

**MINUTES OF THE ICLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
23-24 JULY 2022, TBILISI, GEORGIA**

23 July 2022, 5pm-7pm (Tbilisi time)

Present in person: Sandra Bermann, Lucia Boldrini, Oana Fotache, Toshiko Ellis, Hiraishi Noriko, Liedeke Plate, Helga Mitterbauer, Adelaide Russo, Chandra Mohan, Irma Ratiani, Takayuki Yokota-Murakami

Present online: EV Ramakrishnan, William Spurlin, Ipshita Chanda, Matthew Reynolds, Marina Grishakova, Kitty Millet, Haun Saussy, Paulo Horta, Robert Young, Helena Buescu, Marko Juvan, Isabel Gomez, Zhang Xiaohong, Youngmin Kim, Tracy Lassiter, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Stefan Helgesson, Marie-Thérèse Abdelmessih, Rita Terezinha Schmidt, Isabel Gil, Zhang Longxi, Marcio Seligmann, Kathy Komar, Robert Gafrik, Zhang Hui, Massimo Fusillo, Yang Huilin

Invited : Irma Ratiani (University of Tbilisi, Georgia)

1. The ICLA President, Sandra Bermann, welcomed all participants and thanked everyone for their presence.

She welcomed everyone to the hybrid format, which is new for the AILC/ICLA Executive Council meeting. She asked for the participants' indulgence in the event of any technical difficulties. The agenda is full, so she asked that interventions be brief so that everyone is able to participate.

Sandra Bermann presented the agenda and specified the procedure, described in the statutes, for choosing the venue for the next ICLA congress in 2025 (item on the agenda of the meeting of July 24, 2022): the decision rests with the Executive Council, which recommends the venue to the General Assembly, asking it to ratify its recommendation. The presentation and discussion of the two proposals (South Korea and India) are part of the agenda of the Executive Council on July 24 (10 minutes of presentation by the authors of the proposals; questions posed by the Executive Council; discussion and vote in the absence of representatives of the proposing countries). Sandra Bermann asked the authors of the two proposals to develop a short text of 250 words, which can be shared on the screen during the hybrid General Assembly session, so that the Assembly General can consider the proposed venues and understand the basis of the recommendation made by the Executive Council.

Sandra Bermann indicated that all the reports that were circulated were ratified by a majority of EC members. She mentioned three remarks made by members regarding the reports:

- It was suggested that the President's report mention the important function of the ICLA/AILC newsletter - though its distribution has been temporarily interrupted because the work of drawing up and finalising the membership list took precedence, it is hoped it will resume in September. Sandra Bermann indicated that she would gladly add this point to her report.

- a second remark concerned the CHLEL report, which mentions Jennifer Wenzel as co-editor of a volume which will, in fact, probably be co-edited by Ursula K. Heise (as well as Florian Mussnug and Mads Rosendahl Thomsen).

- a third remark concerned the finances of the European treasury - the report submitted gives the accounts for 6 months only, whereas the whole year's accounts must be presented, which will give a more favourable picture of the balance in the specific treasury.

2. Website, Membership List and Mailing List

After thanking Lucia Boldrini for the enormous amount of work she has done to provide the ICLA with a functional website, a reliable list of members and a mailing list, after also recalling that the Executive Council voted in favor of the possibility of life membership in the ICLA for an amount of 300 dollars, Sandra Bermann gave the floor to Lucia Boldrini.

Lucia Boldrini adds several elements to her report:

- She drew attention to the introduction of yellow highlighting to make important menus of the site easily visible

- She announced that the regular newsletter, put on hold with the preparation of the Congress, will resume in September

- Concerning points 7 and 8 of the report, she stated that the work required for the website, the maintenance of the list of members and the mailing list, as well as the newsletter cannot be accomplished by one person. It will be useful to have one person who coordinates all these functions, which are linked. But it will be necessary to distribute the work.

- If the finances of the ICLA are more stable than they have been in recent years, we may think about the possibility of employing someone in a regular position rather than employ students, who are likely to remain for short periods only. It is not necessary to consider a full-time position, but a regular, part-time position could be considered.

- She emphasized the importance of purchasing a software package integrating electronic messaging, storage and sharing (of the Office 365 type, for example, or a software package of a similar type) to have a more flexible and more reliable form of communication and record keeping, and to avoid the loss of information and correspondence when the people in particular offices hand over charge to those following them. While such a decision should be taken by the new Executive Council, it would be good to give a signal that the current Executive Council wished to go in this direction.

- She suggested that the current Executive Council vote on a provision of 2500 dollars / euros for everything related to the website and the lists, so that in case of emergency the money can be used without having to go through a separate Executive Council vote.

A discussion ensued. Kathy Komar thanked Lucia Boldrini for the enormous amount of work she has done on the lists and website and newsletter and approved of the idea of organizing the distribution of work and formalizing this distribution. Robert Young stressed that the financing mentioned must be thought of in recurring terms. Lucia Boldrini indicated that the report she submitted included different financing options with annual amounts, which vary according to the services. Liedeke Plate reminded us that it is important to monitor our finances and that we need to have a general idea of the state of finances in

order to make financial decisions of this nature. Sandra Bermann replied that this task would fall to the next Executive Council and that it is too early to take a decision. Lucia Boldrini underlined that she did not have a very precise idea of the state of finances because Roberto Vecchi's report only mentioned the last six months whereas it should cover the last 12 months of the transactions in the European treasury. According to Lucia's rough calculations, based on the current number of members (and taking into account exemptions and dues reductions), if the number of members remains stable at the current level, there should be approximately 35,000 to 40,000 euros in the ICLA treasury through memberships, as the amount which we should be able to count on annually.

Sandra Bermann asked the Executive Council to decide on the issues of dividing the tasks between the webmaster, the newsletter editor and the membership list coordinator and on the issue of provisioning 2500 dollars / euros to have a certain flexibility of stock.

The proposals were adopted by a majority of voters (94% yes and 6% no – the results of the anonymous vote are given in percentages because that is how they were communicated by the team of technicians from Georgia who conducted the hybrid meeting)

3. Elections and future members of the Executive Council

Sandra Bermann gave the floor to Kathy Komar, who chaired the committee that oversaw the electoral process, and thanked her for the enormous work accomplished. Kathy Komar, in turn, thanked the members Ipshita Chanda, Sandra Bermann, Isabel Gil and the entire committee which set up the online election platform provided by Election Buddy, with the help of Digimentors who facilitated our use of the platform.

She had proposed an amendment to the ICLA statutes, which the members are being asked to vote on during the election process: since voting will now take place exclusively online, the question of proxies is no longer relevant and the possibility of voting by proxy is to be deleted. Stefan Helgesson thanked the committee and expressed his satisfaction with the functioning of the voting interface.

Concerning the future members of the Executive Council, Sandra Bermann recalled that it is a statutory requirement to be a member of the ICLA in order to be part of its Executive Council. Not all the candidates standing for election at this time are as yet members of ICLA, so she proposed that the status of the members of the Executive Council be clarified in the month or two months following the elections.

Adelaide Russo proposed that the deadline for a newly elected EC member to become a member of the ICLA be 2 months. Isabel Gil, who chaired the nominations committee that drew up the list of candidates for the 2022 election, underlined the difficulty of getting correct information about membership from National Associations and candidates themselves, who were not necessarily aware of their ICLA membership status. She endorsed the proposal of giving elected candidates two months to join if they are not already ICLA members.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

4. 2022 Congress and role of the Programming Committee

Irma Ratiani, who organized the Congress, welcomed Executive Council members in Tbilisi. She regretted that some are absent, and hoped that the Congress will go well under these very special conditions.

On her own behalf and on behalf of the entire Executive Council, Sandra Bermann thanked and congratulated Irma Ratiani, Maka Elbakidze, Tatia Oboladze, Lili Metreveli and the entire organizing team who have accomplished an extraordinary job in very difficult conditions.

Anne Tomiche described the role of the Programming Committee, which was formed to support the organizers of the Congress throughout the process. This committee, which met regularly and increasingly frequently in the months leading up to the Congress, was a space in which all sanitary, geopolitical, logistical questions and issues concerning the organization of the Congress were raised and discussed. The members of the Programming Committee did not always agree, but all the decisions taken were made in agreement with the Georgian organizers and to support them in their task, in a procedure that has always been transparent and democratic if it could not always be consensual.

5. Congress Registration fee waiver for all postgraduate students

Sandra Bermann thanked Helena Buescu, who chaired the Participation Grants Committee, for all the work she and her committee have done. Helena Buescu thanked her committee, Adelaide Russo, Oana Fotache and Paulo Horta, and recalled that given the specific circumstances in which this Congress was set up and the restrictions on travel worldwide, her committee, whose function is to allocate financial aid for travel expenses, decided this year to replace them with registration fee waivers. At the end of the process of selecting those who have obtained these grants, Helena Buescu posed a question raised by her committee: that of exemption of registration fees for all postgraduate students from the next Congress onwards. The question obviously depended on the financial situation of the ICLA.

A discussion ensued. Lucia Boldrini expressed fear that the cost of such a decision would be astronomical. In addition, some students may receive assistance from their institutions for travel and registration fees. She suggested leaving such a decision to the next Executive Council, and said she is rather in favor of a fixed amount allocated to the Participation Grants Committee, to be determined according to the finances of the ICLA, which the Committee would distribute among the successful candidates at each Congress. Helena Buescu replied that she wanted to raise the issue to assess the different opinions one way or the other. Paulo Horta stressed the importance of these exchanges appearing in the minutes to make visible the way in which the ICLA cares about including students and early career researchers. He drew attention to the registration waivers for students granted by the American Comparative Literature Association. EV Ramakrishnan added that we must effectively attract students to the ICLA and do everything towards it. Lucia Boldrini specified that if we want to compare the practices of the ICLA and those of the ACLA, we must also compare the amount of the membership fees, reminding us that for students, membership of the ICLA is free; also the means available to ACLA, which allows it to offer registration fee

waivers to all students, are not equivalent to those of the ICLA. Kathy Komar intervened to point out that the Executive Council had already considered increasing the amount of ICLA membership and, while stressing that this was a decision that the next Executive Council would have to make, spoke in favor of such an increase because the membership fees is currently very low. Stefan Helgesson thought it should be possible to consider a progressive 'range' in the membership fees of the ICLA.

6. Use of grant by the Research Committee on the History of Literatures in European Languages (CHLEL)

Sandra Bermann wanted to consult the Executive Council on a question posed, in her report, by Helga Mitterbauer about the financial support that the ICLA has given to the Committee on the History of Literature in European Languages (CHLEL) which she chairs. Helga Mitterbauer thanked the ICLA for its financial support of CHLEL activities. Her committee treats ICLA money with great respect and it is for this reason that she wanted to consult the Executive Council on the use of the allocated money, usually used for translations and proofreading of texts for publication. This year, Benjamins offered an open access online publication for an amount of 8000 euros. The question from Helga Mitterbauer and the CHLEL is whether the 2000 euros from the ICLA can be used to pay for free access. This is not a request for additional funds but a request for approval to extend the use of ICLA funds for an open access online publishing project.

Liedeke Plate, who pointed out that many future projects are likely to apply for funding, asked Helga Mitterbauer if she had an idea of the grants that will be requested in the future by CHLEL. Helga Mitterbauer replied that her committee will probably ask for 2000 euros each year in the future. Matthew Reynolds said that open access work should be supported and was in favor of the ICLA giving a signal of encouragement in this direction and adopting a principled position in favor of the use of grants for open access publication. Liedeke Plate agreed that open access publishing should be encouraged but insisted that this is a complicated issue – involving financial resources in the proposed new models – which merits substantive discussion. Sandra Bermann reminded that each committee can benefit from 1000 euros over a given period of three years, and she thanked Helga Mitterbauer again for the transparency of her committee.

7. Recommendations from the Research Development Committee

Sandra Bermann thanked Matthew Reynolds, Chair of the Research Development Committee, who informed the Executive Council that his Committee recommends that the Research Committee on Comic Studies and Graphic Narrative become a standing committee. The committee meets all the criteria put in place by the Research Development Committee, which therefore recommends that the committee become permanent.

Discussion on the Committee for Comparative African Literatures was initiated by William Spurlin who informed that Wendy Belcher, Chair of this committee, had received a grant for an academic project and was busy with that, co-chair Brahim El Guabli had been on sabbatical, and he himself was very busy with the Committee for Early Career Researchers. The Committee on Comparative African Literatures has therefore not really been able to

develop this year and the report presented is a projection on the future. But Brahim El Guabli is very keen to revive it this year. Matthew Reynolds considered it important that the committee be revived. Haun Saussy noted that at least one of the Executive Council candidates this year is a specialist in African literature.

Sandra Bermann asked the Executive Council to decide on the transformation of the Committee on Comic Studies and Graphic Narrative into a permanent committee. The transformation was approved by a majority of voters (97% yes and 3% no).

At 6:35 p.m., Sandra Bermann ended the meeting of July 23, thanked the participants and reminded them that the meeting would resume in the hybrid mode on the next day at 5pm (Tbilisi time)

July 24, 2022, 5-7 p.m. (Tbilisi, Georgia time)

Present online: EV Ramakrishnan, William Spurlin, Ipshita Chanda, Matthew Reynolds, Marina Grishakova, Kitty Millet, Haun Saussy, Paulo Horta, Robert Young, Helena Buescu, Marc Maufort, Isabel Gomez, Zhang Xiaohong, Youngmin Kim, Tracy Lassiter, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Stefan Helgesson, Marie-Thérèse Abdelmessih, Rita Terezinha Schmidt, Isabel Gil, Zhang Longxi, Marcio Seligmann, Kathy Komar, Robert Gafrik, Zhang Hui, Massimo Fusillo, Yang Huilin

Present in person: Sandra Bermann, Lucia Boldrini, Oana Fotache, Toshiko Ellis, Hiraishi Noriko, Liedeke Plate, Helga Mitterbauer, Adelaide Russo, Chandra Mohan, Irma Ratiani, Takayuki Yokota-Murakami, Marko Juvan

Guests: Jagdish Batra (Professor of English, Jindal Global University, Sonipat), Songju Na (President of the KEASTWEST, Professor of Spanish, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Tae-Yeoub Jang (Vice President of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Professor of Linguistics).

At 5 p.m. Sandra Bermann opened the meeting and indicated that the agenda contained fewer talking points than the day before but one of them will take longer.

8. Balakian Prize and Prizes awarded for young researchers, which will be announced at the General Assembly

The Balakian prize and the special mention have already been ratified electronically, so there was no need to go back on it. Sandra Bermann warmly thanked EV Ramakrishnan, who chaired the committee in charge of awarding the Balakian Prize. The latter in turn thanked the members of his committee for their commitment

Prizes awarded by ECARE were not voted upon electronically. Sandra Bermann therefore gave the floor to William Spurlin, who chaired the committee and whom she thanked for his commitment to young researchers. William Spurlin regretted that the prizes were announced so late, but the date for submitting the proposals having been postponed

to obtain more proposals and some evaluation reports having been submitted late, it had not been possible this year to announce the prizes earlier.

William Spurlin discussed the work of the committee. It was first necessary to define the notion of “early career” and “young” researcher. This does not just include students but also colleagues at the start of their career.

For the prize for the best translation, after extension of the deadline, 4 proposals were selected (one submission was for an entire book and was excluded because the award criteria specify that it must be a short work). All proposals were subjected to a double or even triple evaluation. Evaluators had to be found for different languages – Sinhalese, Bangla and French – which took time. The prize was awarded to a doctoral student, Aurore Turbiau, for the French translation of a chapter of Sara Ahmed's book, *Living a Feminist Life* (this is the chapter "Academic Walls ", translated under the title "Les Murs de l'Université" and published in the review *Littérature, Histoire, Théorie (Fabula LhT)*, n°26, October 2021).

For the award of the grant for the publication of a first work, despite the extension of the deadline, there was only one proposal. However, this proposal met all the criteria of excellence for the award. The prize was therefore awarded to Isabel C. Gómez's book, *Cannibal Translation: Literary Reciprocity in Contemporary Latin America* (under contract with for publication in 2023). The publisher had not asked for financial support. The grant may therefore be used for the establishment of the index and for the reproduction of copyrighted documents, upon presentation of purchase orders and payment receipts and up to a limit of 1,500 dollars.

For the award for the best paper presented by a postgraduate student, the committee recommended that this award be suspended this year. The hybrid nature of the congress this year creates differences in the presentation and reception of interventions, depending on whether they take place in person in Tbilisi or online and whether the listener is present with the speaker or listening online, differences that the committee had not considered and on which it did not have time to reflect, especially since the work required by the other two prizes mobilized all the energy. The committee will have to reflect on this in view of the next Congress.

Adelaide Russo wondered if, for the prize for the best conference paper in the future, there may be a format that allows students to submit their papers for consideration. William Spurlin replied that it would definitely be appropriate for the committee to discuss this. Kathy Komar intervened to warmly thank William Spurlin and the committee for all the work done.

Sandra Bermann put the three decisions of the ECARE Committee to the vote. They were adopted by a majority of 93.5% who voted yes; 6.5% voted no.

9. Proposals for the 2025 ICLA Congress

Sandra Bermann expressed delight that the Executive Board had to choose between two excellent proposals. She congratulated the authors and thanked them for the work involved in developing these proposals. She first recalled that each of the two proposals was detailed in a long document which had been circulated to the members of the Executive Committee with all the other reports, prior to the meetings. She then outlined the

procedure of presentation and discussion of the proposals, submitted before the meeting of the Executive Council, by the authors of the two proposals: presentation of the proposal in 10 minutes by one of the authors of the proposal; questions from the Executive Council and answers from the authors of the proposal for 5 minutes; discussion of the Executive Council for about thirty minutes without the presence of the authors of the presentations or those of Indian or Korean Executive Council members.

Each of the stages of the procedure took longer than expected, but the equality of presentation times and question-and-answer times was strictly respected (12 minutes for each presentation and 15 minutes for questions and answers) The entire discussion lasted 55 minutes.

A. Indian presentation

Professor Jagdish Batra from the host University presented the Indian proposal for a Congress at Jindal Global University, Sonipat.

The questions asked by the Executive Council concern:

- The possible flexibility concerning the proposed dates. The answer is that the dates were chosen because they correspond to a period without students on campus; the other possibility would be in January.

- The presence of air conditioning in the rooms being offered as accommodation. The answer is yes.

- What is the place of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities in the university and what is the status of comparative literature there? The answer highlighted the interdisciplinarity in this university and on the previous experience of the authors of the proposal of organizing a conference on comparative literature.

- Temperatures in Sonipat in July. The answer is that the average temperatures are between 26 and 37 degrees.

- The potential interest of the authors of the proposal for the 2028 Congress. The answer is that the authors are currently focused on 2025. As far as 2028 is concerned, infrastructure development is an unknown, but the authors do not exclude the possibility of a proposal for 2028.

- The amount of registration fees and expenses for accommodation and food included in the registration. The answer is that the registration fee will be the same as paid in Georgia.

- A practical question concerns transport to get to Sonipat. The answer is that Sonipat is 90 kilometers from New Delhi. The easiest way to get there is by taxi, which isn't very expensive.

B. Presentation of South Korea

Youngmin Kim presented the Korean proposal for a congress in Seoul, at HUFU university.

The questions concerned:

- the relationship between this proposal and that of the 2010 Congress. Answer: this proposal, distinct from that of 2010, testifies to the long-term commitment of the Korean Association of Comparative Literature of the East and West of Korea; the specificity of the 2025 Congress is that it will be co-organized by the comparative literature association KEASTWEST. At HUFs, comparative literature, national literature and foreign literature are represented and the Congress proposal is part of the work of linking collaborating disciplines.

- the possible interest of South Korea for the 2028 congress. Answer: yes, why not?

After the departure of the authors of each of the proposals and of the Indian and Korean members of the Executive Council, Sandra emphasised the necessary confidentiality and the discussion began after a reminder of the selection criteria: location of the Congress (importance of rotating the location of the Congress – the 2010 Congress was held in South Korea; no Congress has ever been held in India); quality of the proposal in terms of both material and logistical (lecture theatres, rooms, accommodation, technology) and scientific (themes; inclusion of young researchers).

Summary of the discussion regarding each of the two proposals:

- Question of the season during which the Congress will take place (July): monsoon season in India; weather conditions can be complicated in both locations (reminder of the Macau typhoon).

- Question of the possibility of a Congress which would take place at another time of the year than the month of July. If the ICLA seeks to open up to the "Global South" and to diversify the venues of its Congresses beyond major Western cities, the idea of organizing the congress at another time of the year should be considered.

- Question of infrastructure and logistics in each of the two proposals. The fact of having to rely only on taxis to go from New Delhi airport to Sonapat is worrying; likewise the great distance between the Congress venue and the international airport could be a source of difficulty in the event of a serious weather event. The Korean organization seems more solid in terms of infrastructures (India underlined an uncertainty about its large auditorium), even if inevitably more expensive for the participants.

- Place given to young researchers: the Koreans were more specific in their proposals aimed specifically at doctoral students and young researchers.

- Question asked about the possibility of considering the two proposals in a sequence of 6 years? It is not possible to decide definitively on the location of the 2028 Congress because other institutions may wish to submit a proposal and because neither of the two proposals has been made for 2028 (even if, when asked, neither ruled out the possibility of organizing a Congress in 2028)

Even before proceeding to the vote, the whole of the Executive Council reiterated the excellence of the two proposals, noted the great difficulty of choosing (at the same time emphasised the need to do so) and suggested that in any case, the proposal that will not be accepted should be submitted again for the 2028 Congress.

The vote followed and the proposal for a Congress in Seoul obtained 65.5% of the votes and that of a Congress in Sonipat obtained 34.5% of the votes. The proposal for a Congress in Seoul was therefore adopted by an absolute majority of voters.

10. Proposal for a “network” affiliated with the ICLA

Sandra Bermann recalled the suggestion, made by Haun Saussy, during a previous meeting of the Executive Council, that the ICLA should develop relations with close and friendly associations which, without claiming to be explicitly involved in comparative studies, share interests and analytical practices with comparatists.

As an extension of this suggestion, Haun Saussy presented a proposal, emanating from colleagues from Australia, Iran and China who have initiated a dialogue around literature of Persia and in Farsi and have difficulty in integrating their work with the international exchange and discussion on this subject. Haun Saussy suggested that the ICLA invite them to build a network affiliated to ICLA which would be an associated group of the ICLA without being an official member organisation.

Stefan Helgesson applauded the proposal. Kitty Millet asked if these are three independent colleagues or members of national or regional associations. Lucia Boldrini replied that they are not part of a national association, but more than three individual colleagues. This is a fairly large group of colleagues, based in Europe, Australia, South East Asia, which constitutes a thematic group. Oana Fotache indicated that the group in question, which already exists, has a session in Tbilisi and has asked for subsidies to be able to set it up.

Toshiko Ellis intervened to ask what relations this committee on affiliated associations, chaired by Haun Saussy, has with the NA+ committee (National Associations +), of which she is a member but which has not been active. Sandra Bermann replied that the NA+ committee lost its chair, who had to step down mid-term for health reasons, but that it is important that the two committees work together. To do this, she suggested that Haun Saussy (Affiliated Organizations) and Toshiko Ellis (NA+) get in touch to discuss the terms of collaboration between the two committees.

Sandra Bermann put to vote the idea that the ICLA accept this group as an associate. The idea was approved by the majority of voters (90% yes and 10% no).

11. *Literary Research* and other outstanding issues

Sandra Bermann thanked Marc Maufort, who is applauded by the entire Executive Council for the work he has done to transform the ICLA journal into a genuine academic journal meeting the standards and criteria of academic excellence, particularly with the double blind evaluation of the articles submitted.

Marc Maufort announced that he has requested the collaboration of his colleague Fabrice Peyrat, who works in the French department of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The latter agreed, from 2023, to become co-editor of the journal with Marc Maufort. This will allow a good distribution of work between English and French. Regarding the 2022 volume, it is on the way to completion: the editorial work is almost complete and the publisher has promised publication by the end of 2022.

The last item on the agenda concerned the expansion of language practice within the ICLA. William Spurlin recalled the desire and commitment of the Executive Council to mobilize scholarship, publication and exchange in more languages. He pointed out that rather than a hypothetical top-down movement (from the ICLA governing bodies to the members), the expansion of language scope is a process likely to take shape in the opposite direction, from the bottom up, thanks in particular to projects such as the affiliated network around Persia and Farsi literature and thanks to committees such as the Committee on African Languages and Literatures.

At 7:30 pm Sandra thanked the participants and ended the meeting, noting that she chaired her last Executive Council meeting in Tbilisi. She was very warmly thanked and applauded by all the members.