

Condensed Minutes of ISTS Board Meeting at 43rd ISTS Symposium

25th March 2025

Accra, Ghana

Secretary's Minutes

Secretary's minutes from the Board Retreat held at NCTC in August 2023 and the Board Meeting held during the 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium in Pattaya, Thailand in 2024 were discussed and approved.

Travel Committee Report

The Travel Chair presented their report about the number of beds awarded and occupied during the symposium in Accra. The transition timeline and experience criteria for new Regional Chairs was discussed and will be addressed further at the annual Board retreat.

The report was accepted.

Student Committee Report

The Student Committee Chairs presented their report, which included the request for a longer workshop duration.

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee Report included the responsibilities of this committee, number of nominees, and open positions.

The report was accepted.

Grassroots Awards Report

The Board were reminded that the Grassroots Committee is being transitioned to new members, primarily from the region in which the Symposium is being conducted. Challenges in the continuity of Committee Chair need to be further discussed.

Information about the Grassroots Award and eligibility criteria need to be further described on the website to ensure relevant nominations for the award.

Student Awards Committee

A Co- Chair explained the challenges in recruiting sufficient judges with the growing number of student presentations and suggested that sub-categories be formed within the main categories to ensure fair and consistent judging of presentations with less pressure on volunteer judges.

The Committee Co-Chairs have developed initiatives and materials to ensure all student presenters have access to information about good research and presentations.

Treasurer's Report

The Bookkeeper presented the Treasurer report. The Treasurer and Bookkeeper will now assist the President-Elect with their budget.

The report was accepted.

Career Awards Committee Report

The nominees for ISTS Career Awards were presented to the Board, and the report was accepted.

ISTS Restructuring

An updated message about ISTS restructuring will be shared with the Members at the Business meeting during the symposium.

Other Business

The Board discussed questions about registration refunds and requests to support resolutions and petitions relating to US government budget cuts.

President-Elect's Overview

Information about the forthcoming symposium to be held in Hawai'i was shared with the Board.

President's Overview

The President informed the Board that >300 registrants from 58 countries were present in Ghana. More than 200 people attended video night.

Statement for Plenary regarding President-Elect Nominee

The Board discussed comments from Members about the symposium being held in Saudi Arabia and the pause in voting for this position. It was decided to resume the voting and extend it by the number of days paused. A statement was drafted to share with the ISTS Members at the Plenary.
