Board Meeting Minutes

8 September 2025
Brisbane, Australia

Board Members in Attendance

Officers
Katherine Woodthorpe, Australia – 2025 President
Frank Behrendt, Germany – 2025 President-Elect
Mika Hannula, Finland – 2025 Past President
Ruth David, United States – Secretary/Treasurer

2024-2025 Board Members
Ding Ning, China
Rahman Bello, Nigeria
Milos Nedeljkovic, Serbia (Absent)
Igor Skrjanc, Slovenia (Absent)

2025-2026 Board Members
Sean Finlay, Ireland (Absent)
Jayant Patil, India
Gosta Lemne, Sweden
Julio Fernandez Odella, Uruguay

Additional Attendees

Oscar Vignart, Argentina (Virtual)
Adadeji Badiru, Nigeria
Tsu-Jae Liu, United States
Al Romig, United States
Michaela Curran, United States
TC Madikane, South Africa
Muchun Wan, Australia
Karen Wagner, Germany
Adriana Gambogi, Uruguay
Siegfried Zhiqiang WU, China
David Kilham, Australia

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

CAETS President Katherine Woodthorpe convened the meeting at 1305, welcoming all participants. The meeting agenda was approved as presented. The meeting minutes from 1 July 2024 and 9 April 2025 were approved as presented.

2. Secretariat Update

CAETS Secretary/Treasurer Ruth David noted that the 2024 Audit was completed without issue, thanking Jaime Dominguez (Spain) for his leadership of the Audit Committee. A copy was provided in the meeting materials. She further noted that actual expenses were below the 2024 budget and below 2024 revenues. The Treasurer discussed the 2025 Year-to-Date Financial Status noting that revenues are projected to be below budget due to member resignations and declining interest rates on the investment account. Additionally, while overall expenses are projected to be below budget, travel expenses are expected to exceed the amount budgeted, largely driven by airfare costs.

The Treasurer presented the proposed 2026 Operating Budget, in which expenses are slightly below the 2025 budget and below projected 2026 revenues. She noted that the Communications budget was set to include additional funds to support development of a new CAETS website. The 2026 Operating Budget was approved as presented.

The Secretary presented the 2026 CAETS Rotation Schedule, which shows annual meeting hosts as well as current and future Board Members. She noted that the schedule was realigned beyond 2028 to accommodate the resignation of two member academies together with notification by the Czech Republic that they were unable to host the 2029 meetings. All member academies were advanced in sequence to fill the vacant positions on the schedule. This realignment put Japan in the 2029 hosting position; the Secretary was subsequently notified that Japan was unable to host the meetings that year due to inadequate time to prepare. Poland volunteered to take the 2029 hosting slot; Japan was moved to Poland's prior slot to avoid further disruption but will be offered earlier positions as they become available. Slovenia has confirmed its intent to host the 2030 meetings, and South Africa has confirmed its intent to host the 2031 meetings.

The Secretary noted that the Board Nominations Slate, provided in the meeting materials, contained two out-of-cycle nominations: Frank Behrendt, Germany, was nominated to complete the term of Johan-Dietrich Worner as 2025 President-Elect as well as to serve as 2026 President due to a leadership change within acatech. Additionally, Jayant Patil, India, was nominated to complete the term of Indranil Manna as a 2025-2026 Member of the Board of Directors. Additional Board Nominees represent member academies from The Netherlands, Argentina, Canada, Korea, and Singapore.

The 2026-2027 Dues Schedule was provided for member information.

The Secretary noted that the CAETS Council had agreed during the 2024 Council Meeting to endorse a proposal, spearheaded by Professor Tariq Durrani, Chair of the IEEE Climate Change Committee (International Member of the US National Academy of Engineering and Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Research Professor at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland), to designate an Engineering Day during COP-30 in Brazil. The proposal was forwarded to the UN Framework Convention on Climate and COP-30 authorities subsequently designated 10-11 November 2025 to be devoted to "Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence." Professor Durrani is now seeking designation of a "Technology Day" during COP-31, which may be held in Australia in 2026; ATSE is working behind the scenes in support of this initiative.

3. Delinquent Member Dues Payments

The Treasurer informed the Board that two member academies were delinquent in dues payments – one for 3 years and the other for 2 years, with both members citing financial difficulties. She noted that both academies have been late intermittently for several years. She further observed that the two member academies that resigned also cited financial constraints, and that one was delinquent in its dues payment at the time of resignation.

Relevant CAETS policy (provided below) was introduced for discussion.

CAETS Bylaws: Section 6. Resignation and Removal of Members

a. **A member may resign effective at the end of a fiscal year, provided it gives written notice to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the beginning of that fiscal year.**
b. **The removal of a member, for cause including extended non-payment of dues, shall take place only during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council and shall require the affirmative votes of at least all but one of the members' representatives present and voting.**

CAETS Operating Guidelines

A member academy behind in dues payments for an extended period (as agreed by the Board) shall be placed on inactive status by majority vote of the Board. Implications include: No vote, removal from the Rotation Schedule, not listed as members of CAETS (and should not represent themselves as members), no access to Members Only information on the CAETS website. Such academies will, however, receive general information regarding CAETS activities via email. Once dues payments restart (and funds are received), subject to email majority vote by the Board, the academy will be restored to full membership and will be placed at the bottom of the Rotation Schedule.

The Treasurer noted that while CAETS Bylaws establish an expectation for 1-year advance notice of resignation, in practice that is unenforceable, as is CAETS' ability to demand dues payment upon resignation. The Board agreed that while the clause is desirable it cannot be enforced if member academies opt to resign absent notification. The subject of whether CAETS Bylaws should be altered to reflect this situation will be considered during a future meeting of the Board.

Regarding treatment of member academies that are delinquent in their dues payments, she noted that the Board has authority to act but that "an extended period" as cited in the Operating Guidelines was not defined.

After discussion, it was agreed that at the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year in which an academy is in arrears on its dues, the academy shall be moved to inactive status (as defined in the Operating Guidelines). Absent tangible evidence toward reducing the delinquency, together with communication of a plan to become fully current in its dues payments, the member academy will be subject to a Council vote for removal from CAETS membership one year later. *[In practice, this means that the member academy will be 2 years in arrears when moved to inactive status, as dues payments are receivable by January 31 of each year.]*

The Board agreed that both member academies whose dues payments are delinquent shall be notified that they have been placed in inactive status subject to the terms described above.

4. Policy Adoption Update/Implementation

The Secretary discussed the results of the Council vote (conducted via email) as summarized below. The initial policy proposals were developed by an Ad Hoc Group of Board Members and subsequently refined and endorsed by the Board for presentation to the Council. All 3 policy proposals passed based on Council votes (61% majority).

- **Option 1: Rotation Schedule Realignment** – **Passed** – 19 agreed, 1 disagreed

  With the resignation of Norway and Belgium, two gaps were created in the near-term rotation schedule. Netherlands agreed to move forward from 2032 to host in 2027. After that change, the proposal was to move forward the current list of academies by 2 years to close the gaps.

  Japan, which was moved from 2031 to 2029, disagreed, indicating they were unable to host the 2029 meetings due to inadequate time to prepare. Poland subsequently agreed to host CAETS 2029; Japan was moved to Poland's prior slot on the Rotation table but will be consulted should more near term opportunities arise.

- **Option 2. Opt-out from hosting – Passed** – 20 Agreed, one with caveat

  If changes are needed in the rotation schedule, academies are encouraged to negotiate a swap in position with another academy. This proposal provides an option for an academy to move to the bottom of the Rotation Schedule to opt-out for an extended period, provided that at least 5 years' advance notice is provided to the Secretariat.

  Netherlands requested a clause to consider extenuating circumstances that might cause a member academy to switch out their rotation slot less than 5 years in advance (e.g. loss of government funding after elections). *Current operating practices include negotiations between member academies to swap positions on the rotation schedule when such issues arise, but very short notice requests are likely to be problematic.*

- **Option 3. Associate Members – Passed** – 19 Agreed (one conditional); 1 Disagreed

  The proposal is to establish a new category of CAETS membership which would include participation by academies in which the engineering profession is represented within a broader scientific/technological population, as well as multinational/regional academies. Associates would not be members of the Council (no vote) but would be encouraged to participate in all CAETS Activities. Associates' dues would be set to the lowest tier of CAETS dues.

  Ireland disagreed due to a concern that the lower fees for Associate Members might encourage full members to save money by changing category. The Board agreed that academies qualified for full membership would not be considered for the Associate category.

  The United Kingdom is supportive of the proposed Associates category to broaden participation, particularly for countries without a dedicated engineering academy or where resources are limited but expressed concern that CAETS membership should remain clearly restricted to one representative per country and, wherever possible, this representative should be a dedicated engineering academy. Further, the Secretariate should apply due diligence in reviewing applications to ensure that all members align with CAETS values and eligibility criteria while avoiding overlapping of official national representation.

Overall observations by the Secretary included:

- The concern about an ability to swap out of their scheduled hosting responsibilities with less than 5 years advanced notice is addressed by the "negotiated swap" approach already in place. But should an academy decide very late (e.g 2-3 years in advance), it may be impossible to negotiate a swap.
- The concern about restriction to one representative per country seems more relevant to Council membership and voting rights. Associate Members, as defined, would not have voting rights.
- The potential that current members will opt for Associate Member status to save money was addressed by the Board decision that academies qualified for full membership would not be considered for the Associate Member category.

The Council vote on the Associate Member category included approval of the **Associate Membership Criteria, which were adapted from the existing CAETS Membership Criteria**:

- The academy shall include representation of the engineering and technological community of that region/country.
- The academy must subscribe to the nonpolitical, non-governmental international character of the CAETS Council.
- The academy must have peer-elected membership with criteria for election based on related activities. [Peers may include the broader membership of the academy.]
- The academy must be governed by its elected membership.
- The academy must be engaged in significant activities demonstrating that its objectives are compatible with the objectives of CAETS.
- The academy must have sufficient support to pay the costs of CAETS membership and the costs of participation in CAETS activities.

After discussion, the Board endorsed the proposed **Application Process for CAETS Associate Members**:

I. An applicant must submit to the CAETS Secretariat a written application addressing each of the membership criteria, providing an evidentiary basis for each. The Secretariat will review the application and seek additional information if deemed necessary.

II. Within 60 days of receipt of the application, a sub-group of 3-5 CAETS member academy designees will meet (virtually) to discuss the application; members will be recruited by the Secretariat. The sub-group shall include representation from at least one Founding Academy, one European-based academy, and one non-European-based academy.

III. If the consensus of the sub-group is favorable, a follow-on (virtual) discussion between the CAETS sub-group and principals from the applicant will be scheduled. After that discussion:
   a. If the consensus of the CAETS sub-group is unfavorable, the Secretariat will notify the applicant that their application was declined and provide the rationale for the decision.
   b. If the consensus of the CAETS sub-group is favorable, a report recommending election will be submitted to the Council for a final vote. This may be accomplished via email or during a scheduled meeting if timely.

IV. If the Council vote affirms election, the applicant shall pay $500 USD into the CAETS reserve funds within 90 days of notification. Annual dues, set at the lowest tier of CAETS dues (currently $1,500 USD), shall be payable beginning the year after election.

V. The Secretariat shall track all applications and report annually to the Board regarding their disposition/status.

5. Engaging Young Academies

The Secretary provided in meeting materials a summary of member academy feedback regarding their relationship (if any) with Young Academies, together with individual member comments. She noted that several members are already engaged with young professionals via various mechanisms and others are developing plans to do so, but while some interactions are via an organized Young Academy, other interactions engage young professionals independently.

The focus of the discussion was on how CAETS might most effectively engage young professionals to bring new perspectives to its' work. Preliminary ideas included inviting participation in Working Groups, an entrepreneurial contest, and a special category for the Communications Prize.

After discussion, CAETS President Katherine Woodthorpe, agreed to lead an ad hoc group to develop options for engaging young professionals.

There being no new business, the President adjourned the Board Meeting at 1535.