

Dear friends, attendees to the Division V business meeting during the last IAGA Assembly,

I am writing to you on behalf of the IAGA Executive Committee in order to explain the procedure that has resulted in new leaders of your Division.

At the Division V Business Meeting on 25 June 2015, you elected Pieter Kotze and Renata Lukianova as the Division Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.

Before the vote, Pavel Hejda noted that they were both candidates for membership of the new Executive Committee (EC) and, if elected, the Division would therefore be without leaders due to the tradition of avoiding multiple roles in IAGA. At the same time, IAGA President Kathy Whaler mentioned that, according to the By-Laws, the EC has the power to appoint new Division officers in case vacancies occur in the interim (between two Conferences of national Delegates (CoD), where the Division leaders are approved). Even after this discussion, no alternative names were suggested and both Pieter and Renata were elected unanimously.

However, the CoD, held the very next day, elected both Pieter and Renata as new EC members. The new EC on its first meeting on 28 June therefore discussed the whole issue in detail and decided to act according to the habits and By-Law 3.1 (valid until the end of the Period, i.e. the end of the present Assembly). As a result, Pieter and Renata resigned from their positions as Division V leaders. Because no alternative names had been proposed by the Division, EC had to take the initiative and look for replacements. Both Aude Chambodout and Kusumita Arora meet all the requirements (expertise, recognition, familiarity with IAGA business, geographical distribution) and are willing to serve as Division V Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.

I agree that you may feel a bit surprised by this decision, done without further consulting the Division members. However, everything happened in a fast sequence of events and there was no chance to call for a new Division V Business Meeting, nor a Conference of Delegates. The procedure we have undertaken is fully in agreement with the habits and By-Laws of IAGA. The EC fully respects the rule that the role, structure, and mode of operation of any Division are its own responsibility, unless issues occur that need to be resolved without delay. It is unfortunate that the Division at its Business Meeting did not consider fully the possible situation noted by Pavel Hejda and did not propose its own alternative names. However we firmly believe that Aude and Kusumita will serve to your full satisfaction. The activities and effectiveness of each Division will be reviewed by the EC at the next Assembly in 2017 and, where there is ever any need, any Division may propose necessary changes as it wishes.

I hope this will dispel your fears about our intentions and interests.

With best regards

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