MINUTES IACR BOARD MEETING *VIRTUAL-03 2026*

24 MARCH 2026

1. OPENING MATTERS

1.1. **Welcome, roll of attendees, identification of proxies.** At 15:04 UTC the President opens the meeting and briefly goes around for an introductory round, confirming attendees and establishing who is holding proxies.

There are 20 full time attendees with the following proxies: Varia holds Lysyanskaya's proxy, Wesolowski holds Naya-Plasencia's proxy, Yang holds Schwabe's proxy.

1.1.1. *Roll of Attendees.*

Attendees (Elected). Allison Bishop (President 2026-2028); François-Xavier Standaert, (Vice President 2026-2028); Brian LaMacchia (Treasurer 2026-2028, *RWC* Steering Committee); Benjamin Wesolowski (Secretary 2026-2028); Jian Guo (Director 2025-2027); Shai Halevi (Director 2026-2028); Bart Preneel (Director 2026-2028, Program Chair Contact); Francisco Rodríguez-Henríquez (Director 2024-2026); Bo-Yin Yang (Director 2025-2027); Moti Yung (Director 2024-2026, *PKC* Steering Committee);

Attendees (Appointed). Man Ho Allen Au (Asiacrypt 2026 General Chair (2025-2026)); Tetsu Iwata (Asiacrypt 2027 General Chair (2026-2027)); Andreas Hülsing (*Eurocrypt 2027* General Chair (2026-2027)); Edoardo Persichetti (*Eurocrypt 2026* General Chair (2025-2026)); Vincent Rijmen (Journal of Cryptology Editor-in-Chief 2024-2026); Mayank Varia (*Crypto 2026* General Chair (2025-2026));

Attendees (Representatives and Others). Kevin McCurley (Database Administrator); Kay McKelly (Web & software developer);

Absentees (Elected). Anna Lysyanskaya (Director 2025-2027); María Naya-Plasencia (Director 2024-2026); Peter Schwabe (Director 2026-2028, *CHES* Steering Committee);

Absentees (Appointed). Foteini Baldimtsi (Communications Secretary 2023-2026); Chitchanok Chuengsatiansup (Membership Secretary (2026-2028));

Absentees (Representatives and Others). Masayuki Abe (*Asiacrypt* Steering Committee); Gregor Leander (*FSE* Steering Committee); Tal Malkin (*TCC* Steering Committee); Hilarie Orman (Archivist); Tal Rabin (Code-of-conduct Liaison); Yu Yu (Webmaster);

1.2. **Approving minutes from previous meeting.** The President calls for a vote to approve the minutes of the meetings *Virtual-02 2026* and *Strategic Meeting at Crypto 2025*.

Decision 1 (unanimous)**.** *The Board approves the Minutes of the IACR Board Meetings Virtual-02 2026 and Strategic Meeting at Crypto 2025.*

2. UPDATE ON CONFERENCES

FSE 2026 is currently happening, and everything is going well. Guo notes that attendance is high.

Persichetti reports on *Eurocrypt 2026*. After some delay related to sponsorship to fix the final fee, they are about to open registration.

Yung informs the Board that Guichiro Hanaoka is the new chair of the PKC Steering Committee.

Bishop reports on *TCC 2026*. It will be co-located with *FOCS 2026* in New York, as planned. Both events are organized and budgeted independently.

Au reports on *Asiacrypt 2026*. The final budget will be sent shortly to the Treasurer. The venue has changed to a more central hotel in Hong Kong. Yang reports on recent changes in the composition of the Asiacrypt Steering Committee.

Yang reports on *RWC 2026*, which took place two weeks ago. The event went very well, and several attending Board members confirm they had a great experience.

Bishop informs the Board that discussions are ongoing with potential hosts for *Crypto 2027* or *2028*, including options in Canada and Latin America. The traditional venue at UC Santa Barbara remains a possibility. Yang suggests further exploring the idea of hosting Crypto at UC Santa Barbara every second year, rather than annually.

3. Updating guidelines and policies

The President introduces the next agenda item, highlighting the need to update several guidelines, including those for General Chairs, Program Chairs, reviewers, authors and RWC. She proposes forming working groups for each document and invites Board members to volunteer.

A discussion follows on the scope of these policies. Some, such as the General Chair guidelines, are extensive and cover a wide range of topics. They could be split into smaller, more manageable documents for easier updates. Wesolowski notes that, given the ongoing work to restructure our publication and conference model, a complete rewrite of related guidelines may be premature. Bishop responds that some preliminary work (such as identifying issues with existing guidelines and possible solutions) would still be valuable.

A key concern is accessibility: the target audience may not know where to find relevant guidelines, or may be unaware of their existence. They should be easier to find and navigate. In particular, Bishop proposes creating an introductory slideshow for General Chairs.

Halevi emphasizes the urgent need for a policy addressing AI-related issues. Yung suggests that, in addition to a policy, a dedicated committee may be required to handle these matters.

3.1. **Policy on student reimbursement.** Yang introduces the next topic. Ahead of the meeting, he shared a report with the Board on eight students who faced serious difficulties with the standard reimbursement model for their attendance at *RWC 2026*. These students were unable to receive centrally wired reimbursements or cover expenses in advance of reimbursement. While solutions were found, these difficulties are expected to recur — especially as we expect to increase engagement with students and the Global South.

An official IACR-level policy is needed, and the *RWC* General Chairs have offered to assist in drafting it. Bishop proposes that this topic be included in the discussions of the working group on General Chairs guidelines.

4. Working groups on the change of model for publication and conferences

The President introduces the next agenda item: two working groups have been formed to explore changes to the publication and conference model. The first group focuses on enhancing the conference experience and finding solutions to accommodate the community's growth. The second group investigates a more substantial shift: transitioning the three General Conferences (Asiacrypt, Crypto, and Eurocrypt) to a journal-conference hybrid model, featuring a unified reviewing and publication pipeline.

These two directions are independent, and the working groups are preparing two concrete proposals to be presented to the Board, then to IACR members. Either or both proposals may be adopted.

Wesolowski provides a brief overview of the journal-conference hybrid draft. The proposal suggests establishing a single journal for Asiacrypt, Crypto, and Eurocrypt. Authors would submit papers to the journal, and those accepted could choose at which conference to present their work. This significant change raises many questions, including concerns about travelling requirements, page limits, the speed of idea dissemination, historical conference traditions... The President proposes holding a dedicated meeting in early April to discuss the proposals in detail.

5. Closing Matters

The President closes the meeting officially at 16:33 UTC.