 3 Sw.fr. per 3 years. H.M. Parsons of the HFS asks for an argumentation for ^{an} increase of the per capita fee. The treasurer indicates two reasons:

- 1) devaluation of the money
- 2) extention of the IEA activities outside Europe.

Parsons agrees with the general reasoning of the treasurer, but has not found any indication ^{or need} for an increase of the membership fees from the treasurer's report.

E. Grandjean points out that an increase of 1/2 Sw.fr. does not make up for the devaluation of the money and proposes for this reason an increase

of 1 Sw.fr.. H.L. Davis seconds this proposal. A. Chapanis points out that the HFS is providing almost half of the total income of the IEA. Because of the change in exchange rate between the American dollar and the Sw.fr. the proposal to increase the membership fee to 3 Sw.fr. would result in an almost double contribution of the HFS to the IEA. To his opinion the consequence should have been considered by the HFS Council before this meeting. The treasurer acknowledges this problem. This has led to the reduction of the proposed increase of the membership fee.

B. Shackel reminds that the English pound became weaker before the American dollar and that the ERS had to increase its contribution by 10% for this reason. 3 Sw.fr. would, to his opinion, make up for a part of the devaluation. If the General Assembly would decide to an increase of 1 Sw.fr. this would be very welcome but Council does not want to make such a proposal..

The president summarizes the discussion by the statement that we have now two proposals:-the original proposal of Council of 2,5 Sw.fr.

-the proposal made by Corlett and seconded by Davis for 3 Sw.fr.

Corlett points out, that the 2,5 Sw.fr. membership fee would reduce the IEA activities to the very minimum, but we have to push the affair of the IEA.

The treasurer explains that the decision to be taken covers the full 3 years period to come. During this period no changes can be made. There is however also a possibility of subscribing members: firms or organizations with an interest in ergonomics who pay an yearly contribution of 250 Sw.fr.

Shackel is not so optimistic as the treasurer about the possibility to find suitable subscribing members. He explains the difficulty of the General Assembly to make a decision as a consequence of the fact that delegates could not be briefed about this proposal prior to the meeting. The president proposes to vote about the proposal to increase the membership fee to 3 Sw.fr. In favour are 25 delegates, 24 against and there are 9 abstinent. So the motion is not accepted.

Voting about the original proposal of Council to increase the fee to 2,5 Sw.fr. results in 38 delegates in favour, 13 against and 7 abstinent. The acceptance of the proposal of Council includes membership fees for federated societies and fees for corresponding members, affiliated members and subscribing members.

8. Date and location of the 6th International Congress

Council has received and accepted an invitation of the Human Factors Society to organize the 6th international congress of the IEA in the U.S. in 1976. A. Chapanis and S. Lippert have made proposals to the Council in June 1972 about possibilities Council discussed facilities at the university of Maryland and at the university of Massachusetts. The newly appointed Council will have to indicate ^{its} preference for location and date to the HFS Council. H.L. Davis has been appointed by the HFS as its official delegate for this matter and will take part at the discussions as a Council member.

At the request of the president Davis points out that facilities at both universities are comparable. There is however the choice of dates. With the permission of the president he asks for votes for the last week of May and for the second week of July. All present - not only the delegates - are invited to express their views. The majority is in favour of July. The president announces a formal invitation for the 7th international congress to be held in 1979 has been extended to the IEA by the Polish Committee for Ergonomics and Labour Protection.

9. Other IEA-activities

Shackel proposes the following resolution: the General Assembly welcomes the recommendations from the IEA Symposium on Ergonomics and Standardization and instructs and authorizes the IEA Council to take whatever action ^{this} decides is appropriate, in order to implement the recommendation with all reasonable speed. This proposal is seconded by J.R. de Jong and accepted by the General Assembly.

The new Council should consider it as the wish from the General Assembly to promote international co-operation regarding ergonomics and standards with international bodies as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC). Lippert enquires about the regular communication between the IEA and the federated societies. The president would be in favour of a newsletter sent out twice a year, not only to the secretaries of the federated societies, but also to all Council members. The newly appointed secretary general will be invited to take action.

E. Grandjean proposes that the General Assembly should charge the Council to set up guide lines for the organization of future congresses including recommendations for congress fees, interpreter services, the choice of programmes, allotment of discussion time, the number of simultaneous

activities etc. The General Assembly accepts this proposal.

The second proposal to charge the Council is to define the term "ergonomics" and to state what disciplines should be included into the field of ergonomics and what not. P.R. Davis is not in favour of this proposal and refers to Singletons paper on training and education presented at this congress.

H. Monod points out that there are various ideas ^{about} ergonomics in various parts of the world and that he for that reason wants to second Grandjean's proposal. Corlett is of the opinion that the IEA Council should not be asked to do the almost impossible thing of defining ergonomics.

The president agrees that the development of such a definition should not be required from a young organization as the IEA after 7½ hours of existence, herewith referring to the actual time for discussion that has been available since its foundation.

10. Other business

The president points out that there is an urgent need for by-laws. He proposes to invite the new Council to prepare a minimum set of by-laws in the near future. Chapanis adds that the present IEA structure is weak as can be demonstrated in many ways. In his opinion a special committee should be elected by Council. For instance there are no rules to change the articles.

In request of the president Shackel summarizes the letter from the secretary of the Ergonomics Society of Australia and New Zealand, containing apologies for not attending the General Assembly and the enquiry about proxy voting as a useful and relevant possibility to be considered by Council when changing the rules.

Unfortunately the suggestion for nomination of Welford for the office of Council member came too late but will be reconsidered for next term.

Dr. Parsons expresses his high appreciation and gratefulness to Metz and Wisner, the retiring president and treasurer. After that Metz invites Bonjer to take the chair. In doing this he expresses his thanks to the members of last Council and wishes good luck to the newly appointed Council. Bonjer takes over with the following words: "Taking over the responsibility of the IEA, I want to address a few words to my predecessor and to those, who are leaving the IEA-Council with him.

Prof. Metz has served the IEA for two terms as Council member and after that as President. In spite of his professional activities and his many other commitments, he has given much attention and efforts to the IEA.

He has written almost as many letters as has the Secretary General and, more over, he made frequent telephone calls from Strassbourg to Warmond - normally on Saturday mornings - to discuss IEA-matters and especially the progress made in the preparation of the Amsterdam Congress. Metz has been the first president of the IEA, who visited Russia in an official capacity and in this way he has given new dimensions to this international association.

Thank you for all you did!

We are also loosing our Treasurer to day, Prof. Wisner. He has looked after the material interests of the IEA in a most serious way. What he called himself his "avarice professionelle" has led to the benefit of the IEA.

Prof. Chapanis has served the IEA for many years now as the only American member of Council, but also as an officially appointed representative of the Human Factors Society in connection with the preparation of next congress.

In spite of the distance between Europe and USA and the fact that most Council meetings are held in Europe, he never failed to participate. He has contributed much to the development of the IEA and has taken the initiation for at least two, may be even three IEA-symposia in the recent past.

There is one member of Council, who lived at an even longer distance from Europe than Alphonse Chapanis does. I think of Prof. Oshima, who surprised us at various occasions by his presence, even at relatively isolated Council meetings. He gave a contribution to this congress, specially about training in Ergonomics in Japan. To make up for his retirement he suggested a worthy successor.

Prof. Rohmert has made a similar contribution to this congress, but he also represented an active school of applied ergonomics. We are sorry to loose him as a Council member.

On the other hand I'm in favour of a regular rotation of competent people within the Council. This will prevent undue conservatism and will stimulate new ideas and approaches.

Moreover we now gradually come to the stage, that we can re-elect former Council members, who have retired, but who are prepared to contribute to the IEA with their experience. We are very glad that Prof. Asmussen has accepted a nomination as vice president to the new Council for this particular reason.

I also would like to welcome the newly elected Council members and express my hope and desire for a good collaboration.

Finally I want to express my sincere thanks to the delegates present here for their confidence in me as a president."

The session is closed.