

#Notes for ISKO C-US General Assembly at NASKO 2019

3:30pm on June 14

Drexel University

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## Introduction

Thank you to Drexel CCI for hosting! Jane Greenberg, Barbara Kwasnik, the Program Committee, et al., for helping orchestrate and set things up.

Thanks also to generous donors.

##Treasurer's report

Our situation is typical for any small, shoestring organization. Things are tight but we are in fine condition.

Report includes membership information, finances, expenditures

## Membership

55 members currently (up from 44 in 2018, down from 61 in 2017) (The change is due to membership being closely tied to annual meeting)

## Finances

We are doing fine.

\$5,000+ in bank currently, even after paying ISKO

We are grateful to Drexel for providing space—we rely on hosts to provide space, as this can be the most expensive part of holding a conference.

Expenditures: NASKO years are always higher (biennial); web hosting is annual; domain is every 3 years; various fees (wiring money to ISKO, filing, payment of membership for webmaster)

- We try to keep costs at \$2,000 or lower per year

## Misc

We pay ISKO twice a year

ISKO headquarters is moving from Germany to Canada in the next two years, which will change processes around payment.

Longtime treasurer Tom Dousa to stay on as treasurer at least one more cycle; looking to make a transition to a new treasurer.

Note: ISKO C-US is a nonprofit but is not a registered 501c3

## Discussion

Would it be worth it to raise the price of the symposium to have more services (breaks, amenities, etc.)?

- Students appreciate low price
- Many conferences are getting expensive
- We have sought sponsorship, but it's been difficult
- Is there a way to fund this informally, i.e., 'pass the hat'

Also: traditionally, we have waived conference fees for local people who provided assistance, but this was not communicated this year. This encourages attendance from e.g. local students. We should be sure to make this explicit in future years.

Develop other revenue streams? E.g., create a KO handbook (inspired by Int'l Council on Systems Engineering). This may be out of reach for an organization of our size, though.

## Elections

Treasurer: Tom Dousa (seconded, accepted)

Program Chair: Vanessa (seconded, accepted)

President: Heather Moulaison (seconded, accepted)

## Ideas for NASKO 2021

### Toward discerning a theme

Most intriguing topics this year:

- ethics, bridging to data science, algorithms

Intriguing topics mentioned last time:

- marginalized, translation (mapping domains onto each other), culture and cultural harmonization of systems

Key strengths:

- unite "hard" and "soft" approaches, methodological approaches (qualitative, historical, computational...)

Key opportunities:

- involve more practitioners (bring together the day-to-day frontliners and the theoreticians/academics)

- Digital archives as an area of practice, bridging to both theory and computational approaches

Potential host sites: Vancouver, Western Ontario

## More general ideas

### Keeping students involved

One way to get more practitioners involved (opportunity mentioned above) is to find ways to retain student interest as they advance in their careers. (They will more likely go on to be practitioners.)

In CFP, need a way for students to self-identify their work. Many students are great theorists but go on to be practitioners... and we lose track of them. How do we keep them involved? Do they not feel like they're being engaged? Are they too busy now? Are they publishing in other venues?

### Developing a canon

Do we need a canon? E.g., edited volume of key readings, and/or textbook... start out with a bibliography

- Having an agreed body of esteemed work is important- Use bibliometric work to discern key authors and works... there is a baseline already but it needs to be carried on
- Need a way to communicate the intellectual history of the field
- Drawing boundaries is a difficult prospect
- ISKO does have a committee that manages this sort of thing, e.g., the encyclopedia they put together – aren't they responsible for canon definition!?
  - ISKO keeps a literature database going back to 1988
- Example: Patrick Wilson, other important but overlooked thinkers in the C-US region
- it's important not to marginalize voices that have been marginalized. We need to be careful with 'canon' idea, how we frame things. (Example: analytic philosophy has driven many women and people of color out of the field.)

Can we use the website to do something with this?

- Reading list
- Exercise: "Everyone in the room picks their 10 favorite pieces"

Notes submitted by Tim Gorichanaz on 06/17/2019.