MINUTES IACR BOARD MEETING *VIRTUAL-11 2024*

19 NOVEMBER 2024

1. OPENING MATTERS

1.1. **Welcome, roll of attendees, identification of proxies.** At 15:05 UTC the President opens the meeting and briefly goes around for an introductory round, confirming attendees and establishing who is holding proxies.

There are 21 full time attendees with the following proxies: Yang holds Schwabe's proxy, Poettering holds Hesse's proxy, Preneel holds Rijmen's proxy (when absent).

1.1.1. *Roll of Attendees.*

Attendees (Elected). Michel Abdalla (President 2023-2025); Allison Bishop (Vice President 2023-2025); Brian LaMacchia (Treasurer 2023-2025, *RWC* Steering Committee); Benjamin Wesolowski (Secretary 2023-2025); Shai Halevi (Director 2023-2025); Anna Lysyanskaya (Director 2022-2024); María Naya-Plasencia (Director 2024-2026); Bart Preneel (Director 2023-2025, Program Chair Contact); Francisco Rodríguez-Henríquez (Director 2024-2026); Bo-Yin Yang (Director 2022-2024); Moti Yung (Director 2021-2023, *PKC* Steering Committee);

Attendees (Appointed). Dario Fiore (Eurocrypt 2025 General Chair (2024-2025)); Bertram Poettering (Membership Secretary 2023-2025); Vincent Rijmen (Journal of Cryptology Editor-in-Chief 2024-2026);

Attendees (Representatives and Others). Masayuki Abe (*Asiacrypt* Steering Committee); Gregor Leander (*FSE* Steering Committee);

Absentees (Elected). Jian Guo (Director 2022-2024); Peter Schwabe (Director 2023-2025, *CHES* Steering Committee);

Absentees (Appointed). Foteini Baldimtsi (Communications Secretary 2023-2025); Julia Hesse (*Eurocrypt 2024* General Chair (2023-2024)); Tancrède Lepoint (*Crypto 2024* General Chair (2023-2024)); Joseph Liu (Asiacrypt 2025 General Chair (2024-2025)); Bimal Roy (*Asiacrypt 2024* General Chair 2023-2024);

Absentees (Representatives and Others). Tal Malkin (*TCC* Steering Committee); Kevin McCurley (Database Administrator); Hilarie Orman (Archivist); Tal Rabin (Code-of-conduct Liaison); Yu Yu (Webmaster);

1.2. **Minutes of previous meetings.** The President announces a change in the procedure for approving the minutes of Board Meetings. From now on, voting will take place by email instead of during the meetings. This more flexible process will give more time to gather and implement any feedback. This change already concerns pending minutes.

2. UPDATE ON THE IACR 2024 ELECTION

The 2024 election was held to fill three Director positions. 932 votes have been cast. Jian Guo, Bo-Yin Yang, and Anna Lysyanskaya were all three reelected for a new term. The Board congratulates them, and thanks the community for their participation in this process. About 25% of IACR members cast their vote, which is consistent with previous sessions.

Halevi, a member of the Election Committee, comments on the process. It still involves some manual work, which could be improved on both our side and within the Helios Voting system. The nomination process could also be revised, as it currently relies on error-prone manual copy-pasting.

The following question is raised: should we have a policy on the access and use of IACR communication channels by the candidates for election-related content? Candidates with privileged access rights have the capacity to reach out directly to the IACR community, raising a fairness concern. Currently, the only IACR channel offered to all candidates is the publication of a statement on the webpage of the election.

3. CONFERENCES

3.1. **Proposal for TCC 2025 Program Co-Chairs.** The *TCC* steering committee is proposing two names to be appointed as TCC 2025 Program Cochairs: Benny Applebaum and Huijia (Rachel) Lin. The President calls for a vote.

Decision 1. *Benny Applebaum and Huijia (Rachel) Lin are appointed as the TCC 2025 Program Cochairs. [Benny Applebaum and Huijia (Rachel) Lin have since accepted.]*

3.2. **Update on conferences.** LaMacchia reports on the upcoming *Asiacrypt 2024* conference, which is three weeks away. Everything is on track. This year, the IACR Distinguished Lecture will be given at Asiacrypt. Unfortunately, no officer can be there, and the President asks for another Board member to help with the local organisation of the meetings. In past occurrences of the issue, the President opened the Membership Meeting remotely through videoconference, and a local Board member managed the rest of the meeting.

Abdalla reports on *TCC 2024*. We received reports of hostile emails sent by an organisation to some of the attendees of TCC. This organisation condemns the affiliation of one of the accepted papers. Their emails target unrelated TCC attendees, threatening them into taking action against the paper. This is the first time we get such reports of harassment of our members from entities outside our community. The President recalls that our events are open, and attendees are not accountable for the opinions or affiliations of other attendees. It is proposed to reflect that in the upcoming update of the code of conduct.

Leander reports on *FSE 2025*, in Rome. Since we have three upcoming conferences in Italy, LaMacchia established a fiscal agent in the country. While this delayed the finalization of the budget, it will ultimately save us some work. LaMacchia reports on *RWC 2025*: everything is on track, the reviewing process has started. Fiore reports on *Eurocrypt 2025*. The location for affiliated events has been changed to a larger venue. The number of submissions to *Eurocrypt 2025* is a new record.

3.3. **Inquiry about the IACR Statement On the War in Gaza.** In response to the statement titled "IACR Statement On the War in Gaza" issued by the Board on October 18, 2023 and May 10, 2024, IACR Board members have received from an IACR member emails that by their tone and quantity were perceived as harassment. The Board stands by its careful and inclusive statement of empathy including "*all those who are suffering its ongoing consequences,*" (quote from October 18, 2023) "*in Gaza, Israel, and elsewhere*" (quote from May 10, 2024). While the Board understands that some members may not agree with the statement, it will not respond to any further comments or questions on this matter.

3.4. **Updating the Bylaws.** The Secretary reports on his ongoing work to amend the Bylaws. He recalls that an amendment of the Bylaws may be proposed by majority vote of the Board. A proposed amendment becomes effective upon subsequent ratification by a majority of the ballots cast in a referendum to the members.

The most substantial changes aim at accounting for the journal *IACR Communications in Cryptology*, launched a year ago. In particular, the new Bylaws will specify the process by which editors of the journal are appointed.

Another amendment will allow for the appointment of two Program Co-Chairs or two General Co-Chairs (instead of one) for our events.

Another amendment will allow for the appointment of an Acting President in case of the Officers' absence at an Assembly.

A working draft of these amendments will be available of the SVN repository. The Secretary invites the Board to submit others ideas of amendments to him by email.

4. CLOSING MATTERS

The President closes the meeting officially at 17:00 UTC.