

# Igbo Studies Association

17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference and Business Meeting

May 9-11, 2019, 4: 00 p. m. – 6: 45 p. m.

Dominican University, River Forest

Minutes of the Annual General (Business) Meeting  
Held on Friday, May 10, 2019 in Parma Hall

## **1. Sign-In/ Quorum:**

Present at the beginning of the 2019 ISA Business Meeting were thirty-eight paid members.

## **2. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., with Professor Ada Azodo presiding.

## **3. Approval of the 2019 Business Meeting Agenda:**

Prof. Akachi Ezigbo moved the motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Prof. Ada Azodo. Agenda was approved.

## **4. Approval of the 2018 ISA Business Meeting Minutes:**

Prof. Nkechinyere Nwokoye moved the motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Prof. Ihejirika. Minutes were approved.

## **5. President's Remarks/State of the Association:**

President recognized the Ted Fund officers and commended them for their work. She said that two edited books were published by Lexington for ISA. One of them is out but not in time for us to get the copies. She informed us about the handbook and the need for a logo.

The president informed us that Prof. Nkuzi Nnam has been appointed to lead the center by the executive. She said that ISA Endowment is going up and that we need you to send money. Also, we need resources to support the center. She urged us to please spread the message and do some outreach. We need resources to support the center. Inform us about anyone you know that the center will appeal to. She encouraged us to donate by quoting some famous people including philosopher Eric Hoffer, Mother Theresa, and the late Mohammed Ali as examples of people who gave their time and services. She referenced an African saying—"If you think you are too small to be affected, you have never been in bed with mosquitos." She encouraged us to contribute and she concluded by saying that failure is not an option.

### **6. Executive Handbook and Calendar (Ratification):**

She talked about the Handbook and said that she sent it twice and she did not receive any feedback. She asked for the Executive Handbook rectification. However, Prof. Nwauwa asked if the document is subject to amendment or can be changed. President said that it could be changed as the need occurs. She used Women Caucuses as an example. Motion was moved by Prof. Ezigbo to rectify it and seconded by Prof. ABC Duruaku. Then we voted to accept it.

#### ISA Logo (Suggestions)

The president brought up the need for us to have a logo, which will identify us. Several logos were suggested including udezuruwa, cowry shell (ego ayoro), ufo, ikenga, nkwa (palm tree), ikoro, enyi, academic cap, and rising sun or rise and shine. Prof. Korieh suggested that we have ISA artists lead in the search for logo: Profs: Francis Nnamdi Ikwuegbu (Imo State University, Owerri), Mercy Okafor (Federal Polytechnic Oko), and Ikenna Aghanya (Federal Polytechnic Oko).

### **7. Treasurer's 2018 Annual Report (Jan.-Dec. 2018):**

The Treasurer's Report was delivered Prof. Bellarmine Ezumah. Some of the key report and highlights include:

1. PNC Bank—was changed to US Bank due to the fact that the PNC Bank is not where she lives. She informed members that she has the Treasury Books with accompanying receipts for member to review.
2. The money remitted through PayPal account did not reflect on the 2018 account because the money has not yet been transferred to the US Bank account.
3. The problem with the Pay Pal account is due to our having changed the bank. Prof. Azodo suggested that Profs: Igwe, Nwauwa, and Prof. Ezumah should sit down and fix it.
4. \$38,885.03—Total amount
5. \$10,729.02—Expenditure
6. \$29,156.01—Ending Balance
7. \$31,3018. 61—Ending balance plus PayPal

Fr. Chijioke Azuawusiefe moved the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Prof. Akachi Odoemene. The Treasurer's Report for 2018 was approved.

### **8. Approval of the 2020 Annual Budget:**

The president said that it is pretty much the repetition of 2019. Dr. Odeluga moved the motion to accept it and Prof. Ihejirika seconded it. The 2020 ISA Budget was approved.

### **9. Annual Conference and Meeting Plans (2020):**

The president shared with us that the Dominican has invited us back for 2020.

Next year there will be a change of guide. This happened in 2013 in Enugu when we couldn't do an election in Enugu and we had to come back to the USA in order to make election. Prof. Nwauwa reminded us that it was on the same floor that the decision was made to have the 2020 conference in Nigeria. He asked the president if she is asking for the same floor to rescind or retract their decision, that one request, and another is to make an executive proposal by saying that the executive is proposing that it will be held in Dominican and then we vote on it.

Hence it was suggested that we change the conference from annual to bi-annual.

Dr. Odeluga moved a motion to rescind that we hold it again in USA. There was an issue raised about whether an entity funded in the USA could hold an election overseas. Dr. Odeluga suggested that we get legal advice to find out if an association formed and registered in the USA can hold an election outside the United States shores.

Prof. Ukaegbu suggested that the constitution clause part about having an election every two years be suspended. Then we vote on the resolution and bring back the clause to the constitution. This will allow ISA to move the election from 2020 to 2021.

Hence, it was raised that there should be an amendment before the suspension of that particular clause of the constitution. If you have to suspend a section of the constitution, then it has to be an amendment before you take such action; otherwise, the constitution is meaningless. The first thing we have to do is to vote on it before we take any further action. Before we suspend that particular clause, we need to know if the executive is willing to serve an extra year.

After some tension and dialogue, Prof. Korieh suggested that we set up an online voting system like Survey Monkey. Prof. supported that by saying that we can have our annual conference in Nigeria next year and still hold our election via online as well.

Prof. Nwauwa said that the main reason is that our USA scholars did not attend the conference when it was held in Nigeria.

Dr. Odeluga withdrew his motion to hold the meeting in Chicago next year.

Then the President asked her VP, Prof. Ijeoma Nwajiaku, to share with us about the hotel in Enugu to host the ISA 2020 conference. The VP said that ISA was held in Modotel in 2013, but it is outdated. But there are other newer hotels. She said that she found a hotel along the tunnel called the Auckland Turnell Hotel. She said it has at least four conference rooms that are viable for the ISA conference. She said the hotels that are viable for us are pricy. The prices, in naira, range from 30,000; 25,000; 70,000; and 100,000 per day. She said that the cheapest is 17,000. She concluded that if we can find the owner, he could give us a discount rate.

At the end, the president took a poll on next year's conference. Fourteen members supported going to Nigeria while five supported Dominican. Some were neutral by not raising their hands for either one.

### **10. Matters Arising:**

The president informed us that Prof. Nnam has been appointed to lead the center by the executive. She asked the member to rectify the appointment. Then Prof. Odoemene moved the motion to approve and rectify the appointment of Prof. Nnam and was seconded by Prof. Ikwuegbu.

### **11. Announcements:**

A few members had announcements, but were asked, in the interest of time, to approach the Secretary to give him the details of them. They were:

- i) Prof. Ada Agbasimalo, said that a dean in a conference made some negative remarks about Igbo. The title of the dean's paper is about who owns Lagos. The dean said that these people have taken over Lagos, when they take the coups home. He was getting his questions ready. When the speaker finished, he left immediately leaving no room for questions. The following year at the same conference, she brought it back up and refuted the claim of the dean's speech. Then she started talking about the *Peaceful People Building Bridges, Friendship and Development*. She gave some example that former Governors Fashola and Tinubu are not Lagosians. The audience gave her a round of applause for bravery and believed that she won the award due to her speech.
- ii) The president shared that she has a new grandson.

### **12. Adjournment:**

Prof. Ikwuegbu moved the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Prof. Ezumah.

**Note:** The meeting was adjourned because we ran out of time and the bus was waiting to take us back to the hotel. The president concluded that we should continue online for other unfinished business such as generating the theme of next year's conference.

The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Uchenna Onuzulike, Ph.D.  
Secretary, Igbo Studies Association

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_