



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Members of WINIR

**Boston Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA, USA,  
17:15-19:00, Saturday 3 September 2016**

1	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p>WINIR Council Members Bas van Bavel, David Gindis, Geoff Hodgson, Klaus Nielsen and Katharina Pistor (WINIR President and chair), plus 33 other members of WINIR.</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes of the Preceding Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the preceding WINIR Membership Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Friday 11 September 2015 were approved. There was no matter arising.</p>
3	<p><b>Reports by the Secretary and Treasurer</b></p> <p>Geoff Hodgson (WINIR Secretary) gave a report on the progress of WINIR since its formation. He also outlined plans for WINIR events in the future. He reported that WINIR had about 487 members. Registered attendance at the Boston conference was about 202.</p> <p>In behalf of the Treasurer, Geoff Hodgson also reported on WINIR finances. The 2014-15 accounts were available and had been filed. While previous events had made a small surplus, the 2016 Bristol Symposium roughly broke even and the 2016 Boston conference was projected to make large loss. However, WINIR had the reserves to deal with this. This loss was due to exchange-rate movements over Brexit and a lower-than-expected attendance from North America.</p>
4	<p><b>Publicity Officer's Report</b></p> <p>David Gindis (WINIR Publicity Officer) gave a report on the development of the WINIR website and other related initiatives. He reported on the numbers of WINIR members and 2016 Conference attendees, including detailed breakdowns by country.</p>

<p>5</p>	<p><b>Constitutional Amendment 1: [See Appendix for an explanation.]</b></p> <p>The existing clauses 6.2 and 6.3 read:</p> <p>6.2 Elected members of the Council are requested to become directors of the legally incorporated organization (see Clause 1.2 above) on the condition that they resign their directorships when they are no longer members of the Council.</p> <p>6.3 The Council shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer and four other elected members.</p> <p><b>The WINIR Council proposed that these clauses be changed and re-ordered as follows:</b></p> <p>6.2 The Council shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer and four other elected members. The President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer shall be referred to as “Officers” of the Network.</p> <p>6.3 All Officers are required, and other elected (but not co-opted) members of the Council are invited, to become directors of the legally incorporated organization (see Clause 1.2 above), on the condition that they resign their directorships when they are no longer members of the Council.</p> <p><i>This amendment was carried unanimously by the meeting. According to Clauses 11.1 and 11.2 of the WINIR Constitution it must be sent out to the membership as a whole, to ask their approval in a ballot.</i></p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Constitutional Amendment 2: [See Appendix for an explanation.]</b></p> <p>The existing clauses 7.5 and 7.6 read:</p> <p>7.5 In the case of contested elections to the Council, each position shall be elected according to the alternative vote system, with candidates with the lowest number of first preferences being eliminated one by one, and the next valid preferences of those eliminated being progressively added onto the vote of the remaining candidates, until one candidate has more than 50 per cent of the votes.</p> <p>7.6 In the event of unfilled vacancies on the Council, or of vacancies caused by resignation, then the Council may call a by-election if desired.</p> <p><b>The WINIR Council proposed that existing 7.5 and 7.6 be replaced by the following:</b></p> <p>7.5 In the case of a contested election for an Officer position on the Council, the approval voting system shall apply. Members will be asked to indicate whether they approve for each candidate for each position. Members may indicate approval for any number of candidates, for any position. In regard to each Officer position, the candidate with the highest number of approvals will be elected.</p>

	<p>7.6 In the case of five or more candidates for the four non-Officer positions on the Council, a weighted voting system will apply. Members will be asked to vote for up to four candidates, by indicating their first (1), second (2) third (3) and fourth (4) preferences. Members may not express the same preference for more than one candidate and must vote in order of preference. Not all four preferences need to be used. After the ballot closes, first-preference votes will be given a weight of 1.6, second-preference votes a weight of 1.2, third-preference votes a weight of 0.8, and fourth-preference votes a weight of 0.4. The four candidates with the highest aggregate weighted votes will be elected.</p> <p>7.7 In the event of unfilled vacancies on the Council, or of vacancies caused by resignation, or for any other reason, then the Council may call a by-election if desired.</p> <p>7.7.1 In the case of a contested by-election for a vacant Officer position, Clause 7.5 shall apply.</p> <p>7.7.2 In the case of a contested by-election for N vacant non-Officer positions on the Council, where N is one or greater, members will be asked to vote for up to N candidates, without expressing any order of preference. Not all N votes need to be used. After the ballot closes, the number of votes allocated to each candidate will be calculated. The votes shall count equally and not be weighted. The N candidates with the highest aggregate votes will be elected.</p> <p><i>This amendment was carried without opposition. Save for 3 abstentions, all other members present voted in favor. According to Clauses 11.1 and 11.2 of the WINIR Constitution it must be sent out to the membership as a whole, to ask their approval in a ballot.</i></p>
7	There was no other business

# APPENDIX

## Explanation of Constitutional Amendment 1. Clauses 6.2-6.3.

This is a fairly minor amendment, but still worthy of an explanation.

WINIR and WINIR Ltd have a composite structure, involving both an association and a company. The association is governed by this constitution and a Council elected by WINIR members. The existing Clauses 6.2 and 6.3 stipulate that elected Council members should be *asked* to become directors of WINIR Ltd. It was not stipulated as a *requirement*, because academics employed by some universities (e.g. in Brazil) are not allowed to become directors of private companies.

The proposed amended Clauses 6.2 and 6.3 change this, by *requiring* that all four WINIR Officers become directors of WINIR Ltd and inviting other members of the WINIR Council to become directors, if they wish, *but without any suggestion that it is expected of them*. The reason for this change is that the workload and responsibilities of the WINIR Officers have increased dramatically since the formation of WINIR in 2013, with a much increased financial turnover. It is important that WINIR Officers take full responsibility for the assets and finances of WINIR Ltd, under company law.

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2. New Clauses 7.5-7.7. Explanation of Changes to the System of Voting for the WINIR Council

The existing system of voting for membership of the WINIR Council gives rules for the election by WINIR members of the four WINIR Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer) and four other WINIR Council members. It consists of two Clauses (7.5 and 7.6), where a single transferable vote (or alternative vote) system (clause 7.5) governs the election of both Officers and ordinary Council members. The existing Clause 7.6 allows by-elections in the event of a resignation. The main focus here is on Clause 7.5

The disadvantage of the existing system became evident in the 2016 election for four ordinary positions on the Council. There were six candidates for four places. According to the existing rules in 7.5, the candidate with the lowest number of first preferences in his favour was eliminated. First preference votes for this eliminated candidate were inspected to determine the expressed second preferences. These second-preference votes were then added to the remaining candidates. Then the candidate with the lowest number of first preferences plus reallocated second-preferences was eliminated. These two eliminations determined the successful four candidates.

The disadvantage of this system is that for most voters, only their first preferences counted. The single transferable vote system works better when the ratio of candidates to available places is

high. With many more candidates than places, a larger number of elimination rounds are required, and it is likely that more preferences expressed by voters will count. The single transferable vote system does not work well when there are only slightly more candidates than available places.

Turning to the voting system for the four WINIR Officers, the problems here are less serious, but the Council suggests we take the opportunity to make an improvement. The single transferable vote is widely criticised by experts on voting systems. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vawkZJyYDNs&feature=youtu.be>

For the meaty bit, you may skip the first 36 minutes of this video.

Instead, we propose the approval voting system. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Approval\\_voting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Approval_voting)

Hence it is proposed to have different systems for (1) elections to Officer positions and for (2) elections to non-Officer positions on the Council.

Concerning approval voting for the Officer positions, members will be asked to indicate whether they approve for each candidate for each position. Members may indicate approval for any number of candidates, for any position. In regard to each Officer position, the candidate with the highest number of approvals will be elected.

Concerning the election of non-officer positions on the Council, we propose a weighed voting system. It is an improvement on preceding rules because all four votes cast by members will count, in contrast to the preceding system where in many cases only first preferences count.

The new Clause 7.7 gives the rules that apply to by-elections to the Council, which may be caused by resignation or another reason. By-elections are expected to be rare, but it is important to have adequate rules in place.

These amendments have the advantage that membership votes and preferences count to greater effect.