

Lisbon, Portugal: 25 July 2005

Council members present: M.G. Barbour (US), E.O. Box (US), U. Deil (DE), M. Diekmann (DE), H. Dierschke (DE), K. Fujiwara (JP), E. van der Maarel (NL), L. Mucina (ZA), A. Miyawaki (JP), J.H.J. Schaminée (NL) and J.B. Wilson (NZ). The meeting was also attended by N.A.C. Smits (IAVS administrator), M.D. Espírito-Santo (organizing committee present meeting), G.L. Rapson (organizing committee for IAVS meeting 2006 New Zealand, to be hold in February 2007), H.S.C. Thomas (organizing committee for IAVS meeting 2007 in Wales), and J. Delgadillo (proposal IAVS meeting 2009/2010 in Mexico).

1. Opening

The president of the IAVS, Elgene Box, opened the meeting at 20:15.

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, in Hawaii 2005 (as published in IAVS Bulletin 8), were approved.

2a. Financial Report

The financial situation of the IAVS during the year 2004 was reported by the treasurer, Joop Schaminée, based on figures delivered by Nina Smits (Wageningen office) and Hartmut Dierschke (Göttingen office). Revenue for 2004 was EUR 5 787.82 , of which EUR 430.22 were from membership fees paid in Göttingen and EUR 5293.07 from membership fees paid in Wageningen. Expenses were EUR 5 239.04, divided among 2 x EUR 2 495.00 for the office in Wageningen (Nina Smits), and EUR 249.24 for bank and other costs. The balance for 2004 was + EUR 53.83. Because the expenses also included the delayed payment of office costs for Wageningen for 2003, the actual situation is somewhat better. This made the total IAVS balance EUR 28 570.42 euros on 31-12-2004, divided into EUR 6 143.66 in the Global Fund account and EUR 22 426.76 in the savings account. An extra sum of SEK 51 743 (ca. EUR 5 300) will be added to the accounts, representing a percentage of the net profit of Opulus Press over the year 2003, as part of the formal agreement between IAVS and Opulus. The Göttingen account will be closed, because there is no longer any need for its continuation. Hartmut Dierschke will inform everybody paying in Germany by letter.

A discussion was raised by Laco Mucina about possibilities to improve the financial situation of the organization. Van der Maarel promised to gain some information on the possibilities of investments (without risks) by contacting the Dutch Botanical Society. Mucina launched the idea to share possible gains from annual meetings between the local symposium organizers and the IAVS, which money could be used for inviting young people to the next symposia. It was decided not to formalize this idea but to keep it optional, partly because the formal procedures to conduct it could be rather complicated.

At the Council meeting in Hawaii, the financial report for the year 2003 was not discussed in detail, since the information was lost in the E-mail exchange between the office in Wageningen and the organization of the Hawaii meeting. The detailed report will be sent by Nina Smits to all Council members.

2b. Report of the Publication Officer

Martin Diekmann presented his report of the IAVS Publication Officer for the year 2004. The report is concerned with the publication activities of the IAVS, mainly related to the two journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. This report actually covers the years 2003 and 2004. Further details are presented in the annual report of Bastow Wilson on behalf of the IAVS. Both reports are added to these minutes.

Ladislav Mucina asked about the treatment of descriptive and phytosociological papers. He would like to get an idea of the number of such manuscripts submitted and the percentage that are rejected.

2c. 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 reports can be found elsewhere in this bulletin (see further under ‘Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections’) and are also made available on the internet (www.iavs.org).

2d. Membership list

A new IAVS Membership List (November 2004) was presented and made available on paper for all IAVS members. However, it proved that the new list contains a number of mistakes or omissions (for example, names beginning with the letter Z are missing), which makes it unacceptable in its present form. It was decided that an updated, corrected list will be prepared, by Eddy van der Maarel, Nina Smits and Joop Schaminée, and published by Opulus Press to substitute for the present list. This list will be sent to all IAVS members by regular post.

It was discussed how to improve future communication within the IAVS, using modern techniques. Eddy van der Maarel informed the Council that Opulus is preparing a renewed membership administration that easily could be extended to non-journal members. In the near future, this system will also offer the possibility to pay through the Website by credit card, which highly facilitates this part of the membership administration, certainly for many American members.

3. Symposium guidelines

Elgene Box prepared a draft of symposium guidelines (on paper) that may help candidates to organize future annual IAVS meetings. Everyone was asked to read them carefully and to deliver possible comments and additions. The status of this draft was discussed, and it was decided that it be sent to possible new organizers as a helping tool. These guidelines will not be published in the IAVS Bulletin, as they have no formal status.

4. New IAVS Honorary Members

For the first time since 1997, a proposal was made to appoint new IAVS Honorary Members. Three nominees were brought forward: Hartmut Dierschke (by Joop Schaminée), Eddy van der Maarel (by Ladislav Mucina) and Salvador Rivas-Martínez (by Javier Loidi). After a brief discussion, the nominations were formally approved by the Council. It was decided that the new

Honorary Members would be presented during the General Assembly and that the laudations would be published in the IAVS Bulletin.

5. Election of the next IAVS Council

Formally, following the statutes, a new IAVS Council should be installed in 2006. Since the number of Council members present in Porto Alegre in 2002 was considered too low to elect an Executive Committee, however, the present Council was not installed until 2003, at the meeting in Naples. For this reason, and since there will be no annual meeting in 2006, it was decided to postpone the election and installation of the new IAVS Council to 2007. Members are asked to bring forward new candidates for the new IAVS Council. The secretary will prepare a provisional list that will be sent to all Council members for approval before the end of 2006. This list will form the basis for a postal ballot that will be organized in the first half of 2007, after which the new Council will be installed and a new Executive Committee elected at the meeting in Wales.

6. Activities of the coming years

As decided before, the IAVS annual meeting of 2006 will be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand, in February 2007. Details were presented by Jill Rapson to the Council members. In the same year, the 50th annual meeting will take place in Wales, organized by Hilary Thomas. The organizing committee of the meeting in Wales was hit heavily by the totally unexpected loss of Paddy Coker, one of the main organizers, but nevertheless has decided to go on with the preparations.

Options were also discussed for subsequent annual symposia. In 2008, the annual meeting will take place in South Africa, at Stellenbosch, combined with excursions in other parts of the country. The offer, made by Ladislav Mucina, was formally accepted by the Council. A new proposal was put forward by José Delgadillo to organize an IAVS meeting in 2009 or 2010 in Mexico, possibly in cooperation with Michael Barbour (California). This plan, too, got great approval. At the moment, there are no offers for Europe in 2009. The offer from Norway has been taken back. Some time ago, Irina Safronova from [Saint-Petersburg](#) offered to organize an IAVS excursion in Russia, but further plans have not appeared.