Welcome and minutes (Donald Tillman)

- The President welcomed 18 members to the AGM. Dong Min was elected vote counter.
- Minutes of AGM 2007 were accepted by unanimous agreement.

Report of Activities

- The President gave a brief review of the events that took place in 2007. A broad range of events took place, which included the Susan Hockfield talk, the AGM at Paul Klee Museum, the bike tour around Lake Constance, a talk on the Big Dig by Prof. Einstein, a hike to Tschingelhorn, and a tour of the Cinémathèque Suisse.
- The President thanked all those members who had volunteered their time to the Club, including Hans Herriger and Andreas Haenny for auditing, George Raymond, Michael Helke and Martin Hahn for organizing events, and, especially, the board.

Membership Overview

- Initially, the MIT Club considered all alumni living in Switzerland as members (around 330).
- Now the membership rules have been tightened to denote only paying members. This reduces the numbers to about 150 members. These include all those individuals that have paid their fees at least once in the last 2 fiscal years.
- New alumni arriving in Switzerland are now sent a welcome letter, expressly asking if they desire to join the Club.
- Non-members will be sent a reminder once every year, encouraging them to join. Apart from this reminder, any other mailings will only be sent to paying members.
- A general discussion issued on how to increase the scope of the Club, raise membership numbers and build a more active membership.
  - Leland Johnson thinks the club should encourage members to bring guests. There are many people interested in what the Club does.
  - Hans Herriger agreed with the President, that the Club should choose events where at least 15-20 people will attend.
  - Martin Hahn suggested that the Club raise the profile of its events even more.
  - A member recommended co-organizing events with other Clubs.
  - The President concurred with all comments, and mentioned that the Board is already working on many of these ideas.

Website Update (Alysa Kodisch)

- Alysa encouraged members to send in photos and event write ups, so that they can be put up on the website. The President encouraged members to participate more in the website.
- The General Body was informed that the Board is experimenting with “evites”, and may use them for invitations for Club events in the future. Evites will be more interactive, and will encourage more participation from club members.
- Members participating in certain non-MIT events are encouraged to publicize the event on the MIT Club website. They can do so by sending an email to Donald.
- In general, members felt that an email mailing list was required for better publicity of events, and to gain more attendance to events.

Election of Officers

- Nida Farid was elected Secretary by acclamation.
- Sheila Ohlund was elected Member for Assigned Tasks (as Observer) by 17 votes.
- The President reminded the General Body that at the next AGM, 3 board members will need to resign. So, members may come forward, contact Donald and be part of the Board.

Financials (Hans Hagenbuch)

- Hans clarified that the Profit and Loss Statement sent out ahead of the meeting was provisional, but has now been approved by the auditors.
- The expenses in the fiscal year 2007 were high due to big events like the Susan Hockfield event and the Big Dig event. Also, the Club purchased MIT caps. So the Club made a planned loss, of about 2500CHF, yet leaving the balance in the bank 7000-8000CHF.
- The income generated through membership fees is lower than last year. This is more due to a change in bookkeeping practices, rather than any actual decrease in fees collection. The new practices will allow better and more clear bookkeeping.
- Membership fee payment slips will be sent out earlier this year, and the second reminder will be sent out by the end of the summer. Previously, the reminder used to be sent in the end of the year, causing confusion to members, who often thought the bill was for the next year.
- The regular donation to MIT will benefit from the decrease in the $-CHF exchange rate.

Auditor’s Report (Hans Herriger)

- Hans read out the auditing report, which confirmed that all accounts were in order.
- Hans Herriger thanked Hans Hagenbuch for doing a good job as the Treasurer.
- Hans Hagenbuch mentioned the changing law, limiting the use of the title “auditor” in professional settings. However, as we are a “Verein”, the new rule does not affect us.
- 14 members voted to discharge the Board for a job well done.

Budget of 2008 (Hans Hagenbuch)

- The budget of membership fees has been increased.
- Expenses were read out. Removing non-paying members from the mailing list, mailing and printing costs will be reduced (once a year, a mailing will go out to non-paying members, to re-establish the bonds). However, since this year the Club plans to print a members’ directory, further printing expenses will be incurred.
- Cash position at the end of the year will be around 7000CHF.
- The General Body unanimously voted to keep the membership fees constant at 50CHF.
- Budget 2008 was approved by unanimous vote.

Outlook of Events in 2008

- Donald mentioned the events upcoming. Your interest in the reward for the organizers.

Varia

- Hans Herriger reminds the Club that traditionally, 50% of their fees was donated to MIT. This year only 30% of total expenses were a donation to MIT. Whereas, 60% was overhead.
- The President clarified that mailing and printing costs etc were not overheads, but rather events-related expenses, and service expenses e.g. printing costs for the new members directory. He also clarified that the Board is striving to optimize expenses.
- Michael Hengartner asked why the Club donates to MIT, when the members can directly donate to MIT themselves. Another member explained that the MIT Club of Switzerland was the first MIT Club in Europe. The donation to MIT was introduced to encourage other clubs to do the same. It should not prevent members to do an individual donation.
- The General Body thanked the Board. The Vice President, Walter Steiner, thanked the President, Donald Tillman, for keeping the Board busy and the MIT Club running.
- The president likes to thank every body for their help and their commitment to the Club!

Nida Farid (secretary) and Donald Tillman (president)