

Dryad Board February 2023

Meeting minutes

Approved: April 5, 2023

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Secretary signature:



Meeting information

Date: Monday, February 13, 2023
Time: 3:00 - 4:30 PM UK / 10:00 - 11:30 AM Eastern Time US/Canada
Location: Zoom
Meeting type: Regular
Notice given: January 4, 2023
Next meeting: May 11, 2023

Attending

Board of Directors

Board members present: Jason Williams, Ian Mulvany, Fiona Murphy, Iratxe Puebla, Judy Ruttenberg, Brooks Hanson, Devika Madali, Barbara Ebert, Andrew Beckerman, Günter Weibel, Caroline Sutton

Board members absent: Kristi Holmes, Johan Nilsson, Scott Edmunds

Board members (late or early departure): Brooks Hanson joined late

Board Chair/Secretary Present: Yes

Quorum (7): Yes

Guests

Jennifer Gibson, Executive Director, Dryad

Mark Kurtz, Head of Business Operations, Dryad

John Chodacki, Director, CDL

Donna Okubo, Partnership Advisor, Dryad

Sarah Lippincott, Head of Community Engagement, Dryad

Ryan Scherle, Software Developer, Dryad

Jessica Herzog, Head of Publishing Services, Dryad

Agenda

All times GMT+1

3:05 Approval of minutes, October BOD meeting **[Decision]**

Committee and task force updates

3:15 Questions on the Advance reading

3:30 Dryad-CDL Task Force update: Affirmations **[Decision]**

- With John Chodacki, CDL

Membership fees **[Decision to be requested by email]**

4:20 AOB

Notes

Approval of minutes, October BOD meeting [Decision]

Motion: To approve minutes of October 2022 BOD meeting

Introduced: Iratxe

Seconded: Fiona

Result: PASSED

Committee and task force updates

Notes: Each committee gave an update on what they are working on. In future Board meetings, we will have a similar update from the different committees, we will also allocate time for this at the in-person Board meeting in April.

- Bylaws - Mark has drafted an outline of articles of incorporation and bylaws, and the main items remaining to define in the current update. Iratxe has reviewed, Kristi Holmes is also working on this.
- Code of Conduct - We will have a formal process to enact the Code of Conduct and address any reported breaches. Malvika Sharan has joined the Code of Conduct committee as a member external to Dryad to help handle any issues raised about the Code of Conduct.
- Community engagement Task Force - The Task Force has established priorities to work on, starting with current members, to increase engagement and to develop metrics to measure engagement. The Task Force is also discussing light-touch ways to implement to gain feedback from community members.
- Curation Task Force - The curation team is working to speed up the publication process for datasets, and to educate contributors on the value of curation. The Task Force is also considering how to align to current best practices for handling of ethics issues (per FORCE11-COPE Working Group recommendations), what escalations processes and training are needed etc. A suggestion was raised to tie the work of this Task Force to the risk register.
- Scientific advisory board - We will seek to re-engage the advisory board which is already being consulted on specific items and initiatives.

Advance reading

Notes: It was highlighted that the curation pipeline has been cleared, the Board praised the team for their work on this. It was noted that targets for signing up new members have been met.

The Board discussed the upcoming strategic planning exercise. Jon Treadway is developing a plan in advance of the April meeting and will also facilitate a discussion with the Board during the in-person Board meeting to inform this plan. The goal will be to leave the Board meeting next April with an outline for the strategic plan for Dryad's next 5 years.

The Board raised that it will be important to have guidelines of how broad or narrow the conversation will be and guidance to the Board in advance on whether this will mostly focus on the organization and its running vs a broader discussion of the impact Dryad can have on data publishing. It was noted that this is also relevant regarding CDL's involvement in the strategic plan. Input will be sought from CDL towards the strategic plan, as well as input from the different Task Forces. There will be meetings upcoming to discuss in more detail the preparations for the strategic-planning discussion with the Board in April.

Dryad-CDL Task Force update: Affirmations

Notes:

Context was provided regarding the partnership between Dryad and CDL and for the work of the Task Force looking into this.

Dryad has had a somewhat informal approach towards working and communicating with CDL. In recent months, the need for a more formal approach has been identified. The goals of the Task Force are to come to an understanding of where things could have been better between the partners, look into approaches that can help the partnership thrive, and how the team can be best supported within the partnership.

The conversations within the Task Force have provided Board members with greater understanding about the partnership, its context and current status. All Board members were encouraged to check the documentation developed by the Task Force, as this includes the nature of the partnership as it was formed, its current framing from CDL, and why it is important for CDL to be part of strategic discussions. The Task Force has developed statements that reaffirm the partnership between Dryad and CDL at the level of principles, to provide ground for the future of this collaboration and help monitor whether we are adhering to the stated principles.

The statements aim for a shared understanding that there are interdependencies between the two organisations, and why specific representatives of each organization are involved in strategic conversations.

A question was raised about the next steps for the Task Force. There are no plans to change the current Memorandum of Agreement between the two organizations. The Task Force will continue the work to bring the items in the statements into action, it will outline steps to support the team to ensure the organizational processes continue to proceed, and also steps so that the Board can continue to provide input on the direction for the partnership. A suggestion was raised to also develop ways to capture institutional/partnership knowledge and context so that this is preserved as individual members of the Board rotate.

MOTION: The Board endorses the work of the task force, and the findings and affirmations presented for the purpose of strengthening the partnership between Dryad and CDL

Introduced: Jason

Seconded: Iratxe

Result: PASSED

Membership fees

Notes:

The Board was provided with an update on the discussions between the Finance committee and CDL regarding the membership model. These conversations are ongoing and the Board will be presented with an update separately so it was decided there would be no vote at the meeting.

It was noted that the membership model is a critical element for the organization and that it is needed to develop Dryad's next financial forecast, and thus requires attention.

A new membership model is under discussion, we want this to address the organization's sustainability while bearing in mind the importance of community support and engagement for Dryad. It was also noted that CDL needs to consider its position with libraries and how any new model may impact libraries.

The Finance committee is seeking to build evidence needed to gain confidence in the model, and approaches that allow us to test and evaluate any new model implemented.

There was a discussion about the possibility to come to the Board for approval to give the Finance committee the remit to experiment with models rather than approval for specific ones, to build further flexibility in the process.

The Finance committee will follow up with CDL and with the Board.

Meeting Adjournment: 16:30 UK / 11:30 Eastern Time US/Canada

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The following motions were circulated to the Board for a vote via email:

MOTION 1: To authorize the Executive Director to implement fee changes as approved by the Finance Committee while continuing ongoing dialogue with CDL about longer-term business modeling.

MOTION 2: To task the Finance Committee with approving increases and decreases to the fees above, so long as they do not exceed \$10,000.

MOTION 3: To task the Executive Director with:

- A. Coordinating with CDL on alignment on risks, and risk mitigation strategies.
- B. Defining a plan for validating, testing and refining the model in FY24 and FY25, with input from stakeholders including academic and research institutions.
- C. Beginning to report on member engagement and satisfaction in FY24.

Introduced: Jason

Result: All motions PASSED