

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 Valdez
 Beverley Hughes
 Bjorn Johansson
 Craig Uss
 Cristina Ashby
 Don Thompson
 Emilie Lavalley-Funston
 Einat Hulati - Efron
 Enid Wohlstein
 Enrique Gonzales
 Gill McDonald
 Grace Lilyerd
 Grace O'Brien
 Gussun Gunes
 Heather Loehr
 Henrieke 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

Tasha Mellins-Cohen presented the Directors' report, available online at <https://www.projectcounter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Annex-C-Directors-Report-and-Audited-Accounts.pdf>.

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.