

Notes: January 2026 IdPy Governance Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Topic: Board Governance and SATOSA/IdPy Sustainability

Attendees:

- Board Members: Chris Whalen, Christos Kanellopoulos, Fresia Pérez, Ivan Kanakarakis, Leif Johansson, Michael Jones
- Secretariat: Jameelah Kallo

Regrets: Warren Anderson (Board Member), Laura Paglione (Governance Support)

1. Welcome & Agenda Review

- Chris Whalen chaired the meeting.
- The proposed agenda was reviewed and adopted without modification.
- It was noted that Laura Paglione was unable to attend due to travel commitments.

2. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Notes (December 2025)

- The December 2025 meeting notes, circulated in advance by Jameelah Kallo, were reviewed.
- No modifications were requested; the minutes were approved as circulated.

3. Action Item Status (December 2025 Meeting)

- Board member terms: Following a review of the charter and records, it was confirmed that Christos Kanellopoulos and Leif Johansson (not Michael Jones, as previously understood) had terms ending in December 2025. This clarification was needed before proceeding with elections.
- Warren Anderson: Warren Anderson had not responded to meeting invitations or other communications and did not attend this meeting. Per the charter, quorum can be established when a board member is unresponsive; quorum was confirmed with six members present.
- MOU / commitments document: Deferred to the next in-person meeting at TIIME (Amsterdam, February 2026).

4. Board Composition & Engagement

- Quorum: Confirmed with six of seven board members present.
- Term renewals (24-month terms):
 - Christos Kanellopoulos confirmed his interest in continuing on the board.
 - Leif Johansson noted that while his current employer does not directly use IdPY, he expressed willingness to continue contributing in a personal and technical capacity. The board expressed unanimous support for his continuation.

- Warren Anderson: Warren Anderson was unavailable for this meeting. The board hopes for his continued participation and agreed to address any outstanding board composition questions at the next meeting when all members can be present.
- RENU representation: Chris Whalen noted that RENU (the Research and Education Network of Uganda) is planning expanded deployment of SATOSA in support of NIH-related infrastructure. He had previously proposed nominating RENU's Derrick Ssemanda to the board. As the board is currently at the upper end of its membership range, the formal nomination was deferred pending a review of board composition at the next meeting. Chris plans to introduce Derrick to board members at TIIME so that any future nomination can be considered with appropriate context.
- Board size: The board will discuss at the next meeting whether adjusting its size to accommodate new representation (e.g., from RENU) is appropriate.

5. Technical & Operational Context

The board discussed the current state of the project in informational terms. No formal decisions were made. Key points noted:

- Active contributions currently flow primarily from SUNET-affiliated contributors. Following Roland Hedberg's retirement, some sub-projects—particularly in the OpenID front-end libraries—lack a clear maintainer or reviewer, creating gaps that need to be addressed.
- A backlog of open pull requests (PRs) exists, and the PR review process is currently a bottleneck. The board agreed that stale or unaddressed PRs should be actively resolved—whether through merging, closing with explanation, or automated triage—to maintain community trust and project credibility.
- The complexity of the software stack creates barriers for new contributors. Technical simplification and documentation improvements were identified as important medium-term priorities.
- Chris Whalen noted plans to provide additional development resources, including mentoring support for Ivan Kanakarakis, with the goal of expanding technical review capacity and reducing single points of failure.
- The board noted that broadening community engagement requires not only more resources but also clearer communication and contribution standards. Automated tooling (e.g., GitHub Actions for test coverage checks) was discussed as one mechanism to manage contribution expectations more consistently.

6. Future Governance & Meetings

- TIIME Conference (Amsterdam, February 2026):
 - The board will convene an in-person working meeting at TIIME focused on internal strategic alignment.
 - Agenda items will include: defining the strategic direction of IdPY (specifically, whether the primary focus is the broader Python libraries ecosystem or a

production-ready SATOSA platform for enterprise identity infrastructure); funding and resource strategy; and technical leadership and contribution governance.

- A developer-focused side meeting will be arranged at TIIME, including with Matthew Economou and potentially representatives from RENU. The possibility of an unconference session on IdPY/SATOSA development was also raised.
- An informal social gathering is planned for the evening of February 11, between the close of the TIIME program and the conference dinner, to bring together board members present in Amsterdam.
- Community Town Hall:
 - Following the TIIME meeting, the board agreed to organize an online community town hall to gather broader stakeholder input on IdPY's direction. The intent is to first align internally at TIIME, then engage the wider community.
 - Internet2 and other organizations with a stake in the IdPY ecosystem were identified as potential participants.

Decisions Captured

1. **Minutes Approved:** December 2025 meeting minutes approved without modification.
2. **Board Terms Renewed:** Christos Kanellopoulos and Leif Johansson confirmed for new 24-month terms on the board.
3. **Board Composition Review:** Outstanding board composition questions, including potential new nominations, will be addressed at the next meeting when all members are present or have sent a proxy.
4. **RENU Nomination Deferred:** Formal consideration of a RENU board representative deferred pending a review of board size and composition at the next meeting.
5. **TIIME Meeting Agenda:** The in-person meeting at TIIME will focus on strategic alignment, with a structured agenda covering direction, funding, and technical leadership.
6. **Community Town Hall Planned:** An online town hall will be organized following TIIME to gather stakeholder input on IdPY's strategic direction.

Action Items

Owner	Task
Chris Whalen	Brief Warren Anderson on discussions from this meeting and confirm his availability for the TIIME in-person meeting.
Chris Whalen	Facilitate introduction of Derrick Ssemenda (RENU) to board members at TIIME, and report back on potential future board nomination.
Chris Whalen & Ivan Kanakarakis	Coordinate a developer side meeting or unconference session at TIIME with Matthew

	Economou and other interested parties.
Chris Whalen	Bring a proposal to the next board meeting on whether to adjust board size to accommodate new representation.
Board (All)	Prepare for strategic discussion at TIIME: each member to come with a view on IdPY's strategic direction, funding/resource model, and technical leadership structure.
Board (All)	Following TIIME, organize and announce an online community town hall to gather broader stakeholder input on IdPY's direction.
Jameelah Kallo	Circulate January 2026 meeting notes to all attendees.

Technical & Operational Focus Areas (No Assignments Made)

- **Strategic Direction:** The board will engage in a structured discussion at TIIME to define whether IdPY's primary focus is the Python libraries ecosystem, a production-ready SATOSA platform, or both—and what this means for resources and priorities.
- **Pull Request Backlog:** Open PRs should be actively addressed (merged, closed with feedback, or managed via automation) to signal project health and maintain community confidence.
- **Contribution Complexity:** Technical simplification and documentation improvements are needed to lower barriers for community contributions and reduce the expertise required for effective participation.
- **Maintainer Coverage:** Clear ownership of sub-projects—particularly the OpenID front-end libraries and federation-related components—needs to be established following Roland Hedberg's retirement.
- **Developer Coordination:** Revival of regular developer coordination meetings will be explored, with the TIIME side meeting as a starting point.
- **Security & Vulnerability Response:** A defined intake and response process for security and vulnerability reports remains an outstanding need to be addressed.