



International Chinese Sociological Association

Zoom Meeting for ICSA First Board Meeting, Feb 2023

Minutes:

The meeting was held on 25 February 2023 (Beijing Time) via Zoom from 9:00 to 11:10 a.m.

Present:

Jean Yeung, President

Ming Wen, Vice President

Yuying Tong, Treasurer

Tianji Cai, Secretary

Zhuoni Zhang, Deputy Secretary

Weihua An, board member, Co-Chairs of Outreach Committee

Xi Song, board member, Co-Chairs of Outreach Committee

Xiaogang Wu, Ex-officio

Thung-hong Lin, board member

Yue Qian, board member

Xiulin Sun, board member

Absent:

Gao Qin, board member

Item 1: Opening remarks

1. Prof. Yeung thanked board members for coming to the meeting.
2. Members introduced themselves.
3. Prof. Yeung formally acknowledged Prof. Wu's brilliant leadership and his contributions to the Association in the past 4 years, including holding several large-scale very well-attended conferences in both the United States and in Asia and setting up a lot of infrastructure for the Association.

Item 2: Report about ICSA transition progress

4. Prof. Tong reported Association's financial status. Refer to appendix A. A
 - 1) The bank account was opened by the former treasurer, Prof. SONG Lijun, in Tennessee, on behalf of the Association.
 - 2) At the time of the meeting, the bank account balance is 85,000 US dollars (a significant increase from around 10, 000 US dollars when Prof. Wu took up the leadership 4 years ago). Among the 85,000 US dollars, around 46,000 US dollars

are in the Bank of America, and the rest are in an investment account Ally (invested in Certificate of Deposit, annual interest rate around 2.5%, the maturity date will end in August).

- 3) Prof. Tong confirmed that she now has access to all the accounts in the U. S. as an administrator. Prof. Tong clarified that the owner of the accounts is ICSA and it was Prof. SONG Lijun who registered the accounts.
 - 4) Prof. Tong updated the board on the ICSA bank account statement activities for the year ending December 31, 2022. There are in total around 85,266 US dollars.
 - 5) As ICSA community expanded internationally with a large number of members located in Asia, Prof. Wu, Prof. Tong, and Prof. Zhang registered a new association ICSA in Hong Kong in 2022. The idea was to propose Hong Kong as a business location of the Association, to accommodate the new situation while at the same time maintaining the Association's international scope. Furthermore, the physical presence of two officers are required in the U.S. and it creates difficulties as most operating team members are located in Asia now. In this sense, Hong Kong is also more convenient financially, so Prof. Wu, Prof. Tong and Prof. Zhang consulted HSBC to open a business account for the new ICSA in Hong Kong. The opening of the bank account is still in progress.
 - 6) Prof. Tong raised three questions to be discussed by members, including whether the board agrees to transfer the ICSA fund from the US to HK; whether, and if yes how long, will we have dual accounts; and Prof. SONG Lijun's role in account management as she has stepped down from the position of Treasurer but the US account was opened by her.
5. Prof. Yeung officially acknowledged Prof. SONG Lijun's efforts for serving as the Treasurer for 6 years (2017-2022) and over different presidencies and for growing and managing the account effectively. She also handles many other administrative duties that were supposed to be managed by the Secretary because of an early resignation/withdrawal of the previous secretary.
 6. Prof. Zhang briefed the board about ICSA website, newsletter, members, mailing list, and Wechat group. Refer to appendix B.
 - 1) ICSA website works well with proper links to Paypal for membership and conference registration payments, among other functions such as uploading call-for-papers and conference programs. Over the past years, YE Yizhou, a PhD student of the Urban Governance and Design Thrust at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou) has been voluntarily maintaining the website and helping with technical issues.
 - 2) ICSA newsletters were posted on the website and sent out by email. The email newsletters were managed by Prof. XU Jun at Ball State University. GUO Jiao, a

PhD student at Hong Kong University, has been helping as a volunteer to edit the newsletters.

- 3) Membership records were handled by Professor SONG Lijun over the years through Paypal, and now Prof. Tong has access to PayPal. There is an excel file that records the information of active and expired members. Yizhou helped update the mailing list based on the membership records and from time to time update the descriptive statistics such as numbers of regular, lifetime, and student members, and the distribution of members across countries.
 - 4) ICSA has been using the HKUST mailing server for the past years (and the board agreed to keep using the ust mailing server).
 - 5) There is a Wechat group for informal communications among the ICSA community and Prof. Cai is now the manager of that Wechat group.
 - 6) Prof. Zhang has talked to Yizhou and Yizhou said he is willing to continue to help (post-meeting updates: GUO Jiao is also willing to continue to help).
 - 7) So far, there are 166 active members and more than 300 expired members. Among all the active and expired members, half are in mainland China, 20% in the US, 13% in HK, and 4% in the UK. Among the active members, there are 53 lifetime members, 48 regular members, and 65 student members; and around 60% are located in Asia.
 - 8) Recent conferences were held in different locations in the U.S. and Asia. Conference participants for the past two years (mixed mode and virtual) mainly came from Asia.
7. Prof. Yeung clarified that according to Prof. SONG Lijun, the membership fee can also be paid through a bank account direct transfer, for people who can not use Paypal.
 8. Prof. An raised a concern about information safety issues of the excel file that records all active and expired members. Prof. Wu clarified that the updated information of members was handled by Prof. SONG Lijun and that Yizhou was only helping with updating the mailing list. Prof. Cai clarified that the excel file is now handled by him as the Secretary.
 9. Prof. Wu shared his views on the future development of ICSA. He hoped that ICSA would become more institutionalized and more stable, and that the ICSA community will continue to grow, especially for the young generations. Prof. Wu was pleased that now ICSA has become a valuable platform and that there are committed young members in the community.
 10. Prof. Wu clarified that the mailing list shall be managed by Secretary. Prof. Cai confirmed that he has the mailing list.
 11. Prof. Yeung suggested we put the figures of members' locations on ICSA website, together with a figure showing membership growth over the years. Prof. An suggested that we show percentages instead of numbers for the graphs to be put online. Prof. Zhang will follow up.

12. Prof. Wu highlighted the large proportions of members located in Asia, and Prof. Yeung emphasized that the information of members composition is useful for discussing moving the association location and shall be posted on the ICSA website.

Item 3: Discussions on the proposal, by former president Xiaogang Wu, to move the official address of the association from California to HK and to transfer the ICSA fund from a US bank to a bank in Hong Kong

13. Prof. Yeung invited Prof. Wu to share the rationale of the proposal.
14. Prof Wu shared his concerns that many associations became inactive and he hoped that ICSA will sustain itself. He has been thinking about how to make ICSA sustainable. He thought that successions were vital and a place like Hong Kong (or maybe New York) was more convenient for such successions. Professor Wu and other board members had email exchanges about the idea of moving the location in 2020. The former Secretary, Prof. FU Qiang, proposed Hong Kong as a new business location and Prof. Wu also thought it would be good. Given that the majority of our members were located in Asia now, it would be better to have an operation site in Asia.
15. Prof. Wu mentioned that it took a lot of work to register a new association as well as a bank account in Hong Kong, and he acknowledged Zhuoni's efforts. He believed that in the future there would be more devoted young members to join in and Hong Kong would be a convenient place for the succession.
16. Prof. Yeung said according to her communications with Prof. SONG Lijun, the former board had discussed and approved to register a new ICSA association in Hong Kong. It was clarified that the newly registered ICSA in Hong Kong was approved by the previous board and was set up following legal procedures in HK by Prof. Wu, Prof. Tong and Prof. Zhang, and that there's a constitution that is largely the same as the one for the ICSA registered in the U.S., with some modifications. However, as there was no discussion at the time by the previous board to close the ICSA in the U.S. and move the location of business of ICSA to HK (the intention at the time seems to keep two offices, one in LA and one in HK), the new board still needs to consider this issue. There remains some hesitation, at least from former President, Xiaoling Shu and former Treasure Song Lijun as well as a few other former board members, that ICSA should continue to serve its original purpose of the association, namely, to serve as a platform for scholars in North America to network. (Note from Prof Yeung: As there were no meeting minutes recorded from the previous board, much of the information relies on memories and recounts from Xiaogan, Lijun and Xiaoling). Prof Yeung shared her view that this concern was important to address but also acknowledged that ICSA can still fulfill that function even if the location of the business is moved to HK by organizing events in conjunction with the ASA annual meeting as well as conferences in other locations.
17. Prof. Sun agreed that Hong Kong is a better location to connect members globally. Considering that around 63% of the members are in Asia and that most of the operation

works have been done by members located in Hong Kong and in Asia, moving to Hong Kong can be more efficient. Yet as a community the concerns of members location in North American should also be considered.

18. Prof Tong mentioned that in 2018 the annual conference was held in Hong Kong and some members from North American were glad to join the meeting. Other members concurred. Prof Yeung noted that location of association and location of conference are separate issues.
19. Prof. Wen said that although the location of the association and the location of the conference were separate issues, the change of location could have symbolic meanings. The renaming of NACSA to ICSA had a symbolic meaning, and the development of ICSA under the leadership of Prof. Wu was a natural and positive trend. She echoed Prof. Wu's idea that the geographic concentration of manpower is very important. Hong Kong is an integrating hub that attracts more and more people from the mainland, Singapore, and even North America. Prof. Wen thought that it would be good to sort these things out given that we want to move towards institutionalization and that now we have a new board.
20. Prof. Wu highlighted that the vision of ICSA was to go global. The annual meeting in 2020 was planned in Europe (Oxford) although was later cancelled due to the pandemic.
21. Prof. An believed in Prof. Wu's judgment. He thought there might be emotional issues for members in North America, and he wondered whether it was possible to have different chapters, for example, one in North America and one in Asia.
22. Prof. Wu clarified that over the past years, ICSA conferences were held several times in North America (instead of only Asia). Prof. Wu highlighted the global visions and hoped that in the future we could have annual conferences to be hosted in other places such as Paris. The main reason of proposing Hong Kong as the location of the business was operation and continuity.
23. Prof. Yeung strongly supported the global vision for ICSA and summarized that there were emotional issue and legal issues and both are important to investigate further before the current board decides to make the proposed moves. Legally, we need to consider whether the current board needs to notify the U.S that the board has decided to move the location and assets of the association to HK, whether we need approval from the US office, and whether the association should close the ICSA in the U.S? Prof Yeung will investigate related issues more and report back to the board.
24. Prof. Lin's was concerned about paying membership fees through Paypal. Prof. Yeung clarified that bank account direct transfer was also available.
25. Prof. Song thought that the renaming of ICSA and the recent development of ICSA had positive impacts, including expanding community networks and increasing visibility. She was a bit concerned about travel funds for members who could not afford both ASA and ICSA. She wondered whether ICSA would provide a travel award.

26. Prof. Wu suggested to alternate the locations of the conference and seek support from local hosts. The annual conferences held at HKUST and Princeton were supported by the hosts. He also mentioned that travel support can be provided to selected members.
27. Prof. Qian agreed that after renaming ICSA was more inclusive and that based on the membership composition, moving to Hong Kong would be more convenient. She thought Prof. An's idea of different chapters was good, but the relationship between chapters and the division of labor might be an issue to think about. She suggested that it would be good to let our members know that wherever the location is, ICSA's vision would always be global.
28. Prof. Yeung summarized the discussions. There was overwhelming support among the board that the location change was a good thing, and Hong Kong is geographically central and it can serve the purpose of Asian and North American scholars both operationally and logistically. It seems that there is a big group of committed colleagues who can contribute to ICSA's work in Hong Kong.
29. Prof. Yeung suggested addressing the emotional issue. The membership composition is very convincing and it will be good to post it online so people would gradually know about the changing composition of the association. She proposed that we get the trends and board members' discussions documented properly first. Prof Yeung noted that moving the location of business and assets across different nations are not a light matter for any association. From a corporate governance point of view, it is not clear if this is something the board should or can decide by itself, or if it needs to involve a wider consultation or a vote from all members as was the case when the name change for the association was motioned in 2017. She suggested we proceed with care in making such decisions. Prof Yeung felt that given the strong evidence, a broader consultation would likely result in support for the proposed move.
30. Prof Yeung also took the chance to clarify that in 2015, ICSA's non-profit status became inactive so Emily Hannum, Shu Xiaoling and Lijun had to work with a law firm to reinstate the non-profit status for the ICSA. In 2017, after the members voted favorably for a name change, Lijun worked with a law firm to change the name of the association. On both occasions, there was not a new association established, just a reinstatement of the non-profit status and name change for the same association. Prof Yeung had reviewed the documents from the law firms on both occasions to confirm this. She noted this is important to be recognized and recorded.
31. Prof. Yeung invited members to discuss whether to have two chapters of ICSA (and if yes the relationship between them) or to only keep one location of business.
32. Prof. Wu said he was open, but in terms of operation, in the long run, Hong Kong would be more sustainable.
33. Prof. Sun was concerned about our community size (not large). He suggested that if we have different chapters then it would be better to have one operation team and one bank account. Hong Kong has its advantage given that for the past years, the operation team

members were mostly located in Asia and that in the near future, it is very likely the team will also be in Asia.

34. Prof. Yeung noted that if there are multiple chapters, we would also need to discuss the governance structure of the association, the distribution of financial assets, and the respective responsibilities and decision power structure of each chapter which can be complicated.
35. Prof. An agreed that resources should be centralized. He suggested ICSA sponsor receptions or social networking activities during ASA. Prof. Wu agreed that was a good idea and he clarified that there were communications about the idea but not yet practiced. Prof. Yeung also thought that was a good idea. Prof. An also asked whether ICSA can provide some travel grants for conferences in the future. Prof. Wu thought this should be possible.
36. Prof. Yeung thought that although in terms of financial resources, manpower, geographic location, and the association's growth potential, it can be a good move to change the location to Hong Kong, we need to pay attention to both the emotional consideration and the legal status of the association. She suggested we document recent changes in ICSA properly and continue to discuss the issue and we might make a decision next meeting. She will consult with more members to survey the ground a bit more in the meantime before we make a decision.

Item 4: the next conference planned at UPenn

37. Professor Yeung updated members on the preparation for the next conference in Upenn. She has been discussing with the local host, Prof Emily Hannum, and finalized on dates, venue, and other details. She invited members to discuss potential themes of the coming annual conference and conference committee (ICSA board side):

- 1) Potential themes: Opportunities and Challenges in the Post-pandemic Era; Changing social orders in post-pandemic times.

Prof Yeung invited members to volunteer on the conference committee.

- 2) Conference committee (ICSA board side): Jean Yeung, Yuying Tong, Tianji Cai, Zhuoni Zhang, and Xiaogang Wu; Song Xi is both a board member and a faculty member at Upenn, so she will also be on the conference committee.

Professor Yeung noted she would continue to work with Prof Hannum to finalize the conference details and send out a Call for Papers soon.

Item 5: discussion on the division of labor among members

38. Prof Yeung invited members to volunteer in various subcommittees:

- 1) Nan Lin Award: Xiulin Sun (chair), Yue Qian, (+ one outsider);
- 2) Yu Xie Early Career Award: Xiaogang Wu (chair), two members (to be invited by Prof. Wu)
- 3) Membership drive and mentorship: Ming Wen, Qin Gao, and Weihua An.

Item 6: Acknowledging contributions by YE Yizhou and GUO Jiao

39. The board acknowledged the valuable help from YE Yizhou, and GUO Jiao over the past years. The board agreed to acknowledge their work and efforts by putting their names and titles on ICSA website: YE Yizhou, administrative officer; and GUO Jiao, Newsletter student editor. Zhuoni will follow up. (post-meeting note: We will also acknowledge Xu Jun as Newsletter Editor. He has served in this role for the past 5 years for the association).

Item 7: A.O.B.

40. As no other matters arose, Prof. Yeung thanked the members for joining this important meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes were taken by:

Zhuoni Zhang, Deputy Secretary (signature)



Approved by:

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, President (signature)



Date: March 29, 2023

(Two attachments appended.)

Appendix A

International Chinese Sociological Association

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Prepared by Song Lijun, presented by Tong Yuying

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Revenue from Memberships	
Membership Registration	\$ 5,320.00
Paypal Service Fee	-224.62
Bank of America Transfer Fee	0.00
Total Revenue from Memberships	<u>5,095.38</u>
Revenue from Job Ads	
Four Job Ads	1,000.00
PayPal Service Fee	-20.16
Total Revenue from Job Ads	<u>979.84</u>
Revenue from Donations	
Donations (Yu Xie Early Career Award)	600.00
Total Donations	<u>600.00</u>
Other Support	
Bank Interest (Bank of America Business Investment Account 1783)	2.30
Bank Interest (Nan Lin Fund Ally)	121.77
Bank Interest (ICSA Fund Ally)	90.94
Plus	8.33
Total Other Support	<u>223.34</u>
Total Revenue and Other Support	<u>6,898.56</u>

EXPENSES

Expenses for Conference	
Award Plaques	35.75
Cash Prize for the Nan Lin Award	500.00
Total Expenses for Conference	<u>535.75</u>
Expenses for the Association	
Attorney General's Registration of Charitable Trusts/RRF-1 Form Filing Fee	25
Total Expenses for the Association	<u>25.00</u>
Total expenses	<u>560.75</u>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **6,337.81**

NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year	<u>78,678.44</u>
End of Year	<u><u>\$ 85,016.25</u></u>

ICSA First Board Meeting

Feb 2023
Zhuoni Zhang

ICSA Website and Newsletter

- link to membership fee: Paypal
- Link to conference registration: Paypal
- Call for papers
- Conference program
- YE Yizhou (student helper)

- Newsletter (email and website)
- GUO Jiao (student helper)
- Jun Xu (Ball State University)

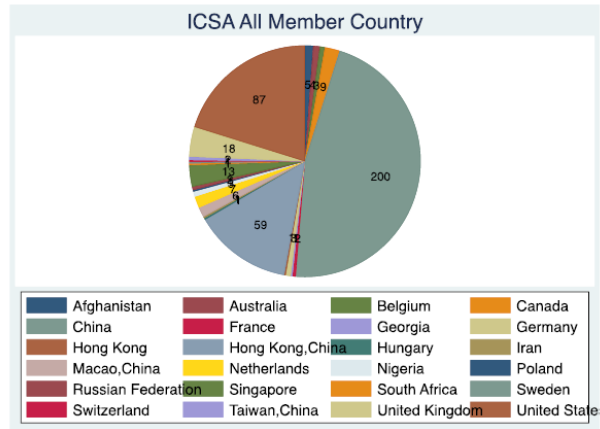
Members and Mailing List

- Membership:
 - Paypal record (SONG Lijun)
 - Excel file: active & expired (Yizhou)
- Mailing list: ust mailing list system (Yizhou)

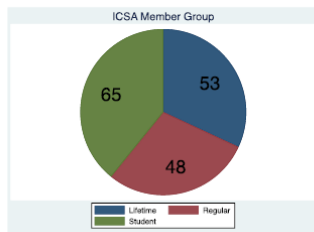
- WeChat: ICSA Community, n=121

All member

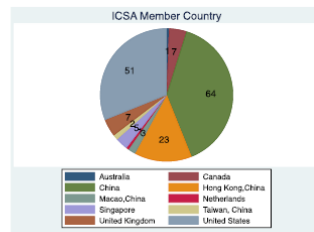
- **470** members:
 - **166** active
 - **300+** expired
- Among all members,
 - **half** in mainland China,
 - **20%** in US,
 - **13%** in HK,
 - **4%** in UK.



Active member



Group	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Lifetime	53	31.93	31.93
Regular	48	28.92	60.84
Student	65	39.16	100.00
Total	166	100.00	



Country	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Australia	1	0.61	0.61
Canada	7	4.27	4.88
China	64	39.02	43.90
Hong Kong, China	23	14.02	57.93
Macao, China	3	1.83	59.76
Netherlands	1	0.61	60.37
Singapore	5	3.05	63.41
Taiwan, China	2	1.22	64.63
United Kingdom	7	4.27	68.90
United States	51	31.10	100.00
Total	164	100.00	

Recent Conference

- 2018 Annual Conference, Princeton, USA
- 2018 Asia Conference, HKUST, HKSAR
- 2019 Annual Conference, NYU, USA
- 2020 Annual Conference, Virtual (Oxford, planned)
- 2021 Annual Conference, Mixed, NYU Shanghai, China
- 2022 Annual Conference, Virtual, HKUST (GZ), China

Annual Conference Participants by Country (Incomplete)

