

Freising, Germany: 30 & 31 July 2001

Apart from Council members, the meeting was attended by some guests, partly on behalf of forthcoming excursions and annual meetings. The attendance list was signed by the Council members J.P. Bakker (NL), R. Bornkamm (DE), G. Bredenkamp (ZA), E.O. Box (US), H. Dierschke (DE), K. Fujiwara (JP), D. Goldberg (US), T. Herben (CZ), M. Hill (UK), E. van der Maarel (NL), A. Miyawaki (JP), D. Mueller-Dombois (US), R. Pott (DE), A. Schwabe-Kratochwil (DE) and J.H.J. Schaminée (NL), and the guests

P. Coker (UK), M.D. Espirito Santo (PT), A. Fischer (DE), J. van der Maarel (SE), A. Mueller-Dombois (US), J. Pfadenhauer (DE), I. Safronova (RU), N. Smits (NL), H. Thomas (UK) and J.B. Wilson (NZ).

1. Opening

The president, E.O. Box, opened the meeting at 18:00 with a word of welcome.

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, in Nagano (24 July 2000), were formally approved after correcting some spelling mistakes.

3. Report of the Executive Committee

The Treasurer (Hartmut Dierschke) presented the financial report for 2000. The income for 2000 was 5,080.28 DM, and the expenditures were 5,281,85 DM. So the balance for 2000 was -201.61 DM. This makes the total assets on 31 December 2000 for the IAVS: 71.312,18 DM.

Dierschke mentioned that quite a number of people (not subscribing to a journal) that received a reminder last year have indicated that they would like to stay a member of the IAVS and have since paid their membership fee: 185 out of 281 that were reminded. All members were informed that the annual fee from 2001 onwards will be 20 USD or 20 EUR, as was decided during the Annual Meeting in Bilbao. In Bilbao, it also was decided to offer the possibility to pay for more than one year at a time (75 USD or 75 EUR for a 5-year subscription).

As in 2001 (Freising), it was decided to support the next IAVS symposium (Porto Alegre) with 5000 EUR to facilitate the attendance of young scientists. The organizing committee is free to spend this grant under the following conditions: (1) the person or persons in question must present a paper or poster at the IAVS symposium, and (2) it must be announced somewhere that participation at the symposium was made possible by a grant from the IAVS. The grant includes IAVS membership for at least one year. A proposal was discussed to appoint an assistant for the office in Wageningen for membership administration (including financial administration of members not subscribing to a journal). It was decided that a maximum of 2500 EUR yearly will be made available for this task, starting 1 September 2001. This certainly will facilitate the exchange of information between Opulus Press and the office in Wageningen. Following the announcement by Hartmut Dierschke that he would like to hand over the function of Treasurer to someone else next year, this also makes it possible to combine the functions of Secretary General and Treasurer again from 2002 onwards, after the Council meeting in Porto Alegre. The Secretary General is authorized to appoint this assistant.

A written report of the IAVS Publication Officer (Eddy van der Maarel) was brought forward and discussed.

The number of IAVS members in June 2001 was 1644, which is somewhat lower than last year. The simple reason for this decrease is that many members who had not paid for years have been removed from the list, both those taking a journal and those not doing so. Of the members, 872 were subscribing to the *Journal of Vegetation Science* (including free subscriptions to members of the Editorial Board and some 40 adoptees). Of these 872 subscribers, 25 take only the electronic version and 5 the combination of paper and electronic versions. The number of library subscriptions is 425. Altogether 481 members were subscribing to *Applied Vegetation Science* and there are 99 library subscriptions; both figures are higher than last year. A new membership list has been completed and has been distributed during the Freising symposium; a copy will be sent to all members by mail.

After resigning from the Editorial Board, the Publication Officer stopped collecting information on the composition of the Editorial Board and number of submitted and accepted manuscripts, because it was assumed that this information will now be provided by or through the Chairman of the Editorial Board. Through a misunderstanding this has not yet happened. Nevertheless, a few words have been included in his report on this matter. There are now four Editors who serve both *JVS* and *AVS*. Editor Ladislav Mucina resigned in the autumn of 2000 because of his start as a professor of botany in South Africa. Laco has been an Editor since 1995, and we owe him many thanks for his input. Associate Editor Jan P. Bakker from Groningen was asked to replace him. This nomination has been formalized by the Advisory Council. The four Editors are now J.P. Bakker, J. Oksanen, P.S. White and J.B. Wilson. Bastow Wilson acts as Chairperson. The number of Associate Editors was increased in 2000 in order to improve the procedure of manuscript review and decision about acceptance or rejection. There were nine Associate Editors after Prof. Rob Marrs from Liverpool was invited to take Jan Bakker's place. In 2001 the number was increased to 12 by inviting Helge Bruelheide from Göttingen, Exequiel Ezcurra from Mexico City and Paul Harcombe from Houston, Texas. There are four Associate Editors for *AVS*. Rob Marrs took over the position of Jan Bakker, who became an Editor. The members of the Editorial Boards change regularly because most members serve only one or two terms. New in the Board of *JVS* are Milan Chytrý from Brno, Rasmus Erjnæs from Rønne, Jonas Lawesson from Aarhus and Meelis Pärtel from Tartu. Since 2000, *JVS* has one of the Associate Editors, Sandra Díaz, acting as Forum Editor, with the purpose to solicit more manuscripts with a critical or commentary character on current topics in vegetation ecology. Several Forum papers have appeared in the 2000 issues and the 2001 issues published so far. The submitted manuscripts are received by the Editorial Office in Länna, Sweden, and their review is organized by Lena Lundgren, Head of the Office. An electronic system for handling manuscripts is under preparation. The final step in this system, the announcement of accepted papers on the website of Opulus Press, is already in use.

Since the beginning of *JVS* there has been an adoption system. Partly through personal adoptions by members and partly through contributions to a special Global Fund, the journal has been made available to many colleagues in countries with currency-exchange problems, most of them leaders of active research groups. To arrange and manage this, an Adoption Committee has functioned, unofficially, since the beginning. Since the Bilbao meeting, the Committee has the

following members: Eddy van der Maarel (Publication Officer), Joop Schaminée (Secretary), Hartmut Dierschke (Treasurer), Marijke van der Maarel (former IAVS administrator), Michael W. Palmer and Tomáš Herben. Adoptions go to Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraina, Yugoslavia, and Zambia. Since there is now the possibility of an electronic subscription for an adoptee, which is clearly cheaper, more adoptees can be included and AVS adoptions can be considered as well. Therefore, it was proposed to inform the JVS adoptees that, from 2002 onwards, the standard adoption will involve an electronic subscription. As per April 2001, the capital of the Global Fund was 65.671 SEK. There were 43 adoptees. For the Global Fund, 850 SEK were donated. The number of adopters decreased, mainly because most of the new members of the Editorial Board now made use of the offer for a free subscription. Opulus Press, feeling sorry for the negative result on JVS/AVS over 2000, promised to take over 10 adoptions. This means that 16×750 SEK has to be paid to Opulus, minus the 850 SEK donations (see above), = 11.150 SEK. The payment of this amount will soon be arranged, whereafter the available capital of the Global Fund will be $(65.671 - 11.150) = 54.521$ SEK. This amount is not much less than that available two years ago, but there is a negative trend now and we have to diminish our expenses – which we easily can achieve through limiting the number of paper copies and the provision of electronic copies to adoptees. It was discussed and decided that from 2002 onwards, the financial administration of the Global Fund will be controlled by the Treasurer, for which a separate account will be opened.

A financial report for 2000 has been sent by Opulus to the Secretary General. This report reveals that there is again no profit. There are mainly two reasons for this situation: (1) the number of new subscribers did not increase and we had relatively many subscribers who did not pay but still cost money; and (2) Opulus had to invest in the electronic facilities. As follows from the figures on subscriptions, the investment may start paying off immediately.

Because Opulus Press uses to keep newly established prices for at least one more year, and in view of the expected positive development of the economy of the journals, it was arranged with the Press that the prices for 2002 will be the same as for 2001.

Finally, some miscellaneous topics were brought forward: (1) Several editors and also the Publishers were not happy with the demand that authors of published papers should in principle subscribe to the IAVS journal in which they publish. Accordingly it has been proposed to terminate page charges. (2)

Acceptance of *AVS* by “Current Contents” and the “Science Citation Index” appears closer. They are waiting to check issue 4-1 – the main criterion at the moment seems to be that the journal is published on time. The issue was published in June and sent directly to the ISI office. Probably *AVS* will then be accepted. (3) As was mentioned last year, the Publication Officer is in touch with SPARC, the Scholarly

Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition, an American organization aimed at breaking the dominance of the commercial publishing houses with their ever increasing subscription prices. SPARC receives support from a growing number of major libraries, at the moment ca. 150, mainly university libraries from the US and Canada. SPARC supports journals which are cheap alternatives to very expensive journals, and even promotes the start of new journals which may be able to out compete commercial counterparts. After SPARC received all the necessary

information on *JVS* earlier this year, the organization decided to adopt IAVS as a partner eligible for such support. Soon we will receive the text of an agreement, which has to be signed by representatives of IAVS – maybe the Publication Officer and the Chairperson of the Editorial Board – and Oplis Press. One of the benefits of this agreement will be that all libraries supporting SPARC will commit themselves to enter a subscription to *JVS*! Although many of these libraries already subscribe to *JVS*, it may imply that we will get at least 50 more libraries to subscribe

This again would mean a considerable improvement in the journal's finances. Box emphasized that the increasingly international nature of the IAVS also can be seen from the list of participants at this year's symposium: Argentina (7), France (10), Africa (23, apart from South Africa), Australia (6), New Zealand (7), Israel (5), India (4), and Russia (29) among others.

4. Election of the Advisory Council and Executive Committee (2002-2005)

A provisional list of candidates was put forward by the Secretary General and was discussed during the meeting, based on a set of criteria. The final list contains all candidates from the 1998 list of candidates insofar as far as they (1) received at least 20 votes during the 1998 election, and (2) have not indicated that they want to be excluded from the list (Bornkamm, Theurillat, Willems, Wilmanns). A number of 1998 candidates have been removed, who (1) have not attended at least once IAVS meeting during the last five years and (2) could be presumed not willing to be nominated again his time. Added are some new candidates whose names were brought forward by Council members by e-mail. The present list contains 111 names, of which 40 will be elected directly by receiving the most votes. To guarantee that each major world region will be represented by the newly elected Council, at least one representative from each region will be admitted, regardless of how many votes are received (i.e. the candidate that receives the most votes among those in the region). An initial list of major world regions suggested by Box was discussed, resulting in the following 11 regions: (1) Northern Europe including British Isles and Baltic countries, (2) Central Europe, (3) Southern Europe, (4) Eastern Europe including Russia and Ukraine, (5) Middle East including Middle Asia, (5) South and Southeast Asia, (7) East Asia, (8) Africa, (9) North America, (10) Latin America including Central America and non-English Carribean, and (11) Australia and New Zealand plus Pacific islands.

5. Report of Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections

During the meeting in Uppsala (1998), it was decided that Working Groups, Commissions and Regional

Sections should provide an annual report to the Advisory Council and that these (short) reports should be published in the IAVS Bulletin. These annual reports can be found elsewhere in this bulletin (see further under 'Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections'). Two extra regional sections were formally announced, a Regional Section for Japan (contact person: Kazue Fujiwara) and a Regional Section for the Pacific Islands (PABITRA, contact person: Dieter Mueller-Dombois).

6. Statutes

Preceding the meeting of the Advisory Council, an updated version of the Statutes of the International

Association for Vegetation Science (a translation of the Dutch draft-statutes as made by the public notary, and corrected and partly restructured by Eddy van der Maarel) was sent to all Council members. The changes were elucidated by van der Maarel at the council meeting. A complete version of the statutes was posted at the Symposium registration desk for all IAVS members. One of the items that was discussed concerned the name of the Advisory Council. After voting, it was decided to change the name to 'Council'; 10 against 4). The formal Statutes will be accompanied by 'By-Laws' to settle everyday business. A draft will be prepared by Eddy van der Maarel, which will be discussed at the meeting in Porto Alegre next year.

7. IAVS Bulletin, Membership List and Homepage

The IAVS Bulletin and the Membership List was made available for all IAVS members at the symposium registration desk. In connection with the election of the new Council and the early timing of the annual meeting in 2002 (March), the next Bulletin will be prepared in autumn 2001 and should be sent to all members by mail before the end of November. The next Membership List will be prepared in 2004. Nina

Smits attended the Council meeting to present some information concerning the homepage (www.iavs.org). There have been some minor problems with the server, that will be solved as soon as possible. The homepage will be housed in Wageningen.

8. Activities of the coming years

As decided before, the annual IAVS Meeting of 2002 will be held in Porto Alegre, Brasil. In 2003 the annual IAVS Meeting will take place in Napoli (Naples), Italy, according to earlier proposals by Prof.

Pedrotti (Camerino) and Prof. Pignatti (Rome). In 2004 Korea will organize the INTECOL meeting and so it is unclear whether this will interfere with their former plan to organise the 2004 IAVS Symposium.

For the coming years several proposals were made, some supported by formal letters. The list includes:

Cape Town (South Africa; formal letter from George Bredenkamp and Laco Mucina); Lisboa (Portugal; formal invitation by Maria Delila Espirito Santo); Bangor (Wales, UK; invitation by Paddy Coker and Hilary Thomas); Dunedin (New Zealand; invitation by Bastow Wilson); St. Peterburg (Russia; invitation by Irina Safranova); and Hawaii (USA; invitation by Dieter Mueller-Dombois).

9. Relationship IAVS and Opulus

A proposal was made to continue the agreement between IAVS and Opulus Press with regard to the *Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS)* and to formalize this agreement also for *Applied Vegetation Science (AVS)*. The Publication Officer was asked to prepare a draft document to renew the agreement for another five years. This draft will be sent for discussion to all members of the Executive Committee and to the Publisher. The proposed changes in the Editorial Board of JVS have been accepted by the Advisory Council.

According to the formal agreement between IAVS and Opulus Press, the Press received the equivalent of 20 DM (the membership fee if paid to Germany) for each subscriber to *JVS* or *AVS*, of which amount

50 % was kept to improve the journal's finances and 50% was transferred to IAVS. During the

meeting of the Advisory Council in Uppsala in 1998, simplification of this arrangement was discussed, so Opulus

Press would keep the entire membership part but in exchange would extend its work on behalf of IAVS, i.e. not only take care of total membership administration but also edit the membership list and have it printed every few years. In fact, this has happened with the Membership Lists of December 1998 and

June 2001. Moreover, since initiation of the Bulletin, Opulus Press has done the desk-editing and taken care of the printing of the Bulletin, which could also be part of this deal. It is difficult to estimate whether this is economically advantageous for IAVS or for Opulus; according to Opulus, the net result of ins and outs is roughly zero. And, of course, for both partners the administration is simplified. Based on the information presented, the Council decided to formalize the Uppsala agreement for at least the next five years. The Secretary General and Publisher will propose a list of services that will be extended by the Publisher in return for the 10 DM for each journal-subscribing member. This list will be sent to the members of the Executive Committee for approval.

Eddy van der Maarel announced that, after eight years of service, he will not be electable for another term as Publication Officer. As his possible successor, Martin Diekmann was brought forward. This proposal received full support of the Council members. Van der Maarel promised to prepare a job description for the functions of Publication Officer and send it to the Secretary General.

10. Issues Emerging

The Council granted the request of the publisher of *Phytocoenologia* (Gebr. Borntraeger Verlagsbuchhandlung) to make use of IAVS mailing labels to inform members about a special offer for a reduced subscription price for this journal.

As requested by the Secretary General, the procedure was discussed how to deal with associate (nonpaying) membership. As mentioned in the IAVS Membership list, in June 2001, the members of the IAVS are from 83 countries. Of these countries, 38 have been interpreted as so-called 'poor' countries (e.g. having currency-exchange problems). People from these countries may apply for an associate membership. Nevertheless, each request will be judged individually, among other things, depending on professional status of the person in question (student/unemployed). Furthermore, it has been decided that the total number of associate members may not exceed the number of paying members.