COUNTER Annual General Meeting

Minutes: April 2022

Meeting details
Date and Time: Wednesday 27 April 2022, 15.30 BST
Location: Online

Present

Chair: Anne C. Osterman
Project Director: Tasha Mellins-Cohen
Aaron Binchy
Adrienne Burda
Alexandra Winzeler
Andy Flint
Beda Kosata
Bernd Oberknapp
Bernhard Mittermaier
Bettina Fischer de Valquez
Beverley Hughes
Bjorn Johansson
Craig Uss
Cristina Ashby
Don Thompson
Emilie Lavallee-Funston
Einat Hulati - Efron
Enid Wohlstein
Enrique Gonzales
Gill McDonald
Grace Lilyerd
Grace O'Brien
Gussun Gunes
Heather Loehr
Henrieka Walter
Hilary Jones
Ilona Burdette
Irene Barbers
Jacqueline Gillet
Jennifer Provorse
Jenny Thompson
Jessica Oberlin
Jill Emery
Jo Lambert
Joana Novais
John McDonald
John Ochs
Julia Wolkenhauer
Julie Adamo
Julie Gaida
Karen Harker
Karl Isaksson
Kirsten Fuoti
Kornelia Jung
Krystie Wilfong
Maria Huber
Marie Kennedy
Maryam Phillips
Matthew Buys
Mauro Castillo Garcia-Maurino
Meghan Rohrmann
Melissa Belvadi
Michael Zeyfert
Michele Casalini
Monica Trimmer
Nathan Newey
Nicola Haden
Niklas Willen
Nora Buchanan
Oliver Pesch
Paul Needham
Poojan Chokshi
Rafael Jeferson Pezzuto Damaceno
Ralf Schimmer
Richard Gallagher
Richard Wisneski
Robert Lester
Romane Lesiuk
Sabina Pagotto
Sara Rouhi
Sam Wotring
Sean Duffy
Sigal Lahav Scher
Simone Smith
Stephanie Church
Stuart Maxwell
Susan Haering
Tim Lloyd
Tina Borden
Todd Carpenter
Tonia Graves
Ulrike Engel
Vaishali Rele
Warren Adams
Youngim Jung
Meeting minutes

Tasha Mellins-Cohen, the new Project Director, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and thanked Lorraine Estelle for her efforts on COUNTER’s behalf over her tenure. She explained that members would be able to propose, second, and vote on motions via the chat box.

Minutes of the last meeting

Members were asked to review the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held in April 2021. Jack Ochs proposed and Sean Duffy seconded that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. Members voted unanimously to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the last meeting.

Directors’ report


She noted that in 2021

- COUNTER put out Release 5.0.2 of the Code of Practice. This was a small release that did not change the underlying code, but provided clarifications for some unclear issues and incorporated extensions to better facilitate OA reporting.
- The extensions were informed by extensive engagements with stakeholders interested in open access.
- Beyond the Code of Practice, we also invested in a significant upgrade of the COUNTER Registry of Compliant Providers, which is available through our website for anyone who wishes to use the information.
- And we were able to deliver the new Media Library to make it easier for everyone to find our supporting materials in one location.

Looking forward to 2022, planned activities were reported to include some upgrades to COUNTER’s operations with the goal of increasing our efficiency and transparency; the usual member survey; and launching the consultation process for release 5.1 of the Code of Practice.

Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice is designed for continuous maintenance. As part of that process, in 2022 we will consult with the community on a proposed Release 5.1. With the guidance of the Executive Committee, OA Advisory Board, and Technical Advisory Board, our goals are to:

- Simplify the process and improve the reliability of COUNTER audits.
- Address Open Access throughout the COP.
- Simplify the required JSON output.
- Evaluate the use and value of Search metrics in light of the changing scholarly communication environment.
- Resolve issues identified during the development of earlier versions of the CoP that require substantive changes.

Jill Emery proposed and Melissa Belvadi seconded that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. Members voted unanimously to accept the Directors’ Report.

Accounts for COUNTER Online Metrics for 2021

COUNTER was reported to be in a healthy financial state, with reserves standing at £182,110 at 31 December 2021, following a year with slightly lower turnover but also lower expenditure than in 2020.

Paul Needham proposed and Jack Ochs seconded that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. Members voted unanimously to accept the accounts.
Appointment of auditors

Jill Emery proposed and Alexandra Winzeler seconded a motion to appoint AJ Carter as auditors. Members voted unanimously to accept the appointment.

Changes of Directors

Tasha Mellins-Cohen reported that two Directors would be standing down as of the date of the AGM. Heather Staines intended to carry on working with COUNTER as the Chair of the OA Advisory Board and had agreed to also join the Executive Committee. Elisabeth Ling decided to stand down early from her term, as her new role was not related to scholarly communications. Tasha thanked them both for their valuable insights as directors.

There was one vacancy on the Board of Directors, and the Board had nominated Richard Gallagher (Annual Reviews) to fill the position. Owing to the timing of Elisabeth Ling’s decision to step down, a further vacancy would be held for the 2023 AGM.

Paul Needham proposed and Melissa Belvadi seconded a motion to appoint Richard Gallagher to the Board of Directors. Members voted unanimously to accept the appointments.

AOB

No other formal business being raised, the AGM closed at 16.00. Members were invited to remain online to listen to a presentation by Richard Gallagher on the topic of Subscribe to Open and the applicability of usage metrics to OA business models.