



# International Academy of Mediators

ON-LINE BOARD MEETING 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Interim Report on International Task Force

I attach a copy of the Questionnaire I sent to all the UK members and those elsewhere whom I knew personally. I have had some replies and more are promised. What I have so far is not enough to provide anything more than an indication of the trend in the answers but I am hoping to complete the first part of the survey within a month and then send the results to all the non-American and Canadian IAM members who have volunteered to help with a view to prepare a full report for the Board by the end of the year.

These are the trends so far:

### 1. CONFERENCES:

How many actual (as opposed to virtual) annual conferences do you think IAM should hold?

- a. One;
- b. If one a year the conference venue should:
  - a. alternate between a North American venue and a non North American venue.
- c. If one actual conference a year should there be on-line conferences as well:
  - a. for the whole worldwide membership; and (almost a 50:50 split at the moment)
  - b. for a local Chapter.

### 2. CONFERENCE FORMAT

Are you happy that the current format of the actual conferences? In particular:

- a. are they sufficiently relevant to the needs and interests of the extra-American mediation community; Universally “No”
- b. Should there be more non-North American speakers; Universally “Yes”
- c. What topics do you consider should be discussed; mixed response but generally issues which are relevant to general mediation practice, ethics and
- d. What do think about the term ‘Junto’ (see my attached historical note): not popular
- e. What other suggestions do you have? Workshop seems favourite as that is universally recognised but ‘seminars’ also popular.

### 3. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

- a. What is your view of the current requirement that members attend at least one conference every three years. Majority think that every two years provided venues alternate as under 1b above.
- b. If the actual conferences are limited to one a year what should the membership attendance requirement be. Majority think that every two years provided venues alternate as under 1b above
- c. Do you consider that any applicant for membership should attend at least one conference before applying for membership? Universally “Yes”

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Are you content with the current level of the annual membership dues;
- b. If not, what do you suggest is an appropriate level;
- c. Are you content with the current membership criteria especially as regards extra-North American and European countries where mediation is not as well developed
- d. If not, what changes should be made to make membership more inclusive bearing in mind our desire to retain our standard of excellence.

*At the moment there are too many views to condense even into a trend and I am seeking clarity.*

#### **5. IAM RESERVES**

At present IAM has a large reserve fund which has accumulated over the years from membership dues and from those conferences which made a profit. A small part is used to fund the mentorship programme and support other events, but most is held in safe bonds.

Do you consider that the funds should be used more frequently, and, if so for what purpose.

*Not everyone has replied to this but those that have generally consider that the funds should be applied towards developing IAM profile abroad and assisting 'younger' mediation communities to grow.*

#### **6. THE ROLE OF IAM**

- a. What do you consider the real role of IAM to be? Is it a true academy?
- b. What do you consider membership gives you?
- c. What do you bring to IAM?
- d. Do you consider that membership means recognition as a member of an elite body of professionals.
- e. If so, should we continue to promote that elitism?
- f. If we do how will we grow our membership beyond a select few in privileged countries?

*I would prefer not to express any trend at the moment for the same reason as under 4 above.*

#### **7. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER OBSERVATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BOARD?**

*I would prefer not to express any trend at the moment for the same reason as under 4 above.*

Perforce most of those whose views I have canvassed are busy full time professionals and I am content to give them all time to provide fully considered answers. If the Board accepts the suggestion for the replaced Hong Kong Symposium, there might be a very good opportunity to assess the value and popularity of 'localised' on-line conferences/seminars under IAM auspices.

I am happy to answer any further questions at the Board Meeting.

Michel Kallipetis

President Elect

# QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FUTURE OF IAM

## 1. CONFERENCES:

How many actual (as opposed to virtual) annual conferences do you think IAM should hold?

- a. Two as present; or
- b. One;
- c. If one a year do you think the conference venue should:
  - a. alternate between a North American venue and a non North American venue; or
  - b. be left to the Board
- d. If one actual conference a year should there be on-line conferences as well:
  - a. for the whole worldwide membership; or
  - b. for a local Chapter, if so
  - c. what local Chapters do you suggest?

## 2. CONFERENCE FORMAT

Are you happy that the current format of the actual conferences? In particular:

- a. are they sufficiently relevant to the needs and interests of the extra-American mediation community;
- b. Should there be more non-North American speakers
- c. What topics do you consider should be discussed;
- d. What do think about the term 'Junto' (see my attached historical note)
- e. What other suggestions do you have?

## 3. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

- a. What is your view of the current requirement that members attend at least one conference every three years.
- b. If the **actual** conferences are limited to one a year what should the membership attendance requirement be.
- c. Do you consider that any applicant for membership should attend at least one conference before applying for membership?

## 4. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- a. Are you content with the current level of the annual membership dues;
- b. If not, what do you suggest is an appropriate level;
- c. Are you content with the current membership criteria especially as regards extra-North American and European countries where mediation is not as well developed
- d. If not, what changes should be made to make membership more inclusive bearing in mind our desire to retain our standard of excellence.

## 5. IAM RESERVES

At present IAM has a large reserve fund which has accumulated over the years from membership dues and from those conferences which made a profit. A small part is used to fund the mentorship programme and support other events, but most is held in safe bonds. Do you consider that the funds should be used more frequently, and, if so for what purpose.

## 6. THE ROLE OF IAM

- a. What do you consider the real role of IAM to be? Is it a true academy?
- b. What do you consider membership gives you?
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- d. Do you consider that membership means recognition as a member of an elite body of professionals.
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**7. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER OBSERVATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BOARD?**

**YOUR NAME**

**YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP**