MINUTES IACR BOARD MEETING *VIRTUAL-12 2025*

16 DECEMBER 2025

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: Yang holds Guo's proxy, Wesolowski holds Naya-Plasencia's proxy, Schwabe (then Abdalla) holds Preneel's proxy, LaMacchia holds Rodríguez-Henríquez's proxy (when absent), Yang holds Schwabe's proxy (when absent), Varia holds Baldimtsi's proxy (when absent), Abdalla holds Fiore's proxy (when absent), Yang holds Rijmen's proxy,

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 2025-2027); 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); Moti Yung (Director 2024-2026, *PKC* Steering Committee);

Attendees (Appointed). Foteini Baldimtsi (Communications Secretary 2023-2025); Dario Fiore (Eurocrypt 2025 General Chair (2024-2025)); Edoardo Persichetti (*Eurocrypt 2026* General Chair (2025-2026)); Mayank Varia (*Crypto 2026* General Chair (2025-2026)); Bertram Poettering (Membership Secretary 2023-2025);

Attendees (Representatives and Others). Tal Malkin (*TCC* Steering Committee); Kevin McCurley (Database Administrator);

Absentees (Elected). Jian Guo (Director 2025-2027); María Naya-Plasencia (Director 2024-2026); Bart Preneel (Director 2023-2025, Program Chair Contact);

Absentees (Appointed). Joseph Liu (Asiacrypt 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); Hilarie Orman (Archivist); Tal Rabin (Code-of-conduct Liaison); Yu Yu (Webmaster);

1.2. **Approving minutes from previous meetings.** The President calls for a vote to approve the minutes of the meetings *Virtual-11 2025*.

Decision 1 (unanimous)**.** *The Board approves the Minutes of the IACR Board Meeting Virtual-11 2025.*

2. CONFERENCES

2.1. **Program Chairs and proposal for TCC 2026.** Malkin presents the first item on the agenda: the TCC Steering Committee is proposing two people for Program Co-Chairs of *TCC 2026*, Dana Dachman-Soled and Daniel Wichs. She briefly introduces them, and the President calls for a vote.

Decision 2 (unanimous)**.** *Dana Dachman-Soled and Daniel Wichs are appointed Program Co-Chairs of* TCC 2026.

Malkin then presents the proposal to host *TCC 2026* in New York City, with Benedikt Bünz, Marshall Ball, Marianna Raykova, and Tal Malkin serving as General Co-Chairs. The conference would be co-located with FOCS. The proposal has been circulated to the Board via email prior to the meeting, and Malkin summarizes it. The event would take place earlier than usual, in November rather than December. She acknowledges that while hotel costs in New York City are high, the venue itself is cheap. The Steering Committee expresses enthusiasm for the opportunity to co-locate with FOCS. Malkin also emphasizes that this is the only proposal for a North American venue, following the last three TCC conferences held in Europe and Asia.

LaMacchia initiates a brief discussion regarding the feasibility of sharing certain events and costs with FOCS, noting potential complexities but suggesting that such details could be addressed at a later stage. The President then calls for a vote.

Decision 3 (unanimous)**.** *The Board approves the proposal to host* TCC 2026 *in New York City, USA.*

2.2. **Proposal for CHES 2026.** Schwabe presents a proposal to host *CHES 2026* in Antalya, Turkey, with General Co-Chairs Erkay Savaş and Berna Örs Yalçın. The venue is an all-inclusive hotel, which raised concerns discussed during the Virtual-09 2025 Board Meeting. The budget has since been revised based on an agreement with the venue to separate the CHES-related food and beverage costs from the all-inclusive daily room rate (to be charged through the CHES registration fees). As a result, the budget is now comparable to that of a typical IACR event.

The downside is that the venue requires a guarantee of 300 rooms for participants. Around 500 participants are expected and there are no advantageous alternatives among other hotels in the area, mitigating the risk associated with the room guarantee.

An agency is assisting with the organization, which incurs a significant fee. Combined with recent inflation in Turkey, the proposal is expensive, and the expected registration fees are quite high.

This proposal is extremely late, as *CHES 2026* is scheduled to take place in ten months. The delay, increased risk, and higher costs are dissatisfactory. If this proposal is not accepted, *CHES 2026* might not happen. The CHES community must work toward shifting their planning efforts earlier in the future. The IACR could exceptionally absorb the increased risk, but we would expect any significant losses from this event to be compensated for by future CHES events.

The President calls for a vote.

Decision 4 (unanimous)**.** *The Board approves the proposal to host* CHES 2026 *in Antalya, Turkey.*

2.3. **Update on PKC 2026.** Persichetti presents the next topic: they have received an unexpectedly large number of submissions for *PKC 2026*. This creates a significant challenge in preserving the acceptance rate while fitting all the papers into a three-day program. Instead of opening a second track, the Chairs are discussing adding a fourth day to the event.

LaMacchia explains that this would require a significant update to the budget. The availability of the venue for an extra day has not yet been verified. The venue actually requires an initial deposit by December 22, so a decision needs to be made quickly.

The Board agrees in principle to the addition of a fourth day but requests an updated budget by Friday, December 19.

3. Topics

The Vice President takes the lead for the rest of the meeting.

3.1. **School proposals.** Bishop presents the next topic: the Schools Committee has received two late proposals: the *CIMPA School AGMIIT* in Santa Fe, Argentina, and the *CSP-IAS Winter School on Cryptography and Machine Learning* in Turin, Italy, both scheduled for early 2026. Despite being submitted well after the deadline, the committee proposes to split the remaining budget between these two schools. The remaining amount, however, is significantly below the requested funds. LaMacchia proposes allocating 7,500€ per school (approximately USD 8,800), and the Vice President calls for a vote.

Decision 5 (unanimous)**.** *The Board approves the recommendation to sponsor the CIMPA School AGMIIT and the CSP-IAS Winter School on Cryptography and Machine Learning for 7,500€ each.*

3.2. **Survey results.** McCurley explains that the working group has been analyzing the results of the Membership Survey. A preliminary report has been sent to the Board, and feedback is welcome.

3.3. **A form for the nomination of Program Chairs.** Halevi reports on the working group's progress regarding the nomination process for Program Chairs. Rather than establishing mandatory selection criteria, the committee has decided to create a form for nominating Program Chairs, explicitly outlining the expected qualities of candidates. The drafted form was sent to the Board by email. The Vice President invites comments via email, and the matter will be discussed further during the January meeting.

Halevi also suggests maintaining a list of Area Chairs for General Conferences and General Chairs for all conferences, as this would be a useful resource.

Action Point **1: Wesolowski** Add (and maintain) the list of Area Chairs and General Chairs to the existing list of conference Chairs.

4. CLOSING MATTERS

The Vice President closes the meeting officially at 16:51 UTC.