



IACAP Newsletter

The Newsletter for the **International Association for Computing and Philosophy**

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IACAP Editors

Ron Barnette, Luciano Floridi

IACAP Executive Committee

Luciano Floridi (President), Marvin Croy (Vice-President), Ron Barnette (Information Secretary), Robert Cavalier (President Ex-Officio) Susan Stuart (Regional Director of European CAP, E-CAP), Charles Ess (Organizational Secretary), Soraj Hongladarom (Director of Asian-Pacific CAP, AP-CAP), Selmer Bringsjord (Regional Director of North-America CAP, NA-CAP).

Welcome to the initial 2006 issue (Vol.1, No.1) of IACAP, the electronic Newsletter for the International Association for Computing And Philosophy.

In this issue of *IACAP*, we include the following items:

- President's Message
- Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
- News about the Association
- Upcoming Conferences
- Call for Presentations
- Announcements
- News from and about our members

Please send all relevant announcements that you wish to have included in future issues of *IACAP Newsletter* to rbarnett@valdosta.edu. Note that we reserve the right to edit all materials received. Back issues of the *IACAP Newsletter* are available at the IACAP Website: www.ia-cap.org

President's Message

Dear Members of IACAP,

Only later in life I finally realised why some phrases, heard at official meetings or read in formal publications, may sound formulaic to the receiver, and yet still be so very meaningful to the utterer. So I shall not try to be original, but I hope you will know that I am sincere, when I say that it is a great honour and a unique privilege to write to you as the newly elected President of our Association.

As you will read in this first issue of our Newsletter, we are undergoing some important transformations. Unfortunately, in June our former President, Jon Dorbolo, decided to resign for personal reasons. I wish to convey to Jon the profound gratitude of the entire membership and of the whole Executive Committee for the time and energy he spent, and for the sustained efforts he made, to ensure that we could build IACAP on the best foundations. We are in debt to him, and to Robert Cavalier, for having made possible our current developments. We would not be here without them.

Jon's resignation prompted a number of changes. As Vice President, I was elected in August to replace him for the last year of his mandate. According to our by-laws, I stepped in as President, while Marvin Croy was elected Vice President and Selmer Bringsjord was elected Regional Director of North-America CAP. I wish to both of them a very fruitful mandate. Marvin and I will hold our offices for a year, until August 2007 at the latest, when ordinary elections will take place.

Among the novelties that you will notice, there is this Newsletter itself. Ron Barnette and I have done our best to include in it all the information you need. Together with the other members of the Executive Committee, we strongly hope that it will become a regular feature of our Association. Indeed, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to take an active role in its development. Please send to Ron any academic or professional news you may wish to share with other IACAP members. It is an excellent way to keep in touch with colleagues' research and teaching activities, their achievements and new publications, the development of resources and products, the availability of PhD and Postdoc positions, and so forth. The Newsletter will become increasingly useful the more each of us can contribute to it.

Issues of the Newsletter will be distributed through our new mailing list. You will have received Ron's note about its future (but it is to be hoped not too distant) implementation. They will also become available in the new website that we have just launched (www.ia-cap.org), and this is a further novelty. After many years of generous and supportive hosting at CMU, it was clear that the IACAP website and mailing list had to move to its own hosting service. I cannot say it was an entirely painless transition. Changing home is always a bit traumatic. But now that it is done, I am confident that the new website will make possible increasingly efficient ways of online communication. We also appointed a webmaster, Johnny Søraker, probably better known to many of us for his research in information/computer ethics. We are grateful to Johnny for his precious, technical help. Please, if you have any suggestions on how to improve the website, feel free to contact him (webmaster@ia-cap.org).

The website will also be a tool to make the payment of membership fees feasible. This is another novelty. It is a medium term plan, but we have already made substantial progress by establishing an account at Drury University, free of charge. I am very grateful to Charles Ess and

to Drury University for this welcome support. Soon, IACAP will be able to collect fees and donations. We shall keep all members updated about our next steps.

The last novelty that I wish to mention concerns our long term plan. It is my firm intention to facilitate the expansion of the Association. I am convinced that it is crucial not only to ensure the flourishing of our current communities in the Asian-Pacific, North-American and European regions, but also to reach out and attract more colleagues from countries and regions that, so far, have been involved in our activities only indirectly. I have in mind especially China, India and Japan in the Asian-Pacific region; Germany in the European region; Canada and Mexico in the North-American region; Argentina and Brazil in the South-American region, and Egypt and South-Africa in the African region. These are ambitious plans, but we all know, from CAP conferences, that there are many excellent institutions and colleagues, in those countries, who may wish to participate to the activities of our Association and contribute to its development.

In the past few years, I have had the pleasant opportunity to appreciate how many people have made possible, through their commitment, work and friendly interactions, the long tradition of very successful meetings we have enjoyed all over the world. I wish to conclude this message by thanking all of them and by promising that I shall do my best to serve them to the best of my capacities, as President of our Association, in order to deal successfully with the exciting new challenges that lie ahead.

Luciano Floridi

President, IACAP

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

IACAP Executive Committee Meeting - Troy, NY, 11 August 2006.

Attending: Ron Barnette, Marvin Croy, Charles Ess, Luciano Floridi, Susan Stuart.

Unable to attend in person: Robert Cavalier, Jon Dorbolo, Soraj Hongladarom (apologies received).

Online participation: Soraj Hongladarom sent his vote via e-mail on the very day of the meeting.

RESIGNATION, NEW OFFICERS, NEW ELECTIONS

1. President's resignation

The Executive Committee discussed the matter of Jon Dorbolo's resignation as President of IACAP.

While very much regretting Jon's decision, especially in light of all that he has done over the years to contribute to the quality and growth of the Association and its conferences, the Executive Committee in the end agreed to accept his resignation.

2. Election of new President

The Executive Committee discussed possible ways of responding to the President's resignation. The IACAP Constitution states:

III. o.

The Executive Committee shall be empowered to replace any elected member of the Committee who resigns from the Committee (or becomes otherwise unable to serve) prior to the expiration of his/her current term of office. Such an appointment will be effective for the remainder of the term of office of the person replaced, and the appointee will be eligible thereafter for election to two consecutive terms in the same office, provided that this does not violate the twelve (12) year rule as stated in III b.

III. s.

In the case that the President is rendered unable to perform in the executive capacity, the Vice President will succeed to the position of President for the remainder of their current term of office. In that case, the newly succeeded President shall appoint a new Vice President, subject to the Executive Committee confirmation of two-thirds (2/3) of the quorum, within sixty (60) days of assuming office.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee unanimously endorsed the appointment of the current Vice-President, Luciano Floridi, to fill out Jon's remaining term as President (i.e., until August 2007). (Following the Constitution, Luciano will be eligible to stand as a candidate for President at the next election of officers by the membership.)

3. Appointment of new Vice-President

Marvin Croy was nominated and unanimously endorsed to serve as Vice-President until August 2007, the latest date when new elections for officers can be held. Marvin will be eligible to stand as a candidate for Vice-President at the next election of officers by the membership.

4. New elections

It was agreed that elections of the new President and Vice-President for the years 2007-2011 will be organized as quickly as possible.

5. Election of new Regional Director of NA-CAP

Selmer Bringsjord was nominated and unanimously endorsed to serve as Regional Director of North-America CAP (NA-CAP).

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

1. It was noticed that difficulties experienced by the responsible officers with accessing the mailing list must be resolved as quickly as possible. It is anticipated that these difficulties will be resolved as the IACAP website is migrated to the University of Essex (UK) under the direction of Amnon H. Eden with Susan Stuart's supervision.

2. It was agreed that it is necessary to organise a call for nominations for positions in the Executive Committee as quickly as possible.

3. It was agreed that a set of constitutional amendments will soon be sent out to the membership for approval/rejection.

4. The topic of membership fees was discussed. The prospect was endorsed, though no amount was set. The mechanism for the collection of fees and their financial management was also briefly discussed. It was considered including the membership fee as part of the CAP conference registration fees, following the model of similar organizations (e.g., AAPT, AoIR). The proposal received a positive evaluation but needs to be finalized. Once this is defined more fully, it will be included as an amendment to the constitution to be considered by the membership.

Marvin Croy will look more carefully into how AAPT takes up this matter.

Charles Ess will check whether it might be possible to use Fay Sudweeks' registration forms and code, as currently used by CATaC (see for example www.cataconference.org).

5. It was discussed whether the Association should incorporate as a non-profit organization in order to collect fees, etc.

Charles Ess observed that CATaC has been running successfully since 1998 without such incorporation (a complicated and expensive business, especially when it comes to collecting money internationally). CATaC uses a specified account at Drury University, for which Charles is the designated budget officer. It was agreed that Charles Ess will look into whether Drury would be willing to set up a similar sort of account for IACAP.

Luciano Floridi will look into how these sorts of matters are handled by the Philosophy Documentation Center.

Both will report back to the Executive Committee via email.

If it will be decided to pursue an account with Drury, Charles Ess agreed to serve as the budget officer for IACAP via such an account.

6. There was final discussion as to whether we could site NA-CAP outside the U.S. i.e., Canada or Mexico. It was agreed that this would be very useful. Further expansion of the Association's initiatives to other countries and regions such as China, Germany, India, Japan and South America was also briefly discussed. The hope was expressed that the Association will seek appropriate opportunities to do so in the medium term.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Ess, Executive Secretary of Organization

News about the Association

1. IACAP Bank Account

Following the previous resolution that information should be gathered by Marvin Croy, Charles Ess and Luciano Floridi on how best to proceed with the management of funds and financial transactions, and in view of the information actually received about the issue, the Executive Committee agreed to accept the generous offer of setting up an account for the association based at Drury University, free of charge.

Charles Ess will be the designated budget officer for the above mentioned account; he will be in charge of its administration. By establishing an account at Drury University, IACAP will be able to collect fees and donations via credit cards (as faxed in to Drury or through the web, if possible), electronic fund transfer, and cheque. It will also be possible to disburse funds by charging them to a Drury credit card or by issuing cheques. Since the whole financial management will be done under the auspices of Drury as a non-profit organization, all legal or tax matters will also be managed by Drury University.

In the interest of financial transparency, a brief report on the budget of the Association will be published once a year on the Association website.

2. IACAP Website: www.ia-cap.org

Following the discussion about how best to proceed with hosting, organizing and managing the website of the Association, and in view of the updated information received about the issue and the opinions expressed by members of the Executive Committee and by all persons explicitly mentioned below, the Executive Committee unanimously deliberated that:

IACAP will have its website hosted through a private hosting service. The Information Secretary will be responsible for the contents of the website. The website will technically be administered by a webmaster. The webmaster will be registered as the Administrator of the website. Until further decisions, the private service will be an account at Yahoo owned by Charles Ess. Johnny Søraker will be the webmaster. When the current registration of iacap.org will expire, the owner may remain Robert Cavalier or Charles Ess, as the latter will be the Association's designated budget officer.

Upcoming Conferences

COMPUTING AND PHILOSOPHY

Asia-Pacific Meeting

THE 3RD ASIA-PACIFIC COMPUTING AND PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 15, 16, 17, 2007

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING AND PHILOSOPHY (IACAP, www.iacap.org) is inviting interested parties to submit abstract papers for its 3rd Asia-Pacific Computing and Philosophy Conference. IACAP conferences are high profile conferences whose purpose is to draw together people from variety of disciplines to discuss issues in the intersection between computing and philosophy.

Previous conference topics included, among other things, the following:

Artificial Intelligence/Cognitive Sciences

Artificial Life/Computer Modeling Biology

Computer Ethics

Computer Mediated Communication

Culture and Society

Distance Education and Electronic Pedagogy

Electronic Publishing

Logic and Logic Software
Metaphysics (Distributive Primacy, Emergent Properties, Formal
Ontology, Network Structure)
Electronic Publishing
Robotics
Virtual Reality
Computational Logics
Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Problem of Consciousness
Topics other than those mentioned may be submitted.

ABSTRACTS DUE: OCTOBER 15, 2006

Abstracts should be limited to no more than 1 to 2 pages, single spaced and should include the author's name, institutional affiliation and contact details (mailing address, phone numbers, fax, e-mail address). They should be sent via email to iacap_up@yahoo.com.ph or dmagat47@gmail.com. Please indicate "3rd IACAP Abstract" as Subject in the email. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified through their email, or other contact details.

REGISTRATION FOR THE CONFERENCE COMMENCES ON AUGUST 30, 2006
CONFERENCE FEE: \$120; BUT \$110 for early registrants before November 30, 2006.

Please contact the organizing committee through iacap_up@yahoo.com.ph or dmagat47@gmail.com

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE 3RD AP-CAP CONFERENCE
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Call for Presentations

Please, let us know about your conference or meetings presentations.

News from and about our members

Please, let us know about your research and teaching activities, publications, software, and other computer-based products, awards and any other professional and academic news that you may wish to share with other members.

Professor James H. Moor of Dartmouth College has been awarded the 2006 Jon Barwise Prize. This prize, established in honor of Jon Barwise, is awarded for significant and sustained contributions to advancing our understanding of the interrelations between philosophy and computing. These advances must also be connected in some way to innovations in pedagogical technique or theory. This prize is awarded annually by the American Philosophical Association's Committee on Philosophy and Computers. Previous awardees include Patrick Suppes, Daniel Dennett, Deborah Johnson, and Hubert Dreyfus. Professor Moor will give a presentation entitled "The Next Fifty Years of AI: Future Scientific Research vs. Past Philosophical Criticisms" at the December 2006 Eastern division meeting of the American Philosophical Association to be held in Washington, D.C. IACAP offers hearty congratulations to Professor Moor and encourages all to attend his upcoming presentation.