SELECTING THE NEXT PRESIDENT

The second (and final) four-year term of the current president of the Academy ends in February of 2008, and the process of choosing his successor is now underway. According to amendments recently approved by the Board of Trustees (see complete text of amendments on page 8), the steps are as follows:

1. Second half of 2006: a search committee is formed to identify potential candidates.
2. December 2006: on the basis of search committee recommendations, the Board of Trustees selects two or more nominees.
3. January 2007: Fellows and Associate Fellows, by secret electronic ballot through the Academy website, vote on the nominees. The votes are then tabulated, and certified by the secretary-general, who announces the results.
4. February 2007: The nominee receiving the most votes begins a one-year term as president-elect, overlapping with the outgoing president. The other nominees are automatically elected to four-year terms as members of the Board of Trustees.
5. February 2008. The president-elect begins his/her first four-year term as president of the Academy.

If you would like to be considered as a nominee, or wish to recommend one or more Fellows of the Academy whom you believe to be outstandingly qualified, please send your suggestions to any of the following:

Ana Maria Sandi
anamaria_sandi@yahoo.com
Arthur Cordell
cordell.Arthur@ic.gc.ca
José Furtado
jose.furtado@imperial.ac.uk
Walt Anderson
waltt@well.com

Returning to an issue that was close to the hearts of some of the Academy’s founders – including Albert Einstein, Robert Oppenheimer, Joseph Rotblat and Bertrand Russell – the Board of Trustees has approved a proposal to undertake initiatives to promote total nuclear disarmament.

This decision was the outcome of three earlier meetings: an international symposium in New Delhi in November 2004, a roundtable with former US Defense Secretary Robert McNamara in September 2005, and a meeting with former US Defense Secretary Robert McNamara in San Francisco in February 2006. The Academy has also been represented at numerous other meetings where the issue of nuclear disarmament has been discussed.

Since its founding in 1960, the Academy has had numerous GAs, mostly in Europe and North America, traditionally two in each decade. In recent years – with the growth in our membership (the limit of 500 members worldwide was raised to 1,000 by amendment of the By-Laws in 2000)
2005, and a NATO-sponsored workshop prior to the Zagreb General Assembly in November 2005. Out of these discussions emerged a conviction that there is an urgent need for progress toward nuclear disarmament and that realistic opportunities for effective action do exist. At the conclusion of the Zagreb GA, the Board voted to create a Standing Committee on Peace and Development Studies (SCPD), chaired by Garry Jacobs, to develop programs on this and related issues.

As its first formal activity, SCPD convened a two-day meeting in New York (October 11-12) with the leadership of the Global Security Institute and its Middle Powers Initiative program, to explore the potential for cooperative effort. MPI is a pioneering effort that brings together top diplomats of 25 countries with the heads of eight leading international nongovernmental organizations. SCPD is also acting as a channel for private contributions to GSI in support of these efforts.

The Academy is now in the process of examining options for both analysis and advocacy. Some of the possibilities: developing a comprehensive road map of steps toward total nuclear disarmament, sending high-level delegations to national governments, seeking government sponsorship for an international conference, and undertaking research into the psychology of reliance on nuclear weapons.

As a first step, the program needs to develop a network of Fellows with experience and/or expertise in fields related to these issues. Those interested are invited to contact Garry Jacobs at gj@icpd.org. Membership comments on any aspect of this program are welcome.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEW UN SECRETARY GENERAL:
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow of the World Academy:

For some time now, we have been looking for ways to draw upon the enormous talents of the full Academy. Such an opportunity is now at hand. The new United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon of Korea, will take office on January 1, 2007. A critical issue, until now not raised in the official reforms of the United Nations, is the shape and content of the UN’s intellectual agenda: What are the policy themes the United Nations should concentrate on in the future, and how should they be framed and articulated? We believe this to be a matter of great importance, and we solicit your advice in the questionnaire on page 3.

This work is being conducted in partnership with the UN Intellectual History Project (UNIHP), which is producing outstanding analyses about how the UN has promoted ideas of importance to humanity. The Project’s leaders enjoy good access to senior UN officials. In the paragraphs below we outline the work of the UNIHP; we urge you to become familiar with it.

We will collect your responses by the end of this year, and this advice will be added to the findings of the UNIHP in a joint collaboration (led by Prof. Louis Emmerij and Board Member Robert Berg), the result of which will be a small paper circulated in the early months of next year to the new Secretary-General, UN delegations, other interested scholars, and, of course, to the full membership of the Academy. We will have a follow-up report on this initiative as well. Let me emphasize that the earlier we have your response, the more fully we can consider it.

Background: The United Nations Intellectual History Project is an independent operation located in the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and directed by Prof. Emmerij, Prof. Sir Richard Jolly, and Prof. Thomas G. Weiss. This is not an institutional history but an attempt to trace the history of ideas launched by the United Nations over the last 60 years. Most of the UN system, including UNESCO, ILO, FAO, WHO, etc., is covered.

The Project has two components: First, a series of 15 books, published by Indiana University Press, identifying the history of ideas by subject area (international trade and finance, human security, gender, etc). Second, oral history. The Project has extensively interviewed 76 personalities who have played a role in stimulating or promoting (and sometimes suppressing) development ideas within the UN. Extracts from these interviews have been published in one of the books, UN Voices: The Struggle for Development and Social Justice. The complete transcripts of the interviews will be available on CD-ROM in early 2007.

For further information about UNIHP, please see its web site at www.unhistory.org. To read some of the first conclusions the Project has reached, download a summary of findings from its publication page, The Power of UN Ideas: Lessons from the First 60 Years.
UNIHP has now reached the dissemination phase. It wants to reach out to a wider informed audience in order to get feedback and stimulate a dialogue about the UN’s role in conducting or stimulating policy research. Your inputs will be taken into account in the final publication of the Project.

I am grateful for your collaboration in this exercise, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Walt
Walter Truett Anderson
President, WAAS

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please provide answers to the following four questions. Succinctness would be appreciated, although you may attach any additional information that you feel should also be considered. (Please note that for purposes of this exercise, we are not considering the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank and IMF) or the World Trade Organization, but we are examining the UN Secretariat and the UN system, including the specialized agencies.) The four questions are:

1. What have you learned about creating an intellectual agenda in your own field? In light of this, what methods and procedures do you believe most applicable to the United Nations as it constructs future intellectual agendas?
2. To the best of your knowledge, what do you consider the most important issues on the UN’s intellectual agenda at the moment? For the future, do you think these issues should be continued – and if so, with any changes of focus or scope?
3. What three policy issues not on the United Nations’ agenda should be added? And why is this?
4. In what ways can the United Nations most effectively link with and draw upon various research communities as it formulates intellectual agendas and pursues its program of work?

Please include in the following demographic information in your response:

Name, Gender, Country of residence, Country of citizenship, Country of origin, Main professional fields
Do you currently consider yourself as mainly affiliated with an NGO, Academia, Private Sector, Government, Other?
Email Address

We would like the opportunity to selectively quote individual suggestions. Please indicate if you do not wish to be quoted by name.

Kindly transmit your answers by email if possible and for receipt before December 31, 2006, to: UN agenda@worldacademy.org, or by mail to: Mr. Keith Vargo, WAAS Center, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA.
and the increasing availability of international travel – GAs have grown larger, more complex, and more expensive.

The policy now developing is to hold GAs more frequently, to integrate their themes and presentations into ongoing Academy projects, and also to use them to build networks serving the needs of the regions in which they are held.

Although no final decisions have yet been made, under consideration is a proposal to focus on the evolutionary transition into what Nobel laureate Paul Crutzen calls the “Anthropocene Epoch,” the age in which we come to recognize “the central role of mankind in geology and ecology.” Climate change is clearly a major sign of this transition, but there are many others, and it is a theme which calls for the sort of broad-based interdisciplinary engagement that General Assemblies afford. It is also one which calls for special attention to the meaning of this transition to developing regions such as South Asia and Africa. Please send comments or suggestions to Walt Anderson at waltt@well.com.

(Continued from page 1)

Victoria Hale, founder of the nonprofit pharmaceutical company Institute for OneWorld Health (iOWH), was awarded the 2005 Biopolicy Award, presented jointly by the Academy’s Biofocus Foundation, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. The Biopolicy Award recognizes outstanding efforts to support global development through the creation and transfer of scientific knowledge in biology.

The award was presented to Dr. Hale in San Francisco in July of this year by Carl-Göran Hedén, Biofocus founder and WAAS president emeritus.

Two months later, iOWH received more good news – approval of its first drug, paromomycin, a low-cost antibiotic cure for visceral leishmaniasis, which affects some 1.5 million people worldwide, primarily in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sudan.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Hale was named a MacArthur Fellow for 2006. In announcing that honor, the MacArthur Foundation stated: “By negotiating regulatory processes that have long stymied drug delivery to those most in need, Dr. Hale is scaling what many have viewed as an indomitable wall and working to relieve human suffering on a massive, global scale.”

At the end of October, Dr. Hale announced that iOWH had been awarded a $46 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a novel treatment for diarrhea, which kills 2 million children a year in the developing world.

Her organization is also working on treatments for Malaria and Chagas disease.

BOOK NEWS

Andrew Lam is one of five winners of the 2006 PEN/Beyond Margins Award, for his essay collection Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora. The Beyond Margins Award, presented through the PEN Open Book program, celebrates outstanding book-length works by authors of color published in the United States during the previous year. PEN Open Book Program encourages racial and ethnic diversity within the literary and publishing communities. The program works to increase the literature by, for, and about African, Arab, Asian, Caribbean, Latin, and Native Americans, and to establish access for these groups to the publishing industry. www.heydaybooks.com.
M I C H A E L  J .  M A H O N E Y  /  1 9 4 6 - 2 0 0 6

Michael J. Mahoney, 60, died unexpectedly in his home in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, on May 31, 2006.

Michael was a prolific author and influential researcher in the field of Psychology. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Arizona State University and his PhD in Psychology from Stanford University.

A professor of counseling at Salve Regina University, he was active in many professional organizations. He served as the Executive Director of the Society for Constructivism in Human Sciences; and was a member of the American Association U.S. Olympic Committee (Sport Psychology Registry), American Psychological Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow), American Psychological Society (Charter Member and Fellow), Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry, Association for Humanistic Psychology, Institute of Noetic Science, North American Society for Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, Psychologists for Social Responsibility, Società Italiana di Terapia Comportamentale e Cognitiva, Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration, and the World Academy of Art and Science (Fellow).

Michael was also a Current National Champion Olympic Weight Lifter.

I V O  S L A U S  H O N O R E D  A T  B O A R D  M E E T I N G

At this year’s meeting of the WAAS Board of Trustees, held at the Vallombrosa Retreat Center in California, Prof. Ivo Slaus of Croatia was honored for his outstanding contributions to the Academy as chair of the organizing committee for the 2005 General Assembly and founder of the South Eastern Europe Division (SEED). The citation also identified him as embodying “The Spirit of Zagreb” and for “Leadership in Thought which Leads to Action.”

G E T T I N G  A C Q U A I N T E D  W I T H  T H E  N E W  W E B S I T E

Although it has been a long time coming, the new WAAS website is finally up and running. The structure of the new site allows for improved functionality for managing administrative business and communications, as well as flexibility to accommodate future needs. We are still learning to use some of the new functions, and we continue to request tweaks from the developers as we come across changes that need to be made. Since user expectations and available technologies are rapidly evolving, the most useful websites are perpetually “under construction.” In that spirit, please feel free to make suggestions you think will help improve the site’s usefulness to you and to the purposes of the Academy. Here are some of the new functions:

• Fellows can update their own contact information
• a directory of Fellows is generated on-demand, with the most up-to-date information
• forums are available for discussion of topics WAAS is currently focusing on, as well as for pre-meeting planning, voting, and other administrative work
• Fellows have the ability to manage forum memberships and to select how they will receive the Newsletter (via post or email)
• free email accounts are available upon request

In order to get the most out of the site, you must first update your profile, including contact information with a valid email address. To enter your account for the first time, your username will be the first letter of your given name plus your family name. For example, Keith Vargo would be kvargo. The initial password is WAAS123, and must be changed after you log in for the first time. If you have questions, please send them to kvargo@worldacademy.org. We look forward to working with you online.
RECENTLY ELECTED FELLOWS

Philipp Aerni  Geographer and economist. Senior research fellow, Center for Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zurich; senior research fellow, World Trade Institute, Bern.

Cheryl Akner-Kohler  Professor of industrial design, Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Stockholm. Sculptor and designer. Researcher in art, design, physics, and mathematics.

Naomar Almeida-Filho  Rector, Federal University of Bahia (Brazil); professor of epidemiology, Institute of Collective Health. Member, Pan-American Organization of Health (OPAS).


El Anatsui  Professor of sculpture, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Works exhibited in various institutions including British Museum, London; and Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo.


Deniz Ulke Aribogan  Professor of International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University; vice-president, TIKAD (Turkish Business Women’s Association); newspaper columnist, AKSAM Istanbul.


Rachid Koraichi  Algeria-born (residence Paris) artist in multiple media including ceramics, textiles, installation, metallurgy, paint and printmaking work influenced by Sufi mysticism.

Ratko Kuzmanovic  Professor of constitutional law and political systems, University of Banja Luka. President, Academy of Sciences and Arts, Republica Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina).


Ruth Oniang’o  Professor of food science and nutrition, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi. Member of Parliament, Kenya.
RECENTLY ELECTED FELLOWS

Nebojša Nešković  Deputy director, Laboratory of Physics, Vinča Institute of Nuclear Science, Belgrade. Director, TESLA Scientific Center.

Zoltan Papp  Professor and director of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Semmelweis University Medical School, Budapest.


Momir Polenakovic  Professor of internal medicine, University of Sts. Ciril and Methodius, Skopje. Vice president, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Davorin Rudolf  Scholar of international law of the sea. President, Scientific Council for Peace and Human Rights, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Nada Pop-Jordanova  Professor of pediatrics, University of Skopje, Macedonia. Head of Department for Metabolic Diseases and Psychophysiology, Pediatric Clinic.

Ola Saugstad  Professor in pediatrics, University of Oslo. Director, Department of Pediatric Research, Rikshospitalet University Hospital.

Cyriaque Sendashonga  Regional Coordinator for Central Africa, Center for International Forestry Research, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Tome Serafimovski  Sculptor in bronze, marble, onyx and wood. Internationally exhibited. Member, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.


Judith Sutz  Professor and academic coordinator, Scientific Research Council, University de la Republica, Uruguay.

Ernst Thomke  MD, inventor, entrepreneur and business executive. Developer of the “Swatch” concept in watch design. Chair and CEO of several corporations.

Felix Unger  Director, University Clinic for Heart Surgery, Paracelsus University, Salzburg. Founder and first president (1990), European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Radovan Vukadinović  Professor and director of graduate program, international political relations, University of Zagreb. Chair, Croatian Association for International Studies, Croatian Atlantic Council.

BOOK NEWS

The Textbook of Perinatal Medicine, second edition, edited by Asim Kurjak and Frank A. Chervenak, has been published by Informa Healthcare. Considered the most authoritative work on perinatal medicine currently available, the book is based on the view that (a) pregnancy, childbirth and being a newborn are not diseases but special high-risk periods of human life, and (b) that the past decade has brought enormous advances in perinatal medicine, yet perinatal disease and mortality still remain very high worldwide. Chapters were written by an international team of authors and cover such key areas as genetics, perinatal morphology, fetal monitoring, multiple pregnancy and delivery, neonatology, and ethical and legal dimensions. www.tandf.co.uk/medicine.

In 2006 and 2007 the Parliament of Finland’s Committee for the Future, celebrating the legislature’s 100th anniversary, has produced an international collection of articles exploring different facets of the future of democracy. Titled Democracy and Futures and edited by Mikka Mannermaa, Jim Dator and Paula Tiilonen, the volume contains 17 articles, including several by Fellows of the Academy: Walter Truett Anderson, Clement Bezold, Jim Dator, Sohail Inayatullah, Eleonora Masini, and Ruben Nelson. www.parliament.fi/TuV

James Gardner’s new book The Intelligent Universe, scheduled for publication in February 2007, offers a dramatic alternative to prevailing scientific speculations about the ultimate destiny of the universe – either a “Big Crunch” in which the universe contracts into an infinitely small, dense and hot point; or a “Big Freeze” in which it expands until the stars wither and all matter and energy is cooled to absolute zero. Gardner proposes that the universe might end in life – not life as we know it but life that has acquired the capacity to shape the fate of the cosmos as a whole. Gardner’s startling vision, which has won outspoken praise from leading scientists including Sir Martin Rees, Britain’s Astronomer Royal, and Templeton Prize winner Paul Davies, is that life and intelligence are at the very heart of the elegant machinery of the universe. www.newpagebooks.com.
Prior to July 2006, By-laws Section VIII read as follows:

Section VIII: Election of the President

1. The President shall be elected for a term of four years. No Fellow shall serve more than two consecutive terms as President.
2. Eighteen months before the end of an incumbent President's first four-year term, he or she may indicate his/her willingness to be re-elected to a second term, and an election will be held in executive session, with the Secretary-general presiding, at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees. An Incumbent President may be re-elected by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. Absentee votes from members of the Board of Trustees may be cast by telephone, e-mail or other means approved by the Secretary-general, in which case they will be considered present for purposes of determining the total number voting.
3. Eighteen months before the end of an incumbent President's second four-year term, or at any time that the Presidency becomes vacant or will become vacant because of resignation, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Search Committee of no fewer than four Fellows to canvass names and evaluate candidates for President. The incumbent President and Secretary-general shall be ex officio members of the Search Committee.
4. The Search Committee shall notify all Fellows and invite recommendations. At the same time, the Search Committee shall conduct its own search for suitable candidates.
5. No later than 12 months before the expiration of the term of the incumbent President, the Search Committee shall submit its report to the Board of Trustees. The report shall include one or more candidates, whom the Search Committee believes are competent for the position and willing to serve. The Search Committee may, if it wishes, rank the candidates.
6. The Board of Trustees shall elect the new President in executive session by a majority vote of those present and voting. For this purpose, a quorum shall consist of not less than eight members of the Board of Trustees. Absentee votes from members of the Board may be cast by telephone, e-mail or other means approved by the Secretary-general, in which case they will be considered present for purposes of determining the total number voting.
7. The elected nominee becomes President-elect upon election and shall hold that office for one year, until the Presidency becomes vacant, at which time he or she automatically becomes the President and commences his/her first four-year term. In the event that the Presidency is vacant at the time of election, or becomes vacant before completion of the one-year period, the President-elect automatically becomes President and commences his/her first four-year term.
8. Other Fellows who may have been nominated by the Search Committee shall become Trustees, for four-year terms commencing at the time of the Presidential election, and may be re-elected to a second term.
9. A former President automatically becomes President Emeritus, and may hold that office for life.

By unanimous vote of all members of the Board of Trustees present and voting on July 22, 2006, Paragraphs 5, 6, and 8 are amended to read as follows:

5. No later than 12 months before the expiration of the term of the incumbent President, the Search Committee shall submit its report to the Board of Trustees. The report shall propose two or more candidates, whom the Search Committee believes are competent for the position and willing to serve. On the basis of this report, the Board of Trustees shall nominate two or more candidates for the office of President in executive session by a majority vote of those present and voting. For this purpose, a quorum shall consist of not less than eight members of the Board of Trustees. Absentee votes from members of the Board may be cast by telephone, e-mail or other means approved by the Secretary-general, in which case they will be considered present for purposes of determining the total number voting.
6. The Secretary-general shall announce the names of the nominees to the Academy membership and set a date by which votes must be received. Nominees shall be invited to submit a brief message to the membership stating their qualifications and visions for the future of the Academy. Fellows and Associate Fellows of the Academy shall then elect the new President by secret electronic ballot through the Academy’s web site. The Secretary-general shall supervise tabulation of the votes, certify the outcome, and announce the result to the membership.
8. Other nominees shall become Trustees, for four-year terms commencing at the time of the Presidential election, and may be re-elected to a second term.

A new paragraph 10 is added to Section VIII, as follows:

10. At the end of his/her first four-year term, the President may be elected to a second four-year term by the Board of Trustees, meeting in executive session, by a majority vote of those present and voting. Absentee votes from members of the Board may be cast by telephone, e-mail or other means approved by the Secretary-general, in which case they will be considered present for purposes of determining the total number voting.