

Naples, Italy: 9 June 2003

Council members present: E.O. Box (US), U. Deil (DE), M. Diekmann (DE), H. Dierschke (DE), K. Dierßen (DE), K. Fujiwara (JP), J. Loidi (ES), E. van der Maarel (NL), L. Mucina (ZA), A. Miyawaki (JP), F. Pedrotti (IT), R.K. Peet (US), S. Pignatti (IT), R. Pott (DE), J.S. Rodwell (GB), J.H.J. Schaminée (NL) and A. Schwabe-Kratochwil (DE). The meeting was also attended by J. van der Maarel (Opulus Press), M.D. Espírito-Santo (organizing committee IAVS meeting 2005), and P. Coker and H. Thomas (organizing committee IAVS meeting 2007).

1. Opening

The president of the IAVS, Elgene Box, opened the meeting at 20.10 with a word of welcome.

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, in Porto Alegre (as published in Bulletin 7) were approved.

3. Financial Report

The financial situation of the IAVS during the year 2002 was reported by Hartmut Dierschke. The income for 2002 was 4 127.97 EUR, of which 3 541.61 EUR were from membership fees and 586.36 EUR from interest. The expenses were 4 347.05 EUR, divided among 2 505.27 EUR for the office in Wageningen (Nina Smits), 1 706.86 EUR for notarial charges (second account), and 134.92 EUR for bank costs. The balance for 2002 was –219.08 EUR. This makes the total balance on 31.12.2002 for the IAVS 30 611.72 EUR.

Richard Pott brought forward a letter from Dieter Mueller-Dombois on financial support for the Hawaii symposium in 2004. After a long discussion, the request was granted to the amount of 5 000 EUR – the same support was given to the Naples symposium and earlier symposia had also received some subsidy. However, the financial situation of the IAVS does not allow such grants to continue. This subject will be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the IAVS Council. So far, each request for financial support has been voted on by the Council. When support is granted, the money may be used as a backup first and later to facilitate the attendance of young scientists. The organizing committee is free to spend this grant, provided: (1) the person or persons in question must present a paper or a 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 council stated again that the IAVS cannot take any financial responsibility for the annual symposium, as the organisation does not have such a strong financial position itself.

This will be the last financial report Hartmut Dierschke presented. Hartmut has served the IAVS as Secretary and Treasurer for many, many years indeed. He has been an anchor in our association during the period of rapid growth from around 500 members during the 1980s to ca. 1500 at the moment. The IAVS owes really very much to Hartmut's continuous excellent service.

4. Report of the Publication Officer

Eddy van der Maarel presented his report of the IAVS Publication Officer for the year 2002. It

deals with several aspects of the journals, *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. This will be his last report. From the beginning of *JVS* in 1989, Eddy has been the contact person between Opulus Press and IAVS, and editorially active. He has now resigned as Publication Officer, but he continues his help with the final editing of the journals. To give some credit to the work of Eddy, we here publish large parts of his full report, showing his dedication to the journals.

On the Journals

The number of member-subscribers to *JVS* (including free editorial board, adoptees), was: 864 on 01.03.2003 (against 872 on 01.06.2001); 31 subscribers (last year 25) take only the on-line version, and 7 (5) the combination of paper and electronic versions. The number of on-line subscriptions, although rising, is still disappointing. The number of library subscriptions increased. This is probably due to our agreement with SPARC (see below).

For *AVS*, the number of member-subscribers (including free editorial board, adoptees) is 521 (481). Of these 16 (11) take the on-line version only and 4 (3) take both. By far most of the *AVS* subscribers also take *JVS*. The number of library subscriptions is 104 (99).

There are four Editors, who serve both *JVS* and *AVS*. (These are currently Jan P. Bakker, Sandra Díaz, Peter S. White and J. Bastow Wilson, who act as Chairperson.) Bastow has been very active in raising issues of editorial policy, always involving the Publication Officer. The number of Associate Editors was further increased in order to improve the procedures for manuscript review and decisions about acceptance or rejection. *JVS* now has no fewer than 16 Associate Editors. The number of members of the Editorial Board has further decreased. Book Review Editor Carol Baskin resigned after seven years of service. She will be succeeded by Scott L. Collins. The Computer Program Review Editor Mike Palmer has started his work.

The number of manuscripts submitted, at least to *JVS*, is still growing. During 2002 almost 300 new manuscripts were received, as against 220-250 in earlier years. The popularity is certainly related to the high impact factor the journal has. The number of papers published in 2002 was 90, with an average size of 9.8 pp. In 2001, 98 papers were published with an average size of 9.5 pp. The size of *JVS* has not changed much in the last few years.

The time between acceptance and publication varied between 4 and 6 months. Unfortunately there was a serious delay in the publication of issue 13-6. This was mainly because of technical problems, especially printing and mailing. (Since these problems have been solved and the Editorial Office has speeded up the handling of manuscripts as much as possible, issues are now published promptly.)

The situation around *AVS* is stable. Interest in publishing in the journal is not growing, which has to do with the delay in accepting the journal for Current Contents and the Science Citation Index.

On the Adoption system

AVS has a Global Fund and an Adoption Committee that has, unofficially, functioned since the beginning of *JVS*. Since the Bilbao meeting (1999), the Committee has the following members: the IAVS Publication Officer as secretary, the IAVS Secretary as Treasurer and Administrator,

and IAVS members Michael W. Palmer and Tomáš Herben. Consultations within the Committee are entirely by E-mail. Usually Eddy van der Maarel sends a proposal for adoptions through Global Fund and a survey of colleagues adopted more personally. The candidate adoptees receive a letter asking for an explanation that the adoption is still needed and for a list of local colleagues profiting from the adoption.

For 1996-2002 the number of adopted colleagues was ca. 40. However, the situation changed in 2002. First of all, the Global Fund, managed by the bankers of Opulus Press in Uppsala, suffered from the big losses on the stock market. Second, only a few colleagues pay directly for an adoption and almost all adoptions have to be paid from the profits of the Global Fund. Third, several adoptees had not answered an annual letter for several years. Fourth, we were behind with the yearly settlement of ins and outs between IAVS and Opulus Press regarding the Global Fund. As a result we decided to adopt only 21 colleagues for 2002. It was also arranged in principle that *JVS* adoptees could get an electronic subscription. Eddy van der Maarel arranged with Opulus Press that the firm should only take 100 SEK in administration costs (ca. 11 EUR) per electronic adoption. We had also agreed on starting with adoptions for *AVS*, but in view of the uncertain financial situation this has been postponed.

In order to make a fresh start for 2003, Eddy first cleared up the matter of financial settlement, and, to our pleasure, Opulus Press offered to consider the financial relation as settled. This means that Global Fund did not need to pay to Opulus for the adopted subscriptions over the last few years. This may mean an extra grant from Opulus of more than 15 000 SEK. We will now arrange with the bankers in Uppsala that the shares be sold and the money transferred to the special Global Fund account of IAVS which the Secretary and Administrator opened in Wageningen. (At the moment we have 6100 EUR on the account).

Eddy also proposed to the Adoption Committee and Opulus Press only to pay electronic subscriptions from the Global Fund and that adoptions for the printed version should be realized only from direct personal adoptions – of which few are left. Eddy arranged with Opulus Press that we would have to pay only 10 EUR for each electronic subscription. A further proposal was to carry out a ‘campaign’ in Naples to get more money for the Global Fund and to encourage colleagues to adopt a colleague, at least for an electronic subscription. Finally Eddy suggested that centres for which a *JVS* subscription can be arranged should send in exchange a selection of publications to a generally accessible library, for which he suggested the Alterra Library in Wageningen.

On the Relation IAVS - Opulus Press

Due to rising costs in Sweden, the net income for 2001 was negative. The prognosis based on the preliminary figures for 2002 shows a continuing negative trend, which has been reinforced by a decrease in the number of reliable private subscribers. On the other hand, the number of library subscriptions is growing. Opulus has taken decisive steps to break the negative trend. By moving the office to another location, Opulus has been able to cut costs on a number of in-house items. Since December 2002, *JVS* and *AVS* are now being printed in Latvia, resulting in 30% lower printing costs. We are further investigating alternative ways of dispatching the journals, with a possible outcome that all journals will be dispatched from the US. (In the end the UK was chosen!) Due to the ca. 10% increase in library subscriptions, as well as the overall reduction in

costs, we are optimistic for 2003 and expect a positive net result for the first time in several years. (This was indeed achieved.)

Opulus Press wishes that fees for private subscriptions be raised by 10 EUR. Library subscriptions should be raised by 10%, as prices have not been raised for the past four years. We propose to quote 2004 prices in USD and EUR only.

As to the renewal of the agreements concerning *JVS* and *AVS* between IAVS and Opulus Press, Eddy will prepare copies of the agreements which can be signed during the meeting at Naples.

Miscellaneous items

AVS was accepted by the Institute of Scientific Information for inclusion in Current Contents and the Science Citation Index. This will certainly contribute to an increase in the number of submitted manuscripts and the number of library subscriptions. (Meanwhile the impact factor for *AVS* was published for the first time.)

The negotiations with SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition, have resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Research Libraries, the organization running SPARC, Opulus Press and IAVS regarding support of *JVS*. Eddy van der Maarel signed the Agreement on behalf of IAVS. One of the benefits of this agreement is that all libraries supporting SPARC will promise to enter a subscription to *JVS*. It seems that this effect is already clear!

BioOne will provide uniquely integrated, cost-effective access to a thoroughly hyperlinked information resource focused on biological, ecological and environmental sciences. Electronic versions of BioOne journals, basically journals published by small publishing houses and societies, are offered as a package to research libraries as a complement to the journal packages offered by the big commercial publishers. BioOne is supported by SPARC, which makes it all the more interesting to join it. *JVS* and *AVS* have been accepted by the BioOne organization. *JVS* and *AVS* have been accepted by the BioOne organization, and the journals have been included in the BioOne aggregation since the autumn of 2002.

5. Election of the new Executive Committee 2002-2005

Hartmut Dierschke, Eddy van der Maarel and Akira Miyawaki want to end their involvement in the Executive Committee; Elgene Box is available again as president; Joop Schaminée is available again as Secretary General & Treasurer; and Martin Diekmann is available as Publication officer. The present members of the Council voted anonymously, with the following result:

Executive Committee 2002-2005:

President: Elgene O. Box

General Secretary & Treasurer: Joop H.J. Schaminée

Publication Officer: Martin Diekmann

Vice-Presidents: Kazue Fujiwara, Javier Loidi, Ladislav Mucina and John S. Rodwell

6. Reports of Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections

During the meeting in Uppsala in 1998, it was decided that Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections should provide an annual report to the Council and that these (short) reports should be published in the IAVS Bulletin. These annual reports can be found elsewhere in this bulletin and are also made available on the Internet (www.iavs.org).

7. Activities in the coming years

Options were discussed with regard to the organization of the annual symposia for the next years:

- 2004: Symposium in Hawaii.
- 2005: The Council voted for Portugal (offer made by Maria Dalila Espírito-Santo).
- 2006: Several options, but the first choice is New Zealand (offer made by Jill Rapson), as they were also in the running for 2004. Other possibilities are a symposium in South Africa (offer made by Laco Mucina) or in Russia (informal offer made by Irina Safronova). Irina has also shown interest in organizing an excursion, maybe possibly in combination with a symposium in Trondheim.
- 2007: The Council voted for Wales (offer made by Paddy Coker and Hilary Thomas).