

Minutes

IAVS Council Meeting, Pirenópolis, Brazil 2016

Time: Tuesday, June 14, 17:30 – 20:00

Location: Luciano Peixoto Convention Center

Participants

Members present: Martin Diekmann (President), Susan Wisser (Secretary), Alessandra Fidelis (Vice President), Monika Janišová (Vice President), Pavel Krestov (Vice President), Javier Loidi (Vice President), Peter Minchin (Vice President), Alicia Acosta, Iva Apostolova, Zoltán Botta-Dukát, Elgene Box, Helge Bruelheide, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Sara Cousins, Guillaume Decocq, Jürgen Dengler, Kazue Fujiwara, Ladislav Mucina, Yukito Nakamura, Michael Palmer, Meelis Pärtel, Robert Peet, Valério Pillar, Otto Wildi, Martin Zobel = 26 votes

Proxy votes: Sándor Bartha (Ladislav Mucina), Andraž Čarni (Ladislav Mucina), Francesco de Bello (Martin Zobel), Nikolai Ermakov (Ladislav Mucina), Jessica Gurevitch (Susan Wisser), Tomáš Herben (Milan Chytrý), Martin Hermy (Martin Diekmann), Jan Lepš (Martin Zobel), János Podani (Valério Pillar), Marcel Rejmánek (Robert Peet), Joop Schaminée (Martin Diekmann), Nina Smits (Martin Diekmann), Wolfgang Willner (Milan Chytrý), David Zelený (Milan Chytrý) = 14 votes

Absent: Florian Jansen, John Rodwell

Guests: Stefan Bradham (FASEB), Péter Török (EDDG Working Group), John Hay (Brazil symposium organizer), Adam Wheeler (Wiley Publishing), Riccardo Guarino (IAVS 2017 venue; Palermo, Sicily)

Welcome

President Diekmann brought the meeting to order at 17:30

1 Announcements of proxy votes (Wisser)

Secretary Wisser read the proxy votes. Proxy representation of 14 members was reported and approved (see above). Total voting members represented: 26 + 14 = 40.

2 Finances

a. Report for 2015 - review (Diekmann)

[Attachment 1: [IAVS-reportfinances2015-Council.pdf](#)]

President Diekmann described that the 2015 report is more complex than past reports because IAVS now uses banks in the Netherlands and the US and uses different currencies. He then reviewed the financial results in comparison to earlier projections. The extra 52K for balance is partly because of an extra payment from Wiley that should have been received in 2014.

The Governing Board decided we would pay as many European expenses as possible from the Dutch accounts to reduce the associated fees. There are difficulties with operating the Dutch accounts as Nina Smits, the former administrator, is no longer acting in this capacity. With time, the Governing Board would like to close the Dutch account due to these difficulties and because we are often asked to sign papers in Dutch and none of the Governing Board are fluent in Dutch. The expenses are higher than projected as we asked FASEB to provide more services for IAVS than initially planned and budgeted for. It is positive that the payments from Wiley are in pounds as the pound is strong right now, but in case the UK leaves the European Union currency conversion rates may strongly change.

There were a few queries from Council. Mucina questioned the expense for meeting support. Bradham clarified that meeting support was not included in the original contract. Chytrý asked for the income from Hacquetia to be explained. Diekmann explained that the payment was a grant to EDDG. Funds for EDDG have to be administered by IAVS who then provides the funds back to EDDG. Dengler requested that individual lines be specified for Working Groups so the commitments to each are clear. Peet suggested that 'contribution received' (i.e. donations) should be listed separately until we decide how they are to be used. Wisner suggested that the currency (Euros) be indicated for the first four columns, that the term 'Marketing expense' be explained and that 'IAVS Award winners & van der Maarels' be changed to 'Travel for IAVS Award winners & van der Maarels'.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

b. Auditing of financial report for 2015 (Wildi)

Wildi said the report looked fine. Currencies are confusing, sometimes we win, sometimes lose, but that has to be accepted. He compared expenditures to the projection and nothing stood out as out of order. Fixed costs also were fine. Diekmann explained that all the evidence of the financial transactions also goes to Wildi/Jansen. Jansen made no input this year.

Pillar asked whether it would be better to just show both currencies instead of converting. Diekmann explained that we pay from both accounts so we need to convert to one currency to understand the total expenses. There was interest from Council in keeping the original currency visible.

Bruelheide queried the loss on transfer from Dutch to US account of 30,000 Euros.

Diekmann explained that this was simply a transfer of money from the Dutch to the US account.

c Update of budget for 2016 - discussion and approval (Diekmann / Bradham / Song)

[Attachment 2: [IAVS-updatefinances2016-Council.pdf](#)]

Diekmann explained that our income was less than the one projected in Brno, but is completely reasonable based on our 2015 income. He does not know why we had such an optimistic expectation of our income. Diekmann explained that there was a 2k increase in the allocation for travel for Associate Editors. He also pointed out the projections for travel support for students to attend the IAVS symposium and meetings of EDDG and EVS. Diekmann explained that we are now making a loss, but we have a reserve of funds in the bank.

Box asked about the reimbursement for honorary members attending the symposium and what does it cover. Diekmann explained that it covers travel cost etc. for attending the meeting where the member receives their award. There was a discussion of whether Fujiwara was reimbursed and Diekmann and Fujiwara agreed to discuss this later.

Peet asked whether IAVS would be reimbursed for some of the FASEB meeting support expenses based on the finances received for this meeting. Both Diekmann and Hay agreed that if there is a surplus, IAVS will be reimbursed.

Diekmann asked Wheeler about the special issue cost and when this would cut into our profit share. Wheeler said it will be expensed when it is produced and this should be at some point in 2016.

Dengler asked why is working group projection has decreased. Diekmann explained that we have always spent below the projection, so this is simply being realistic. The amount spent can be increased if the working groups apply for more. Dengler asked if working groups don't spend their 500 Euro annual allocation, can it be carried over into the following year. Diekmann replied that there is no rule; if there is a very important project then the working group can receive more funds.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

d Appointment of auditors (Diekmann)

Diekmann asked for two volunteers. Wildi volunteered again. Jansen was suggested and Diekmann will follow up with him. If Jansen declines, Council will vote via email.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

e Discussion about IAVS finances and projection of budget for 2017
[Attachment 3: [IAVS-projectionfinances2017-Council.pdf](#)]

Diekmann explained that expenses are about the same as the updated 2016 amounts. The profit would be about 3k.

Krestov felt that the fee for DOIs for the Bulletin, meetings publications etc. will be higher than the projection. Minchin explained that the annual fee is \$275 and \$1 per DOI. The projections should be changed to \$400.

Bruelheide asked the sum of funds in the bank. Diekmann replied that this is about €300,000 Euros. He will add a line to show this sum on Attachment 1.

Pillar was concerned that the budget for 2016 is negative. He felt we need a strategy for how to best make use of the funds we accumulate. He also felt we should not spend more than our income in a given year. Diekmann agreed that we no longer have the tax issue as our Dutch funds are going down, so we will not need to overspend in future. The US tax department has verified our tax exempt status. Bradham explained that most other FASEB clients have a finance committee to develop a strategy. Diekmann replied that this was raised last year, but we have yet to identify a person who is enthusiastic about leading this effort. Palmer urged us to again consider having a finance committee; this has been suggested in the past but no

finance committee has been formed. Peet asked whether FASEB can provide financial guidance. Bradham replied that FASEB can refer us to a firm that could assist us.

Wiser asked that the description, IAVS Award winner' be more explicit and specify whether this is for IAVS Honorary Membership or the Von Humboldt award.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

f Discussion about honoraria / travel reimbursements for Associate Editors (Diekmann)

Diekmann explained that in Brno Council agreed there should be a deadline for Associate Editors to apply for the honoraria, but in reality we made exceptions and felt this was reasonable. Partel explained that some people have difficulty committing to travel early and that this flexibility is helpful.

g. Modification of funding scheme of Working Groups and Regional Sections (Dengler/Török) [Attachment 4: IAVS_Proposal_of_additional_funding_of_WGs-final.pdf]

Török explained that Working Groups appreciate the financial support from IAVS. However, it would be useful to have more flexibility in the €3000 project funding. An example is that it would be useful to support steering committee members to travel to meet once a year. His proposal is endorsed by four working groups.

Diekmann said he agrees with the proposal as the Governing Board has allowed this in some instances, for example for the Phytosociological Nomenclature Working Group. The ensuing discussion (Mucina, Palmer, Bruelheide, Peet, Wiser, and Diekmann) discussed whether conference attendance would be an option for funds or whether steering committees could apply for funds to meet while attending another conference. It was agreed that a proposal would be required and specifics would be worked out with the proposal review by the Governing Board. Also a description of how the funds were used would be required in the Working Group annual report.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

3 IAVS Business Office

Report from FASEB (Bradham / Song) [Attachment 5: IAVS Business Office Report - FASEB - June 2016.pdf]

Bradham described highlights of the report. A major project was to move the membership database and the website from being managed by Wiley to being managed by FASEB. This was completed in April. One advance is that those with free memberships now get a renewal notice, so we can track these more readily. The main change in the website is the position of the main menu along the top of the page. Initial pages have been built for Working Groups and they can build these out more completely now.

The FASEB contract is up for renewal at the end of the year. Plans for the near future include i) helping with the transition to the new logo; ii) helping with the process of getting DOIs; iii) working with the membership committee on the renewal process; iv) working with the website and social media committee to improve the website; v) developing a strategy for

consolidating the multiple bank accounts; vi) working with the Palermo organizing committee on the 2017 symposium website.

Silvy Song will take over from Stefan Bradham on 1 July and will be supported by him. Bradham will still work with Janišová on the Bulletin.

Chytrý asked how many members we have. Bradham answered 603. Peet asked whether Song would give advice on how to increase our membership? Bradham replied that yes, she is very good with social media etc. Wisser asked about the larger member database managed by Peet in the past. Bradham replied that all this historic data was incorporated into the new member database. Diekmann showed a membership map. Bradham explained how other societies use this map as one tool to work with FASEB on targeting new regions as foci for membership drives. Palmer said there are 703 members of the IAVS Facebook page, so this exceeds the number of formal members. Dengler pointed out that EDDG also has more members. People from both groups could be entered into the member database and contacted once a year or so, particularly when we are trying to register more members.

4 **IAVS logo (Loidi)** [Attachment 6: IAVS logo options.pdf]

Loidi gave a presentation describing the rationale for seeking a new logo design and what the proposed logo design intends to represent.

The ensuing discussion (Mucina, Bruelheide, Wisser, Minchin, Pärtel) focused on the cost (design and potential costs of ‘rebranding’), reiterating the 2015 Council decision to seek a new logo design, opinions of the nature of the proposed design, the advantages and disadvantages of change etc..

8 members (including proxies) voted to keep the current logo.
22 members (including proxies) voted for the new logo
4 members (including proxies) abstained
(the remaining members (or their proxies) had left the meeting at this point)

Council empowered the Governing Board to decide among the different variants provided by the designers. Any further comments by Council should be sent to the Governing Board. Bruelheide suggested that Loidi write up his notes for the Bulletin to explain the logo change. Chytrý asked about the date of acceptance of the new logo and suggested that the start of a new year (new volume of the journals) would make sense. Diekmann said the Governing Board would work with the Chief Editors on this. The Chief Editors will need to discuss this change with Wiley.

5 **New IAVS website (Bradham/Song)**

Bradham explained the plans for the new IAVS website.

Peet suggested that someone needs to go through the website in detail and check for minor problems.

Dengler asked whether the Working Groups could use the symposium template for their meetings and whether IAVS would pay for this. Bradham agreed to talk to the FASEB IT team and get back to him. Diekmann said that funding would be discussed after the Governing Board has the required details from the FASEB IT team.

6 Reports on publications

- a Report from Wiley (Wheeler) [Attachment 7: IAVS Publisher's Report 2015 final.pdf]

Wheeler referred to the various reports and only raised key issues. There needs to be an analysis of why the impact factor has gone down and discoverability of content (access has increased but downloads are down). This will require a focus on visibility and marketing.

Wiley plans for the future are relevant to our journals. Data sharing is a key aspect and Wiley is focusing on using FigShare to achieve this. Wiley was restructured about a year ago. There is now a group that focusses on peer review, more author services e.g. web-based seminars to include writing, annual membership surveys etc. In the coming 18 months Wiley would like to see us move to a platform that is more clearly branded as IAVS. Some new journals doing this have a hub -- this focusses less on that it is a Wiley website and more on the society. This hub would allow IAVS to build 'virtual issues' repurposing content etc. There is also potential for new journal design including a more modern looking layout for articles. Wiley feels that having fewer journal styles will reduce errors in type setting and reduce turnaround time. Wheeler would like to see production times come down by 10 days. The intention is to have an accepted manuscript assigned a DOI within 5 days of being exported into the production section. This would result in perhaps 30 days from acceptance to online publication.

Palmer liked the idea of an IAVS page. Could we better integrate the IAVS website, managed by FASEB with this new hub?

Wheeler felt this was possible. Bradham expressed some concerns. FASEB and Wiley would need multiple discussions to make this work.

Dengler felt that being associated with the Wiley online library is beneficial as it associates us with other ecological journals. Wheeler said the Wiley online library would still exist; the changes would provide two routes to the same content.

Wiser expressed concern of a conflict between a hub that provides more identity for IAVS, and a format that conforms to many other journals; a component of our identity is our current format. Dengler shared this concern. Wheeler replied that the intent is to make lead pages of articles distinctive with the IAVS logo, specific header etc.

- b Publications officer (Minchin) [Attachment 8 Publications Committee Report 2015-2016.pdf]

Minchin reviewed the report. The impact factor for JVS is 3.151 and AVS 2.308. Licensing went up 14% (a lot of institutions are doing a Wiley subscriptions rather than personal society subscriptions). Print subscriptions keep going down; there are now only 200. We will need to make a decision sooner than later to go all online. One disturbing aspect is that article downloads are down 12% and 5% respectively.

Pillar explained that the impact factor may have been influenced by the number of papers published in 2014 (145/75 papers in JVS/AVS) versus 2015 (119/73 papers in JVS/AVS). 2016 will be more like 2014.

Minchin was very complementary of the efforts of Janišová and Bradham to greatly improve the Bulletin.

DOIs were discussed and issues that need to be resolved. Dengler said that the EDDG Working Group would like to have DOIs for individual articles in their Bulletin so that they are citable.

Chytrý asked whether the Bylaws should have a DOI. Minchin felt not as they don't need to be discovered. Also a DOI means the document will have to be locatable forever, which is not necessarily what we want for the Bylaws.

Dengler asked if FASEB has experience with landing pages for DOIs.

Pärtel suggested these are issues that need to be discussed by the Publications Committee. Bruelheide asked whether IAVS should support DOIs for data sets; Chytrý felt the original paper should be cited rather than the dataset. Wiley is piloting using FigShare to publish datasets associated with papers and provide DOIs to these datasets. With time this process will be automated. Susan asked about the use of Creative Commons licenses for these datasets. Adam advises against CCO (as used by Dryad) and thinks FigShare uses CCBY. He will look into this. The Publications Committee will explore these issues further and report back to Council.

- c Chief Editors (Pärtel) [Attachment 9: Report of Chief Editors 2016 to IAVS Council final.pdf]

Partel presented highlights from his report. These included that in 2015 JVS/AVS received more than 400/200 manuscripts; for both ~25% are rejected without review. The Chief Editors are endeavoring to keep the scope of the journals clear and that paper length is appropriate. From the perspective of the Chief Editors, the timeframes from submission to publication are satisfactory.

- d Bulletin (Janišová)

Janišová reported the goal to increase the publication of the IAVS Bulletin from two to four issues annually. The Bulletin now has an ISSN. As editor, she has been endeavoring to make content more interesting and attract more readers. She receives few articles spontaneously; the only one to date was an obituary. Rather she solicits articles. She requested that Council members submit articles as well as photographs from the symposium. She also requested those who don't receive it to notify her; the Bulletin can be filtered out as spam and she and Bradham can help solve this problem. She thanked all contributors, Bradham for editorial and layout support and the native speakers who provided language editing.

Chytrý would appreciate articles about IAVS history; perhaps these could be solicited from older members? Palmer suggested such articles should get DOIs.

- e. Phytocoenologia (Krestov)

Krestov reviewed his report. Highlights included that there is a new editorial board, 6 Chief Editors, each rotating as the receiving editor. They are interacting with some IAVS working groups on special issues and are open to working with other groups. After the inaugural issue of the new Editorial Team, which was presented at the 2015 IAVS Council Meeting in Brno,

three new issues have been published. They include 11 research papers (original papers), 7 Long and Short Database Reports, 1 Report of Working Group and 1 Editorial. Pärtel expressed concern about the high level of self-citation; > 40% of the citations to Phytocoenologia papers are in Phytocoenologia.

7 Reports of Working groups / Regional sections

- a European Vegetation Survey (EVS) (Chytrý) [Attachment 10: EVS Report 2016.pdf]
- b Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature (GPN) [Attachment 11: GPN_Report_2016.pdf]
- c Vegetation Classification (Krestov/Dengler) [Attachment 12: IAVS_VCWG annual report.pdf]
- d Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) (Török) [Attachment 13: Report EDGG_2016-final.pdf]
- e Young Scientists Section [Attachment 14: IAVSYoungScientistsSectionAnnualReport2016.docx]
- f North American Section [Attachment 15 North American Section Report 2015-2016.pdf]

[Note reports from Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) in IAVS Bulletin March 2016 <http://iavs.org/getattachment/71defb36-4518-401e-a335-dced827b0640/Bulletin-2016-1.aspx>]

8 Committees

The reports were tabled, but owing to time restrictions they were not discussed. Questions for the committee chairs were solicited and are described below.

- a Awards Committee (Diekmann)
- b Global Sponsorship Committee (Fidelis)
- c Membership Committee (Krestov)

Dengler asked why there was no report from the Membership Committee, given the importance of this committee to IAVS. Krestov described how there was confusion over who was actually chair. He then described his ideas of how to make IAVS more visible and increase membership over the next year, including the options of personal pages on the IAVS website and attracting members from low income countries to apply for free membership.

Palmer encouraged the Governing Board to appoint a new membership committee. Dengler and Diekmann strongly supported this.

Bradham said it should be easier now to determine which working group members are not IAVS members. IAVS could also send a message to all symposium attendees encouraging them to join. Some FASEB clients give one free membership to meeting attendees for the remainder of the year.

The Governing Board will report back to Council by the end of the calendar year on the progress on this issue.

d Meetings Committee (Loidi) [Attachment 16
MeetingsCommitteeReportPirenopolis2016.pdf]

e Discussion about the location of the IAVS symposium in 2019

Diekmann explained how IAVS has a proposal from a Chinese group for 2019. However some members feel that as the 2018 symposium is in the USA the 2019 meeting should be in Europe.

Bruelheide felt that the Inner Mongolia group that submitted the proposal is not well connected to rest of Chinese ecological community. Also IAVS has very few members from China. So holding a symposium there in 2019 may be a bit premature. Mucina felt the group needed to be more integrated into IAVS before they should lead a symposium. Palmer felt there needs to be a regional section before there is a symposium there. Dengler was concerned that the member who led the proposal is not at the current meeting.

It was decided that Diekmann will write a letter telling the member that we will not agree to have the symposium there and will propose some mechanisms for this group, and other Chinese to be more involved in our society.

The discussion then turned to the proposed symposium in Vladivostok. Peet suggested that we decide that that symposium will be held in either 2019 or 2020, depending on whether we have an option for Europe in 2019.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

9 Other business

Pillar has been in discussion with others about forming a South American section. Fidelis described how many scientists new to IAVS are attending the current symposium (e.g. from Uruguay for example) and are very enthusiastic about the society. So there will be follow up on this.

Peet described how the Young Scientists Group report highlighted that they have been trying to have electronic conferences but can't find electronic conferencing software. The Governing Board agreed to have FASEB look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:43.