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DSpace Governance History

2007-2008

DSpace Foundation was formed in July 2007 to provide guidance, support and facilitate collaboration within the DSpace community. The Foundation was granted non-profit status in May 2008 and was incorporated in the state of Massachusetts, USA.

June 5, 2006 DSpace Governance Advisory Board meeting

Minutes: [Minutes_DSpace_Governance_AB_06052006.pdf](#)

Report on the formation of a DSpace non-profit: [Non-profit_white_paper_-_Final.pdf](#)

Highlights of the March 30-31, 2006 DSpace Governance Advisory Board meeting

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that the ad hoc DSpace Federation Governance Advisory Board announces the highlights of its initial meeting on March 30-31, 2006 in Cambridge, MA. The governance board was convened to draft a recommendation for governance and funding mechanisms to advance the DSpace community and ensure that the technology platform remains sound, protecting the investment that institutions have made. At the meeting, the board:

- Drafted a statement of mission
- Made a decision to form an independent foundation and initiated a planning process to accomplish that end
- Formed an interim steering committee chaired by Chris Rusbridge (Director, Digital Curation Centre, UK)
- Addressed the need for a technical working group and initiated a road map and white paper process to support that effort

The draft mission of the DSpace foundation is:

- to lead the collaborative development of open source software for digital repositories that enables services for access, provision, stewardship and re-use of digital assets with a focus on educational and research materials;
- to promote the adoption of this technology; and
- to provide a platform for innovation in these areas with an overarching goal of promoting the dissemination and future utility of information and knowledge.

More on the activities of the board and other details of the meeting will be available shortly. Stay tuned!

Materials from the March 30-31, 2006 meeting of the DSpace Federation Governance Advisory Board:

- Agenda: [agenda.doc](#)
- Review of Charge: [charge.ppt](#)
- Open Source Software Overview: [oss.ppt](#)
- DSpace Federation Overview: [federation.ppt](#)
- DSpace Developer Community Overview: [developer.ppt](#)
- Governance Case Studies: [casestudies.ppt](#)
- Mission and Scope:
- Governance Options: [options.ppt](#)

Report for the March 30-31, 2006 meeting of the DSpace Federation Governance Advisory Board

[DSpace_governance_report_03142006.pdf](#)

DSpace Federation Governance Advisory Board Formed

It is with great pleasure that MIT Libraries and HP Labs announce the formation of the DSpace Federation Governance Advisory Board. This ad hoc board is being convened to draft a recommendation for governance and funding mechanisms to advance the DSpace community. The Board, nominated from the community and invited by MIT and HP, is comprised of leaders from higher education and industry that are stakeholders in the DSpace community as well as experts on open source software. The members of the board are:

Mr. Chris Rusbridge, Chair (Director, Digital Curation Centre, UK)

Dr. Adrian Burton (Project Leader, Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories)

Dr. Matthew Cockerill (Publisher, Biomed Central)

Ms. Susan Gibbons (Assistant Dean for Public Services & Collection Development, University of Rochester)

Ms. Geneva Henry (Executive Director, Digital Library Initiative, Rice University)

Dr. James Hilton (Associate Provost for Academic, Information & Instructional Technology Affairs, University of Michigan)

Dr. Clifford Lynch (Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information)

Ms. Carole Moore (University Chief Librarian, University of Toronto)

Dr. Siobhan O'Mahony (Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School)

Dr. A.R.D. Prasad (Associate Professor, Documentation and Research Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute)

Mr. Nick Wainwright (Research Director, Digital Media System Department, HP Labs)

Mr. Peter Walgemoed (Director, Carelliance BV, Netherlands)

Ms. Ann Wolpert (Director, MIT Libraries)

It was agreed at the 2005 User Group meeting at Cambridge University that the growing DSpace community has reached a critical inflection point where it may benefit from some central organization and decision-making beyond the efforts of HP and MIT, with formal participation from the broader community. Establishing governance and, possibly, funding mechanisms for the DSpace open source community will help to ensure that the technology platform remains sound, protecting the investment that institutions have made. There are no proven sustainability models, however, as open source software is relatively new and a disruptive force within the software industry. The challenge for this board is to provide feedback to HP and MIT on the options for an innovative, but practical, plan for DSpace that fosters its active, decentralized community of users and contributors while providing an appropriate level of centralized support and guidance.

The advisory board will meet in-person once, on March 30-31, 2006 at MIT. The group will continue to meet via conference calls, if necessary, to expand upon or resolve any outstanding issues. In keeping with the open source software philosophy, the proceedings and recommendations of the advisory board will be shared with the entire community and your input will be solicited throughout the process.

Given the emerging significance of open source software, this board will be tackling a timely and important subject. Updates will be sent to DSpace-general and posted on <http://wiki.dspace.org/DSpaceGovernance>. Stay tuned for more news about this ground-breaking activity!

Sincerely,

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