

Board meeting

MARCH 2025

Meeting information

Date: 12 March 2025
Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM in London / 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM in New York
Location: Please join via Zoom link in the calendar invitation
Meeting type: Regular
Notice given: November 13, 2023
Next meeting: 14 May 2025

Advance reading

Materials for all Board meetings are kept in the relevant folder [here](#). (Always refer to the PDF).

Context and goals for the meeting	[ITEM A]
Meeting minutes for approval	[ITEM B]
Board register	[ITEM C]
Board business and meeting schedule	[ITEM D]
Dryad health-check	[ITEM E]
Strategic planning update	[ITEM F]
FY26 Board election preparations	[ITEM G]
Committee work	[ITEM H]

Discussion agenda

Before the meeting, please review ITEM A and D for background information. Remaining items are linked to Agenda Items.

All times GMT

16:00 Welcome, Attendance, Approval of minutes - Reading/Decision [ITEM B, C, D]

16:05 Dryad Health Check - Reading; update from JG. [ITEM E]

16:15 Finance Update - Reading + Discussion [ITEM E]

- a) update from BD on behalf of Finance

16:30 Strategic Planning- Discussion, Breakout Rooms, Decision [ITEM F]

- a) Read the Value Proposition: Dryad's USP is as a service provider not a membership organisation.
- b) *DECISION*: Do we support a transition from being a membership organisation to a fee-for-service provider
 - i) what are the costs/benefits of removing the word membership
 - ii) How do we minimise impact and maximise benefit of this - who are our competitors, who might be upset, what do we need to do better and stop doing.

16:50 Elections Planning - Discussion (Breakouts) and Decision [ITEM G]

- a) Vice Chair Review
- b) Assume representation, Geography and Stakeholder remit
- c) Review Skills Audit and Consider Value Proposition
 - i) what skills are we missing, or need to accentuate to support strategic goals.
 - ii) What are the qualities of the board we need in order to provide the constructive challenge/support for Executive Director

17:10 Task Forces, Advisory Groups Guidance - Breakout Rooms [ITEM H]

- a) SATF feedback suggests frustration - they have not been asked precise enough questions to feedback and deliver 'strategic' insight. MMAG has had a strong focus, but that is wrapping up.
 - i) In order to justify continued 'existence', what is a focused, strategically aligned question for each of the Task Force/Advisory Groups.
 - ii) Which of these groups could be subsumed as a 'sub-committee' of the board (e.g. is there an argument for SATF, for example, above and beyond the board).

17:25 AOB

Minutes

Approved: [Month, DD, YYYY]

Published: [Month, DD, YYYY; Time AM/PM (Eastern Time US/Canada)]

Secretary Signature:

Attendance

Board of Directors

Please sign in to the attendance tab in [this spreadsheet](#)

Board members (late or early departure) *[BOD members please put your name here if you missed/will miss a portion of the meeting]:*

- Devika late
- Jenny leaving after 30

Board Chair/Secretary Present: Yes

Quorum (7): Yes

Guests (not Board members)

Please sign in (first name, last name, title, affiliation):

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Notes

Welcome, Attendance, Approval of minutes - Reading/Decision **[ITEM B, C, D]**

Notes

Decisions:

Dryad Health Check - Reading; update from JG.

[ITEM E]

Notes:

-Platform is in good standing. External relations. Curation. Finance.

BH: How are positions being advertised?

Finance Update - Reading + Discussion

[ITEM E]

Notes: BD update.

-Finance is in yellow.

-Clean audit. No concerns

-Development: JG and JT. Looking at 3KPIs. Looking at key indicators to inform Finco. Membership of committee. Question of expanding committee. Adding in a non board member with a strong finance skill set.

-Implications for Dryad, research and the US political environment. NIH funding appears to remain in place for now.

-Introduction of new fees. Go live this month.

-Learning from value proposition. Gaining insight into how Dryad is perceived by the community.

-Cashflow: Remains transparent. Forecast is dynamic.

Decisions:

Strategic Planning- Discussion, Breakout Rooms, Decision

[ITEM F]

Shifting from membership to service. On the edge of having a product market fit. Fee for service model/organization.

Breakout rooms discussions: Uniform agreement to the service model. Essentially shifting the vocabulary. Community driven aspect should still be a focus....still differentiates Dryad from other platforms. Open source is still very attractive. Membership does not equal community. Diverse pathways to meet the service and membership needs.

Elections Planning - Discussion and Decision

[ITEM G]

DRYAD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 2025

Notes: IM: Election. Working attendance policy for board members. Policy of seats...examination of candidate's skills. Upcoming elections: what are the priorities that we want for in terms of skills for members. Composition of board should reflect diverse voices, skills,

Breakout rooms discussions:

- Skills: Finance, Development, Early-career perspectives (vetting is important).
- Committees include not just board members but others from the outside.
- Lots of competencies to consider. Important for the Dryad board members to have good strategic competencies. Data literate individual/s. Marketing. Diversity (geographic, ethnic and skills) background.

Task Forces, Advisory Groups Guidance - Breakout Rooms

[ITEM H]

Notes: New committee structure. Committees, task forces and advisory groups. Bringing external associates to bring in new voices.

- Breakout rooms discussions:
- Do we have a product strategy group?
- Large Data Task Force.....part of product strategy and finance.
- Fundraising advisory group could profit from opening it up a bit to get more voices and opportunities.
- How do we best take advantage of the uncertainty that is happening in the US?
- Assess what is actually being curated?
- Need to ensure that work of each task force is still being accomplished.

Meeting Adjournment: 1:35 pm EST