

IAVS Council Meeting, Bremen, Germany 2019

Time: Wednesday, July 17, 19.00 - 21.00

Location: room Borgward

Participants

Members present: Martin Diekmann (President), Susan Wiser (Secretary), Alessandra Fidelis (Vice President), Monika Janišová (Vice President), Javier Loidi (Vice President), Peter Minchin (Vice President), Alicia Acosta, Idoia Biurrun, Elgene Box, Helge Bruelheide, Andraž Čarni, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Francesco de Bello, Guillaume Decocq, Jürgen Dengler, Kazue Fujiwara, Riccardo Guarino, Tomáš Herben, Florian Jansen, Borja Jiménez-Alfaro, Anna Kuzemko, Meelis Pärtel, Robert Peet, Valério Pillar, John Rodwell, Joop Schaminée, Peter Török, Viktoria Wagner, Wolfgang Willner, David Zelený, Martin Zobel = 32 votes

Proxy votes: Iva Apostolova (Monika Janišová), Sara Cousins (Susan Wiser), Jan Lepš (Francesco de Bello), Ladislav Mucina (Andraž Čarni), Alireza Naginezhad (Fidelis), Vladimir Onipchenko (Fidelis), Michael Palmer (Valério Pillar), Emma Shidolo (Dengler) = 8 votes

Guests: Lisa Hetherington (FASEB), Daniel Sanchez-Mata (as organizer of possible IAVS 2021 venue; Madrid, Spain), Reginald Guuroh (Young Scientists).

1 Welcome

President Diekmann brought the meeting to order at 19:00.

2 Announcements of proxy votes (Wiser)

Secretary Wiser read the proxy votes. Proxy representation of 8 members was reported and approved (see above). Total voting members represented: $32 + 8 = 40$

3 Election of new officers

a. Nominations from the Nominations committee

The following members of Council were nominated, by the Nominations committee in consultation with Council, to serve on the Governing Board: Cousins, Dengler, Diekmann, Fidelis, Janišová, Loidi, Minchin, Wiser, Zelený. President Diekmann and Secretary Wiser explained the nature of the responsibilities of the Governing Board. Then all nominees who were present stated how they would serve IAVS if elected.

b. Nominations from the floor

There were no further nominations.

c. Election of President, Secretary, and five vice-presidents

Susan Wiser was nominated to serve as President by Diekmann, seconded by Peet. She was unanimously elected.

David Zelený was nominated to serve as Secretary by Wiser, seconded by Diekmann. He was unanimously elected.

A private ballot was used for nomination of the five vice-presidents, with each Council member having five votes. Votes were tallied by Wiser and Zelený:

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|----------|----|
| Diekmann | 40 |
| Janišová | 39 |
| Loidi | 37 |
| Minchin | 37 |
| Fidelis | 33 |
| Dengler | 7 |
| Cousins | 5 |

Accordingly Diekmann, Janišová, Loidi, Minchin and Fidelis were elected to serve as Vice Presidents.

4 Administrative services

a. Changes in FASEB and implications for IAVS [Diekmann, Wisner, Hetherington]

Wisner described, as she had for the meeting of the outgoing Council, how FASEB is planning on no longer providing administrative services to societies like ours that are not FASEB members. The Governing Board learned of this only two weeks ago and has not yet had a discussion with FASEB about what the implications for IAVS are. There are no clear advantages to IAVS in becoming a FASEB member and it is quite costly (~US\$13,000). The new Governing Board will need to identify a new solution for the administration of IAVS.

5 Discussion of future activities and initiatives

a. Committees and role of serving on them [President]

Diekmann described the current Committees (Global Sponsorship, Meetings, Membership, Ethics, Publications, Awards and Website and Social Media). The Governing Board will re-establish these committees. In some cases, they will continue as currently constructed whereas others will be reformed. Council members were asked to let the Governing Board know if you want to serve on any committee. Dengler suggested that committees be comprised solely of Council members. Wisner felt that it useful to have at least one committee member on Council to facilitate open communication between that committee and the leadership, but she also felt this should not be a requirement as service on a committee can be a segue into becoming more active in IAVS in the future. Minchin encouraged all Council Members (except Chief Editors who already have a huge workload) to serve on a committee.

There was a question about the process for forming committees. Diekmann explained that the President and Governing Board appoint the Chair of the committee and then the Chair selects members to serve on that Committee.

b. Potential to enable annual meetings of Council to be accessible remotely (e.g. via Skype)

Wisner suggested this as an option to allow Council members who are unable to attend the annual Symposium to participate more actively in the governance of IAVS than they are able to via a proxy vote alone.

c. Reducing the carbon footprint of IAVS symposia

The issue of the need to for IAVS to be more active in reducing our carbon footprint was raised by Wagner. She suggested alternatives to be as explored, such as reducing the frequency of our symposia (some societies are doing this) and enabling remote participation in the symposium. A range of views were expressed by Council. Loidi, as Meetings Chair, said no immediate decisions on this can be made as we are already committed to symposia for the next two years. Some members felt that it would be very sad to not hold symposia

annually, that IAVS is their scientific 'home' and that such a step would be detrimental to IAVS. The view was also expressed that steps, such as this one, that are suitable for other societies may not be suitable for IAVS. Diekmann pointed out that the IAVS Bylaws state that IAVS will hold an annual symposium. Others pointed out that IAVS does not actually know what the carbon footprint of our activities is and it would certainly be worthwhile to quantify this as a baseline against which we could identify ways to reduce this footprint. For example, what is the difference between different potential symposium locations (e.g. number of participants, C footprint of short flights versus long flights); would changing the catering to vegetarian or vegan make a material difference?

The decision was made to form a Special Committee to investigate the Carbon Footprint of IAVS and determine how to quantify a baseline estimate of our current impacts. Wagner, Rodwell and Diekmann volunteered to serve on this committee.

6 Other business

Wagner commented that in various online fora, members had complained that the cost of the symposium was too high for them to attend. Should IAVS respond to this? Diekmann replied that the cost was about average compared to other international ecological symposia. Fees in Bremen were similar to those in Bozeman, but higher than in Palermo, Brno etc. He suggested that the Meetings Committee, Governing Board and Council need to explicitly consider cost when approving future meeting venues and should also seek countries where the cost of running a symposium is not high.

Dengler suggested that members of Council should receive a small honorarium to encourage them to attend the annual symposium and associated meeting of Council. Diekmann said that this really depends on the finances of IAVS.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:51