MINUTES IACR BOARD MEETING *VIRTUAL-09 2025*

17 SEPTEMBER 2025

1. Opening Matters

1.1. **Welcome, roll of attendees, identification of proxies.** In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Treasurer is presiding the meeting. At 20:03 UTC the Treasurer 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: LaMacchia holds Abdalla's proxy, Varia holds Bishop's proxy, Varia holds Lysyanskaya's proxy, Rodríguez-Henríquez holds Guo's proxy, Wesolowski holds Naya-Plasencia's proxy, Halevi holds Yung's proxy.

1.1.1. *Roll of Attendees.*

Attendees (Elected). Brian LaMacchia (Treasurer 2023-2025, *RWC* Steering Committee); Benjamin Wesolowski (Secretary 2023-2025); Shai Halevi (Director 2023-2025); Bart Preneel (Director 2023-2025, Program Chair Contact); Francisco Rodríguez-Henríquez (Director 2024-2026, *Crypto 2025* General Chair (2024-2025)); Peter Schwabe (Director 2023-2025, *CHES* Steering Committee); Bo-Yin Yang (Director 2025-2027);

Attendees (Appointed). Joseph Liu (Asiacrypt 2025 General Chair (2024-2025)); Edoardo Persichetti (*Eurocrypt 2026* General Chair (2025-2026)); Bertram Poettering (Membership Secretary 2023-2025); Mayank Varia (*Crypto 2026* General Chair (2025-2026));

Attendees (Representatives and Others). Kevin McCurley (Database Administrator); Andreas Hülsing (guest);

Absentees (Elected). Michel Abdalla (President 2023-2025); Allison Bishop (Vice President 2023-2025); Jian Guo (Director 2025-2027); Anna Lysyanskaya (Director 2025-2027); María Naya-Plasencia (Director 2024-2026); Moti Yung (Director 2024-2026, *PKC* Steering Committee);

Absentees (Appointed). Foteini Baldimtsi (Communications Secretary 2023-2025); Dario Fiore (Eurocrypt 2025 General Chair (2024-2025)); Vincent Rijmen (Journal of Cryptology Editor-in-Chief 2024-2026);

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 meetings.** The Treasurer calls for a vote to approve the minutes of the meetings *Virtual-07 2025* and *Virtual-08 2025*.

Decision 1 (unanimous)**.** *The Board approves the Minutes of the IACR Board Meetings Virtual-07 2025 and Virtual-08 2025.*

2. Bylaws amendment

The latest version of the Bylaws amendment has been shared with the Board ahead of the meeting. The Secretary presents some recent modifications.

One proposed modification addresses a concern raised by Poettering: the record of members who are granted a lifetime senior membership is only increasing, as we have no reliable way of knowing when a member's life has come to an end. While this is not currently problematic, it may become so in the future since inactive members are still counted toward quorum for Membership referenda.

The Secretary suggests re-implementing lifetime Senior Membership to require renewal every ten years (at no cost, simply by clicking a button). The Board decides to postpone further discussion on this matter until a future amendment.

LaMacchia adds that the IACR could also explore alternative opportunities for lifetime membership, inspired by practices in other scientific organizations.

After a few editorial modifications, the Vice President calls for a vote.

Decision 2 (unanimous)**.** *The Board approves the Bylaws amendment presented by the Secretary, subject to editorial modifications as discussed during today's meeting. The approved text will be submitted for member approval during the 2025 IACR Elections.*

3. SCHOOLS PROPOSALS

The Schools Committee is examining new proposals, which Rodríguez-Henríquez briefly presents to the Board. To date, the organization has spent approximately USD 10,000 on schools in 2025, so there remains budget for several more schools before the end of the year.

It is noted that one of the proposals lacks a website. The Board emphasizes that IACR-sponsored schools should provide an accessible interface for information and application.

The Schools Committee has not yet reached a decision for these proposals, but requests that the Board approve a budget allocation. The Treasurer calls for a vote.

Decision 3 (unanimous). *The Board allocates up to USD 30,000 for the Schools Committee to fund (a selection of) pending proposals.*

4. UPDATE ON CONFERENCES

LaMacchia and Halevi report on *TCC 2025*. The budget has been updated, and everything appears to be in order. The reviewing process is complete, and notifications have been sent to authors.

Liu reports on *Asiacrypt 2025*. 143 papers have been accepted, a 12.5% increase from last year. A request form for invitation letters is being prepared. LaMacchia and Liu discuss a few budget matters, working toward balancing the expected surplus or deficit.

5. ABOUT THE CHES 2026 PROPOSAL

A proposal for *CHES 2026* is being developed. It proposes hosting the event at an all-inclusive resort in Turkey, where participants are expected to stay on-site. In this format, catering costs are included in the room rate rather than the registration fee.

Two concerns are raised. First, employers vary in their policies for the reimbursement of accommodation, meals, and registration fees. They are often more flexible for registration fees than for accommodation; in such case, bundling meal costs with accommodations (rather than including them in registration) could pose challenges.

Second, the price of the venue might be a problem if participants are given no alternative. Participants will have the option to pay only catering costs at the venue while arranging their own accommodation. We must ensure that there are sufficient and reasonably priced alternative lodging options near the venue. However, if the price difference between the resort and alternatives is significant, many participants may opt for external accommodations. This could risk failing to meet the minimum room-booking threshold required by the venue.

6. RESULTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The survey on publication and conference issues has closed, yielding 960 responses. Since the committee has not yet analyzed them, discussion is postponed to a future meeting.

7. CLOSING MATTERS

The Treasurer closes the meeting officially at 21:55 UTC.