

Palmerston North, New Zealand, 11 February 2007 (= 2006 Meeting)

Council Members present:

Elgene O. Box, Martin Diekmann, Kazue Fujiwara, Javier Loidi Arregui, Akira Miyawaki, Dieter Mueller-Dombois, Jörg Pfadenhauer, Richard Pott, Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil, Otto J. Wildi, Bastow Wilson, Martin Zobel.

Other Attendees: Alessandro Chiarucci, Anselm Kratochwil, Joachim Hüppe

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 7 pm by the President (Box), who also took the minutes for the meeting (in the absence of the Secretary-General). Since attendance was too low for major decisions, the meeting focused on a discussion of a few critical issues.

2. Executive Committee Report

The financial report for 2005, derived from data from the Wageningen and Göttingen offices, was already distributed via the Bulletin. The overall balance for 2005, combining both offices, was positive (+4,684.08 Euros), but annual costs for the Wageningen office were not included (paid only at the beginning of 2006).

As noted before, the IAVS does not have the money or the income potential to continue providing support for annual meetings unless some changes are made, such as raising the annual dues. New Zealand did not request support money.

A report from the Publication Office, for the year 2005, was also available in the Bulletin. Library subscriptions to JVS have declined dramatically (e.g. from 368 paper subscriptions in 2004 to 240 in 2005), as have individual subscriptions (from 607 to 369). This is due to a removal from the list of those libraries/individuals that had not paid their fees for several years, but presumably also to the popularity of library “packages”, by which on-line access to many journals can be provided. For AVS, private subscriptions also declined significantly (from 319 to 240), while library subscriptions increased slightly (from 86 to 90). There was some discussion of this new trend, continuing the e-mail discussion which had begun shortly before the New Zealand meeting.

Problems of reviewing time and the work load on the journal editors were also discussed.

The relationship between the IAVS and Opulus Press was also discussed, in particular the inadequacies in the present contract. A resolution was passed to terminate the current Opulus contract and to renegotiate a more favorable publication contract, with Opulus Press or with another publisher - but without prejudice against Opulus Press (text of the resolution adopted by the Council concerning contract renegotiation: “The IAVS, in order to consider the contract with a publisher, terminates the present contract for the publication of JVS and AVS as of 31 December 2008, without prejudice to the present publisher”. This resolution will be presented to the full Council for a vote by e-mail. An Ad Hoc Contract Committee (Diekmann, Peet, and the journal Chief Editors) was appointed to handle these contract negotiations. It was noted that other proposals had already been received, including a new proposal from Opulus Press.

Finally, by vote of the Council members present, the following were formally reappointed as journal Chief Editors: Peter White, Bastow Wilson, and Alessandro Chiarucci.

There were no oral reports from Working Groups, Commissions or Regional Sections, as these are included in the Bulletin.

3. New Business

The upcoming election for the next IAVS Council was also discussed, including the procedure by which votes are counted and documented (for the Executive Committee as well as the Council itself). A ballot was included in the current Bulletin (available at the New Zealand meeting), but others may not yet have received their ballots, especially outside Europe. The deadline for votes may be extended.

In recent years the Bulletin has not appeared as quickly after the annual meeting as it once did. It also appears only once a year. A suggestion was thus made to develop a Newsletter, to be circulated by e-mail, which would appear several times a year and which would, in a sense, be interactive. A Newsletter Committee (Diekmann, Peet, Schaminée, and Smits) was appointed to develop the concept for such a newsletter.

The suddenly higher costs for the next IAVS meeting, in Wales in July 2007, were also discussed (although some necessary details were not yet available).

4. Activities in Coming Year

- 2007 Wales: Pre-symposium excursion in eastern Ireland
Symposium 23-27 July (Monday-Friday) at Swansea University
Post-symposium excursion to Cornwall
- 2008 South Africa: Stellenbosch, in September (already accepted)
Excursions may include Namaqualand, the Eastern Cape, and Kruger National Park
- 2009 Greece: Proposal for a meeting in Greece, perhaps in Ioannina, perhaps in spring or early summer (subject to European academic calendars)

No other meetings are currently in planning, though some other possibilities have been identified and are being discussed.