

Minutes – General Assembly

Lyon, France - 2011

Friday, June 24, 14:30-15:40

President Peet opened the meeting at 14:30; approximately 100 participants were present for the General Assembly.

1. Membership report

Currently IAVS has about 650 active members. Further details will be announced in a few months after our new membership database has been completed.

2. Financial report

The assets of IAVS totaled 35,796 € at the end of 2006 and have increased consistently over the intervening 4.5 years. The first increase was due to the 19,000 € profit from the 2007 Wales meeting that Hilary Thomas kindly donated to IAVS, and in subsequent years the increase has been due to the change of publisher. We closed 2010 with total assets of 160,615 €, and we project that assets at the end of 2011 will total approximately 200,428 €.

3. Council events: Statutes and Bylaws

Adoption of an internet-based election procedure led to an unprecedentedly high level of member participation in the 2011 election; 56% of the eligible members voted, in contrast to previous elections where the participation was generally around 10%. The election resulted in approval of the proposed new statutes and election of a new Council. The new Council and the new Statutes have been published in the most recent *Bulletin* (14) and will be published on our website. At the last meeting of the 2007-2011 Council (21 June) new bylaws were accepted by the Council. These will be published in the upcoming *Bulletin* and on the website.

4. Meetings reports

Local organizers described the next three IAVS annual meetings (2014 - Perth, Australia; 2013 - Tartu, Estonia; 2012 - Mokpo City, Korea).

5. IAVS Awards

In 2010, Prof. John Rodwell was appointed to honorary membership. He was unable to attend the 2010 meeting due to prior commitments, so he received his award and presented his invited lecture in Lyon. The 2011 Alexander von Humboldt Award for Excellence in Vegetation Science was presented to Prof. Philip Grime, who also presented his invited lecture in Lyon.

The 2011 Young Scientist Awards for the best oral presentation and best poster were announced.

Best oral presentation:

Renaud Jaunautre. Impacts of a multi-treatment restoration experiment on the vegetation, soil and seed bank of a mediterranean steppe.

Honorable mentions, oral presentation:

Maud Bernard-Vendier. Detecting community assembly patterns along a soil depth gradient in a mediterranean rangeland.

Neema Mogha. Impact of land-use on vegetation communities and their floristic composition in the small wetlands of East Africa.

Best Poster presentation:

Hannes Feilhauer. Combining ordination and remote sensing techniques to map ecotones in a heterogeneous landscape.

Honorable mentions, poster:

Marcos Carlucci. Information from tree sapling individuals reveals trait convergence and trait divergence are related to gradients in forest patches.

Liisa Maanvilja. Restoration of diversity in boreal spruce swamp forests.

6. Remarks of the president

President Peet referred the audience to his article in the most recent IAVS *Bulletin* in which he has presented a summary of the accomplishments of the Association over the past 4 years and needs of the Association that should be addressed over the next 4 years.

7. Introduction of new Council and Governing Board

President Peet thanked the 2007-2011 Executive Committee members for their service, and welcomed the Governing Board for 2011-2015 (the name changed due to a change in the Statutes). The new Governing Board consists of Martin Diekmann (Germany, President), Susan Wisser (New Zealand, secretary), and five vice-presidents (Robert Peet, USA; Valerio Pillar, Brazil; Javier Loidi, Spain; Alicia Acosta, Italy; Michael Palmer, USA).

2011-2015 IAVS Standing Committees

Awards (Chair: Joop Schaminee)

Meetings (Chair: Valerio Pillar)

Global Sponsorship (Chair: Alicia Acosta)

Membership (Chair: Michael Palmer)

Publications (Chair: Robert Peet)

2011-2015 IAVS Special Committees

Classification committee (Chair: Javier Loidi)

Business and management (Chair open)

Website & social media (Chair open)

Robert Peet and Ladislav Mucina were thanked for their efforts for the IAVS over the last 4 years as President & Secretary, respectively.

8. Recognition of the Lyon organizing committee

IAVS thanked the organizing committee and especially the chair Gudrun Bornet and vice-chair Sara Puijalon.

Thank you both for a well-organized, stimulating, enjoyable and successful scientific meeting!

9. Closing session

Gudrun Bornet closed the meeting and mentioned that this meeting had 400 participants from 43 countries including 23 European countries.