

EXERCISES IN DEMOCRACY

Uncovering The Mysteries of IGeLU Elections



by Peter Klien, The Austrian Library Network and Services Ltd
peter.klien@obvsg.at
Ghent 2010

Q: What issues are voted on?

A: This year you will be asked to vote on:

- election of three members to the IGeLU Steering Committee

Q: Who has a vote?

A: One (1) representative from each paid-up member institution of IGeLU.

Q: When and where does the voting take place?

A: The voting will take place at the Annual Meeting in Ghent – during the Assembly of members on Tuesday morning (08:30-09:00) and thereafter till Wednesday 12:00. Voting box will be available at the Assembly of members and thereafter at the registration desk.

Q: Can somebody else vote on my behalf?

A: Yes certainly! As a paid-up member you can give a “proxy vote” to someone else who will attend the meeting if nobody from your institution is able to attend the meeting. A proxy vote can be given to someone from another paid-up IGeLU member institution. It is very easy to do and only takes a couple of minutes: please follow the information and fill in the form at

http://www.igelu.org/conferences/proxyvoting_instructions

You are strongly encouraged to register a proxy vote if you do not attend the meeting so that your institution can still contribute to IGeLU!

Q: Does one need a proxy vote when the formal representative of an institution will not be attending?

A: No! Any member of an institution attending the meeting can vote, without any formal statement. However, each member institution has only one vote.

Q: How often do elections to the Steering Committee take place?

A: Every year there will be vacant positions, as the members of the Steering Committee are elected for a period of 2 years only. This year there are 3 vacancies on the Steering Committee.

Q: How often do elections of the Chair take place?

A: Every 3 years — the Chair is elected for a period of 3 years. This year there will be no election of the Chair.

Q: Who can run for the Steering Committee?

A: Anyone from a paid-up IGeLU member institution who is willing to devote time and energy to the aims and activities of the association.

Q: Who can run for the Chair?

A: As in the case of Steering Committee members, we recommend some past experience in IGeLU organisational work, either in the Steering Committee or a Product Working Group.

Q: Is this the only way to contribute to the life of the Association?

A: Certainly not! A crucial part of the work is done by the Product Working Groups (PWGs)! For more information please have a look at the IGeLU website and the specific PWG menu item.

Q: Where do I find my voting slips?

A: One (1) representative from each paid-up member institution will receive an envelope at the meeting with the voting slips and she or he will be asked to sign a confirmation of receipt of the voting slips.

Q: How do I fill out my voting slips correctly?

A: At the top of each slip you will find the necessary information about the specific vote. For the Chair and Steering Committee elections, the candidates will present themselves during the conference (Tuesday morning). Please write down the name of your selected candidate(s) on the appropriate voting slip. Please write each name once only or your vote will not be counted!

Q: How many ballots will take place and where do I put the voting slips?

A: There will be one official ballot. This voting (for SC members) will take place during the Assembly of members on Tuesday morning (08:30-09:00) and thereafter till Wednesday 12:00. Voting box will be available at the Assembly of members and thereafter at the registration desk.

Q: Do the Product Working Groups vote as well?

A: Some of them have formal voting procedures (for the election of Coordinators and the working bodies), but most of the decisions are taken during the special sessions in a more informal way.