

RDA Council Meeting
Session 1 Tuesday 17th March 2020
Session 2 Thursday 19th March 2020

Meeting Chairs: Ingrid Dillo (Session 1) and Mark Leggott (Session 2)

Attendees:

1. Kevin Ashley
2. Jill Benn
3. Sandra Collins
4. Ingrid Dillo
5. Jason Haga
6. Robert Hanisch
7. Edit Herczog
8. Mark Leggott
9. Claudia Medeiros
10. Amy Nurnberger
11. Isabelle Perseil
12. Kay Raseroka
13. Andrew Treloar
14. Hilary Hanahoe (RDA Foundation SG)
15. Bridget Walker RDA Foundation EA (notes)

Notes and actions following the telcon meeting 12th February 2020

Decision: Notes and actions accepted.

RDA Foundation – United Kingdom (Global) and Belgium (Europe) – Hilary Hanahoe

Discussion:

Council was presented with an outline of the two Foundation offices. Legal documents were being presented with the notary in Belgium with a view to finalisation of the Belgium office. It was confirmed that the two offices will be separate legal entities with separate accountants, bank accounts, operational and financial work flows.

It was agreed that that the existence of two offices would be monitored and subsequently evaluated after 1 or 2 years of operation.

Hilary proposed to Council that RDA should have a more formal legal connection with STFC, the current host for the RDA Foundation UK legal headquarters.

It was concluded that the drawing up of an eventual MoU would be investigated together with UK legal requirements regarding an ex officio member representing STFC on the RDA Council.

RDA Global Foundation (UK) Financial Situation 2020/21 – Financial Subcommittee Chair Edit Herczog – Hilary Hanahoe presented

Discussion:

Hilary presented an update on the promising global financial situation. It was concluded that better forecasts were needed for other regions and that a financial overview would be presented at the next face to face meeting.

ReSA (Research Software Alliance) RDA Affiliate Membership – Andrew Treloar

Discussion:

Andrew provided Council with an outline of the Research Software Alliance and the proposal for them to join RDA as an Affiliate Member. Council agreed this is a good step forward and a good organisation to have as an Affiliate Member. Hilary confirmed she would prepare an MoU with text provided by Andrew.

Data Together Document – Mark Leggott

Discussion:

Mark informed Council of a forthcoming meeting with the 4 member organisations of the Document to discuss whether it meets the needs of all and if all members have clarity and understanding of the data together concept. Council discussed the original goals of the document and RDA's positioning and Mark confirmed he would refer all comments, with particular regard to the core of each partner, to the 3 partners. Council agreed further discussions on increasing RDA's global position would be carried forward to the next face to face meeting.

Governance Document – Mark Leggott

Discussion:

Council agreed on an extension for final comments on changes and recommendations to the Governance Document until the beginning of April.

Nominations Committee Update – Mark Leggott

Discussion:

Mark provided Council with a review of the Committee deliberations and the proposed slate of candidates:

Edit Herczog (2nd term)

Sandra Collins (2nd term)

Joyce Gosata Mahpanyane (new candidate)

Plenary/IDW Updates – Hilary Hanahoe

Discussion:

Hilary provided Council with an update on the recent cancellation of Plenary 15 and transition to a virtual plenary together with updates on Plenaries 16 and 17 and IDW 2021 and 2023.

RDA Covid-19 Working Group – Hilary Hanahoe

Discussion:

Hilary reported to Council that the RDA had been contacted by the European Commission requesting the creation of a data platform in response to the Covid-19 epidemic and for RDA to facilitate and generate guidelines on data sharing and depositing.

Council agreed that Hilary should continue with contacting people to lead the project and move forward in setting up the Working Group, bypassing the usual RDA process. Hilary confirmed she would keep Council informed so they could facilitate next steps and pull the group together accordingly.

Focus for June Face to Face Meeting – Ingrid Dillo

Discussion:

Ingrid presented to Council the need, due to rapid growth of the RDA, to revisit the strategy element of the action plan for the development and future of the RDA organisation. The need for both a shift in focus with strategy goals and a strategy document was discussed. Consensus of Council is to move ahead with a strategic planning meeting, either virtual or face to face depending on worldwide travel restrictions, ideally before the end of the summer.

Membership Task Force - Sandra Collins

Discussion:

Council discussed suitability of sending out survey in light of unstable times and members agreed more preparation was needed particularly with regard to ensuring a good demographic representation.

It was further agreed that next steps and timing of the survey would be discussed at a more appropriate time.

RDA Communities of Practice – Hilary Hanahoe

Discussion:

Hilary presented Council with a proposal to create a new group within RDA, namely Communities of Practice. The proposal stems from the Agricultural Data Interest Group (IGAD) who consider the structure of an Interest Group no longer meets their needs. Council approved the creation of RDA Communities of Practice and requested that Hilary inform TAB and identify a small group to work on a proposed structure.

Regional Engagement – Hilary Hanahoe

Discussion:

Hilary provided Council with an update on the status of the framework document together with the regional engagement forecast for 2020 and 2021. With regard to the setting up of the Regional Assembly and Regional Assembly Board Hilary confirmed she would be contacting specific individuals for initial discussions. Council requested that Mark, Bridget and Stefanie Kethers initiate work on a governance document for the Regional Assembly.

Governance Updates

Discussion:

TAB – Andrew Treloar, Isabelle Perseil

An update on TAB activities was given to Council. Secretariat support will be provided by Bridget as from 1st June, taking over from Marieke, with Stefanie continuing.

OAB – Kevin Ashley, Amy Nurnberger

An update on OAB activities was given to Council. Amy would be stepping down as co-chair and will continue as a member of the OAB.

Secretariat – Hilary Hanahoe

Hilary provided Council with an update on the current staff availability in Secretariat and the considerable changes from 1st June 2020 when staff members will be reduced to Hilary, Yolanda, Stefanie and Bridget.

AOB

Discussion:

Council members discussed Working and Interest Groups currently in Council review. Council discussed RDA associated events and difficulties encountered by Claudia Medeiros at a Brazilian event in 2019. Council concluded existing documents on RDA event guidelines should be revisited to identify any gaps.