

Dryad Board May 2023

Meeting minutes

Approved: June 1, 2023

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Secretary signature:



Meeting information

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023
Time: 2:00 - 3:30 PM UK / 9:00 - 10:30 AM Eastern Time US/Canada
Location: Zoom link
Meeting type: Regular
Notice given: January 4, 2023
Next meeting: August 11, 2023

Attending

Board of Directors

Board members present: Fiona Murphy (left at 3:05pm), Ian Mulvany, Iratxe Puebla, Johan Nilsson, Judy Ruttenberg, Scott Edmunds, Jason Williams, Barbara Ebert (joined at 20 past)

Board members absent: Kristi Holmes, Günter Waibel, Caroline Sutton, Brooks Hanson, Devika Madali, Andrew Beckerman

Board members (late or early departure): Barbara Ebert joined late, Fiona Murphy left early

Board Chair/Secretary Present: Yes

Quorum (7): Yes

Guests

Jennifer Gibson, Executive Director, Dryad

Mark Kurtz, Head of Business Operations, Dryad

Jon Treadway, Great North Wood Consulting

Agenda

All times GMT+1

2:05 Questions on the Advance reading

2:15 Strategic planning: Retreat outcomes

2:40 FY24 Election outlook

2:45 Executive session

- Executive Director goals and review, October 2021 - April 2023
- Board assessment
- Board short-term priorities: Board assessment, Election, Secretary, By-laws

3:15 Questions for the Executive Director

3:25 AOB

Minutes

Questions on Advance reading

Notes: We discussed the risk registry and KPIs. The risk registry is down for most items.

The April report will soon be ready to be circulated to the Board. We discussed we would like to see an increase in the number of submissions moving into peer review, and would also like to see a reduction in the cost per dataset.

Finances are in alignment to the budget. Income from publishers is below budget but the expectation is that this will balance by the end of the financial year due to the updated approach to handling membership. We acknowledged there are unknowns in the coming year that will introduce complexity into budgeting.

A question was raised about any stipulated KPI for submission number, and that this may be useful to allow us to review against expectations, outreach the team may carry out etc. We are now ready to start setting targets for submissions and will also report submissions per member institutions and journals. Submission levels are also one of the metrics in the context of member engagement evaluation.

There was a suggestion for a visualisation of finance that shows where income streams come from and establish an expectation as to what a suitable target is for example for the

proportion of revenue that comes from grants. The focus for now remains on completing items necessary to be able to get audited, and will consider that additional reporting as requirements to be audited are completed.

Strategic planning: Retreat outcomes

Notes: Jon Treadway presented on the work underway toward the strategic plan since the retreat at the end of April.

An initial draft for the strategic plan has been started, including what the goals will be for each of the priority areas. The aim is that ExCo will review at their meeting at the end of May to then develop the plan further to have it ready to present at the next Board meeting in August.

The plan will outline areas of focus for Dryad, including items such as creating value for the community (unique value proposition via integrations + curation + scalability), opportunity to serve more members, and in turn attract more dataset submissions. There is also opportunity to increase in areas of strength (US institutions, journals) as well as develop relationships, e.g. via disciplinary partnerships.

The strategic plan will include a shortlist of priority areas and 2-3 goals for each of those. Some of the areas that arose in the discussions at the retreat:

- Increasing reach and impact - we'd like to see an increase in the number of members and datasets curated and hosted
- Strengthen organisation - ensure uninterrupted/robust service delivery
- Deepen connections with the community, including connections with other infrastructure, PIDs etc. This links to the discussion about updates to the Board and committee structure and formalisation of channels to bring in user voices and community perspectives
- Develop value proposition - further develop curation tools and models
- Promote data reuse - need to establish a clear baseline and understanding of current data reuse levels, what the drivers and potential incentives are. In the context of data reuse, we discussed whether this may be an area where the Scientific Advisory board could be more involved or even lead, as well as the possibility for Dryad to provide small fellowships that would focus on researching reuse of Dryad datasets.

FY24 Election outlook

Notes: We discussed the need to fill in several positions in the Board, as a couple of Board members are stepping down and several others are coming to the end of their terms.

A question was raised about the possibility of having an open call for nominations for Board members. The focus in recent years has been on filling gaps of specific expertise or perspectives within the Board, it was noted that a public call for nominations can also specify what specific areas of expertise are sought in a particular election cycle. It was also noted that the revision of the bylaws which is underway has included more language about

representation of members at Board level, so it would be relevant to consider how to ensure that candidates from among membership are included in the nomination list.

Executive session

Notes: We are completing an assessment exercise for the Board, to evaluate how we operate as a Board and any areas of improvement. We will review the responses from the survey to inform recommendations for potential areas to work on.

Iratxe is stepping down from the Board on May 31, we will need to elect a new Secretary until the next Board election later in the year. We will email the group for an interim Secretary, aiming to have them in place within a couple of weeks.

We noted that a number of Board members have their term coming up, we welcome suggestions on board representation and needs we should address when appointing new Board members.

The Board discussed the Executive Director's 18-month review, the Executive Director has successfully completed goals and merits the original contractual salary increase.

A new policy will be created to consider employee moving expenses.

A regular cycle and framework for the review of the Executive Director and staff compensation will be instituted.

AOB

Notes: No other items raised.

Meeting Adjournment: 15:30 UK / 10:30 Eastern Time US/Canada

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The following motion was circulated to the Board for a vote via email:

MOTION: That Director Fiona Murphy be selected as Secretary and member of the Executive Committee for the Dryad Board of Directors.

Introduced: Jason

Result: PASSED