



International Chinese Sociological Association

Zoom Meeting for ICSA Transitioning, Jan 6, 2023

Purpose of the meeting:

This meeting was called by Professor Yeung to gain a better understanding of the association's history so as to help assess the pros and cons of moving the official address of the association and the transition of the ICSA bank account to Hong Kong proposed by the previous president Professor Wu Xiaogang. Former President Xiaoling Shu and Treasurer Lijun Song were invited to meet with the current President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Deputy Secretary.

Minutes:

The meeting was held on 6 January 2023 (Beijing Time) via Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

Present:

Jean Yeung, President
Ming Wen, Vice President
Xiaoling Shu, Former President (NACSA)
Lijun Song, Former Treasurer
Yuying Tong, Treasurer
Tianji Cai, Secretary
Zhuoni Zhang, Deputy Secretary

Item 1: Welcome remarks

1. Prof. Yeung thanked the members for coming to the meeting.

Action

Item 2: Discussions on the official address of ICSA

2. Prof. Shu briefed the team about the history and background of ICSA, regarding association registration in the US. She shared that NACSA was initially registered in California at its original establishment and was restored in California in 2015 after the association became defunct as a not-for-profit in California for a period of time. The official address registered for NACSA was Prof Shu's home address in 2015. Since then, the address has been used until now. She noted that it may be important to consider keeping the home base/address of the association in California for the North American constituency. She mentioned that some members (including lifetime members) expressed objections when the association's name was changed

from the North American Chinese Sociologists Association to International Chinese Sociological Association when she initiated and led the name change in 2017. These opposing members were concerned that the new ICSA couldn't sustain its original core function of providing support and networks for its North American constituency. Therefore, the ICSA should fulfill its obligation to its North American roots and foundation. She added that many correspondences are in electronic form these days so there may not be too many mails that need to be mailed to the new board. Prof Shu further expressed that she is willing to continue to help receive the mails for ICSA until ICSA elects another California-based board member.

3. All members agreed to keep the corresponding address of ICSA in California. Special thanks to Prof. Shu for continuous support with her home address used as the registered address of ICSA in the US.

Prof. Shu will forward ICSA mails to Prof. Cai Tianji, the current ICSA Secretary. *(Record keeping is Secretary's Job)*

Item 3: Discussions on the bank account of ICSA

4. Prof. Song briefed the members about the history of the current ICSA bank account at Bank of America (which was opened by her in Nashville), the PayPal account (opened for the purpose of fee collection and donation collection and connected with the ICSA website), the ICSA email address associated with the PayPal account, the Ally account (which she opened for the purpose of investment), annual financial reports, annual tax forms, the maintenance of our organization's corporate and tax-exempt status and the renaming of NACSA as ICSA in 2018 (through the expensive months-long assistance of a law firm), audit, financial safety issues, the regular update of the membership list and the ICSA mailing list, and so on. She mentioned that after substantial efforts, things are working out smoothly now. She noted that she did not know how to add owners to the bank account since the Bank of America requires that both current and new owners be physically present at the bank. Prof Shu mentioned that the current bank account is open under the association's name, not any individual's name, so changing the person in charge should be doable. Exactly how to do it needs to be further investigated.

5. Prof Tong and Wen mentioned that Prof Wu Xiaogang suggested that we move the bank account to Hong Kong on the ground that HK is a global financial hub that can easily handle different currencies and that there is a large group of members in HK who can be responsible to handle the financial matters. Prof Yeung agrees that these are good reasons.
6. Prof. Song mentioned that she had used Ally to gain interest for the Nan Lin fund, but that part of the money is not in Bank of America account yet. The new board needs to discuss how to handle that part of the money in the full board meeting.
7. Prof Song raised another issue regarding the potential challenge of filing taxes in the US and California. Although ICSA is a non-profit organization, we still need to fill out forms to file taxes. Prof Yeung also asked about whether the account needs to be audited regularly and how that was handled in the past. Prof Shu replied that the association's account was audited only once before in 2017 and she filled out the forms by herself with the help of a member's wife who is an accountant who volunteered to help. How to handle these issues if the bank account is to be moved to HK needs to be investigated before deciding whether to move the bank account.
8. The team discussed alternatives for bank account arrangements (including continuing to use the US account, replacing it with a new one in HK, or moving the bank account from the US to HK). Zhuoni clarified that she, Prof Wu Xiaogang and Prof Tong registered the ICSA in 2022 in H.K as a new association, not as an Asian branch of ICSA. She asked whether it is feasible to have a branch in North America and a branch in Asia. This is another issue that needs further investigation. Zhuoni also mentioned that next week (Jan 9th), she, Prof Wu and Prof Tong will go to a bank (HSBC) physically to open a bank account in H.K. for the ICSA registered in HK, and consult bank officers about the feasibility and challenges of moving the ICSA bank account from the US to HK.
9. As there are many unresolved issues and the transition can take some time, all members agreed to continue to use the US account, and file tax in the US and in California at least for the year 2023. All members also agreed that the transition should be legal if we were to move the bank account to HK. Special thanks to Prof. Song for her past long services and her continuing support regarding financial issues.
10. The team will report the discussions at this meeting back to the rest of the board including Prof. Xiaogang Wu, the former President of

Prof. Song will add Prof. Tong's email address for the bank account in the US.

ICSA, for further discussion about future arrangements for the bank account of ICSA at our first board meeting.

Item 4: A.O.B.

11. ICSA Membership. As of 3 January 2023, there are 53 lifetime members, 49 regular members, and 65 student members (current membership).
12. The 1st meeting of the new board:
 - Prof. Yeung will call for the 1st board meeting after the Chinese New Year holiday.
 - Division of labor will be discussed at the 1st board meeting (e.g., issues related to membership recruitment, ICSA website, WeChat group, newsletter, Yu Xie Award, recognition of the contribution of Yizhou Ye, the student helper, and so on)
13. Prof. Yeung thanked the members for joining this important meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Post- meeting updates:

1. After this meeting, Prof. Song contacted the bank and found out that she could add administrators (but not owners) to the account. She added Prof. Tong as an administrator for the bank account and the PayPal account and will work with Prof. Tong to make sure she can successfully log in.
2. On Jan 1, 2023, Prof. Song has given full access to the bank account, ICSA official Gmail account, as well as the PayPal account to Prof Tong. Prof. Song and Prof. Tong can thus both access the bank accounts and PayPal. At the moment, the checking account has a balance of \$5049.25, and the saving account has a balance of \$44319.47.
3. Prof Song clarified that she put the Nan Lin fund and part of the ICSA asset at Ally for the purpose of investment. The Yu Xie fund and the rest of the ICSA assets are in the BOA accounts.
4. Zhuoni, Xiaogang and Yuying will report back to the board after their meeting in HSBC regarding the requirements for opening a bank account for ICSA and signatory requirements for using the funds.

Minutes taken by:

Zhuoni Zhang, Deputy Secretary (signature)



Approved by:

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, President (signature)

Wei-f of YF

Date: January 11, 2023