

Research Staff Collegium

Thursday 8 June 2017: 14:00-15.30

Present: 30 present (see attached participant list) plus Jair van der Lijn and Ian Davies on Skype

Agenda:

1. Minutes from last RSC meeting
2. Report back from Board meeting
3. The budget
4. The next edition and long term future of the Yearbook
5. Update on the review of job descriptions by SMT
6. AOB

1. Minutes from last RSC meeting

Minutes from 28 April 2017 approved without objections or comments.

2. Report back from the Board meeting

Jakob and Dan reported back on the board meeting that took place in May. The board members appreciated the blue-sky session and suggested that it should be a regular element in future board meetings. Several of the board members showed an interest in increased engagement in the institute. The new structure of the institute was discussed and the following decisions were made:

Next meeting

The board decided to have two meetings a year. The next meeting will be an online meeting on 20 November 2017. The following meeting will take place in Stockholm on 28-29 May 2018.

Staff representative to the Board

The board endorsed the suggestion of a staff representative to the board and decided that if the staff select a representative, s/he can attend the board meeting on 20 November. The board did not decide on the model for electing the representative, which needs to be further discussed within the institute. A group that was previously established to advise the staff representative election process will reconvene to make a recommendation.

The SIPRI Rules of Procedure, which form the first chapter of the staff handbook, were last updated in May 2015. A new round of updating is needed, including this and other changes such as the set-up with the three research clusters.

New members of the governing board

Mary Kaldor left the board on 31 May. We need a new board member, preferably an American woman to keep the gender and geographical balance. When and if the statutes are revised so that the Director is a non-voting *ex officio* member of the Board, we will need to select another board member. Names that have been discussed include Jessica Matthews and Anne-Marie Slaughter, both of whom were previously approached and declined, but to either of whom Jan Eliasson could reach out. The name of Patricia Lewis, who leads the disarmament programme at Chatham House, was also mentioned.

Additional names suggested during the RSC:

- Kerstin Vignard, Deputy Director, UNIDIR, US/French citizen.
- Helen Durham, director of International Law and Policy at ICRC. Australian citizen.
- Angela Kane, former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, German citizen
- Mark Brzezinski, former US ambassador to Sweden, US citizen
- Stephen Heinz, president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund

RSC will revisit these names. People are encouraged to send further suggestions to Dan with a short description of the suggested candidate.

Cluster strategy

Drafts of the cluster strategies were discussed at the Board meeting. How to proceed with finalizing them is an issue for the SMT to discuss.

Advisory committee/ Vetenskapligt råd

The board discussed how to move forward with the advisory committee that is mentioned in the statutes. 19 individuals listed as members of the advisory committee but several of them are deceased. The board decided to move forward by (1) contacting the existing members to remind them that they are part of the advisory committee and (2) asking SIPRI's senior associate fellows if they want to become part of the advisory committee.

3. Financial reforecast

Maria presented the financial reforecast for the year. We are moving towards an activity-based budget in which each cluster is a separate entity. SIPRI's income has increased from around SEK 50 million over the last three years to SEK 60 million in 2016 and a forecast of about 70 million in 2017.

There is lot of money being transferred between clusters and programs, so that part of the expenditure of one cluster is part of another's income. That is a positive development that shows increased cooperation within the institute but

complicates the accounting because of the need to avoid double-counting. See attached presentation.

4. The next edition and long term future of the Yearbook

Joey explained the background of the new Yearbook outline, which describes a shorter book that will be published earlier in the year (June). The aim of the revised Yearbook strategy is to produce a useful reference book that reflects SIPRI's core issues year after year. Other research will be published and promoted in other formats. This shift will enable SIPRI to reach a broader audience that is largely missed by Yearbook, due to its limited consumers (libraries and the diplomatic community). The RSC agreed on that this is a good development but that the details should be discussed further.

Some questions were raised regarding the process of funding, publishing and promoting other products, like whether SIPRI or individual projects will finance them. The Yearbook's symbolic value as SIPRI's flagship product was also raised. The Yearbook is translated into several languages, which will not be the case for all other publications. There was discussion on whether the title of the Yearbook reflects its content.

The new outline reflects an aim to improve the working environment and workload of the editors. There are plans to expand the editorial team. A suggestion was made that people who will be contributing to the Yearbook can continue the discussion about the timeline together with the editors.

Copies of Yearbook 2017 will be available in October.

5. Update on the review of job descriptions by SMT

Changes in the Yearbook processes will lead to specific sections of the Job Descriptions being removed, which will be reflected in the several job descriptions of the corresponding roles. This component will be replaced with articles and conference papers. Management aims to finalise the job descriptions by the end of August.

6. AOB

Staff were informed that Neil Melvin will resign as the Director of Studies due to his family's move to Nairobi. He will continue working for SIPRI as a Senior Researcher based in Kenya. A new recruitment process for the Director of Studies, Conflict and Peace position will be initiated. Management would prefer to hire a candidate internally but will evaluate the financial implications of an external recruitment if needed. Neil will shift his research focus from Russia and Euro-Euroasia to the Horn of Africa. This means that management

also have to consider how to fill the Russia and Euro-Eurasia Programme Director vacancy.