2017.05.06 – Minutes of the 5th Online Meeting of ExCo 2016-17

The fifth (5th) Online Meeting of the IVSA Executive Committee (ExCo) 2016-17 was held at 10.00 GMT+2 on 2017.05.06 via join.me, the President being the Chair and the Secretary General present to take the minutes.

Executive Committee Officers Present:
Malcolm Chong     President
Denise van Eekelen Secretary General (SG)
Ondrej Vitula    Member Organization Director (MOD), Vice-president (VP) and President-elect (PE)
Lara Scherer     Committee Coordinator (CC)

Trust Representatives Present:
Ann-Katrin Autz  Trustee
Emma van Rooijen Trustee

Other guests:
Dylan Choy       Organizing Committee (OC) of the 66th IVSA Congress in Malaysia
Delna Mazda      Organizing Committee (OC) of the 66th IVSA Congress in Malaysia

Apologies:
Andrei Ungur     Development Aid Director (DAD)
Vera González    External Relations Officer (ERO)
Kerstin Abraham Public Relations Coordinator (PRC)
Ivan Kotze       Treasurer

1) Opening – The meeting was called to order by Malcolm Chong at 10.33 GMT+2.

2) Approval of the agenda – The agenda was approved without amendments.

3) Approval of the Minutes of the Fourth Live Meeting ExCo 2016-2017 – The minutes of the fourth (4th) Live meeting of ExCo 2016-2017 were approved after three minor amendments.

4) Action points – Denise van Eekelen read out the list of action points.

5) Trust report – Ann-Katrin Autz explained the trust has not had a meeting in the past weeks. Trust has started working on the history project again and this is going very well. There is no further information from and about Trust at this point in time.

6) Committee reports – Lara Scherer gave the reports on the committees and working groups. Herein, she was assisted by Ann-Katrin Autz, who partly gave the report on the Working Group on Alumni (WGA) and Emma van Rooijen, who partly gave the report on the Standing Committee on Wellness (SCoW).
a. **Standing Committee on One Health (SCOH)** – Lara Scherer explained SCOH is still working smoothly. Unfortunately, the World Veterinary Day on the 29th of April this year has not been focused on well enough, which therefore will be included in the manual for the committees next year. SCOH will release the next Veterinary Public Health Journal (VPHJ) in the upcoming weeks. From the 15th - 20th of May 2017 the Veterinary Public Health event will take place, during which the Local Veterinary Public Health Officers (LVPHOs) organize local events focusing on global warming etc. At last, there is being worked on the collaboration with Mission Rabies, although this is still in an early stage.

b. **Standing Committee on Veterinary Education (SCoVE)** – The Chair of SCoVE – Michael Huang – is working very efficient with his committee. The collaboration with WikiVet is going smoothly and the survey for the 24hours WikiVet conference has been finished. The SCoVE and VetStream ambassador project will be postponed until next year, as it does not make sense to start this project for only one month. The contact with VetStream will be handed over from the ERO to the Chair of SCoVE, as this is more efficient. However, the CC and ERO will be included in all conversations with VetStream as well. At last, SCoVE drafted a plan for a petition template to be spread among the Member Organizations (MOs). This petition should help the MOs with raising awareness for including shelter medicine in the curriculum. Denise van Eekelen raised her concern about the petition on Shelter Medicine education, as she feels it might seem political and IVSA does not want to do politics. Ann-Katrin Autz suggested Denise van Eekelen to talk with the deans present at the EAEVE meeting in May 2017 about this. Thereby, should SCoVE still want to write the petition template, she suggested SCoVE to do a survey for checking the opinion of the students and have the petition being presented to the GA for agreement of the IVSA members. Lara will inform SCoVE on these suggestions.

c. **Animal Welfare Conference (AWC)** – Lara Scherer explained there is no complete update from the AWC at this point in time. The AWC has a lot of active and motivated members, but unfortunately the communication between the Chair of the AWC – Hilary Antosh – and the AWC members is not efficient enough. Lara Scherer will continue working on improving this. Lara Scherer explained the prizes for the Animal Welfare Week are arranged and the committees website is updated. Lara Scherer and a member of the AWC – Nadine Tod – have contacted the World Animal Protection (WAP) about possible collaboration. As soon as there is more information on this Lara Scherer will update ExCo. Denise van Eekelen explained IVSA Germany was chosen as host of the Second IVSA Animal Welfare Conference (IAWC). Denise van Eekelen is scheduling a handover meeting with IVSA Germany to handover all information of the first edition of the IAWC.

d. **Standing Committee on Wellness (SCoW)** – Lara Scherer explained she has been in contact with Xavier Canalvilhas – the Chair of SCoW – only yesterday as the meeting in April was cancelled. SCoW is working on the wellness events during the 66th IVSA Congress, but has not made a decision on the events that will be organized yet. Lara Scherer will try to have them decide this as soon as possible, so the OC of the 66th IVSA Congress can be informed.
Malcolm Chong suggested SCoW to organize an ExCo workshop instead of several smaller or one big event on wellness, as this puts a lot of pressure on the OC of the 66th IVSA Congress. Emma van Rooijen explained the wellness events SCoW would like to organize will be optional events in the time off the itinerary, that will be communicated about with the OC before the 66th IVSA Congress starts. Furthermore, SCoW is working on the first edition of their Journal – Mind over Matter.

e. Working Group on Policies (WGP) – Lara Scherer explained different members of the WGP are working on several policy papers. It is therefore hard for them to work together as a team, but they are doing well. The WGP has started their Paper Competition for students and is waiting for the first participants to send in their paper.

f. Working Group on Alumni (WGA) – Ann-Katrin Autz explained the WGA meets regularly. There are two (2) alumni events scheduled at this point in time, that are the Spring event in Ghent, Belgium and the Alumni event during the 66th IVSA Congress. During the next meeting the possible changes in the bylaws regarding the alumni will be discussed. Denise van Eekelen will send the WGA a template for the bylaw amendments. Lara Scherer explained seven (7) alumni applied for the alumni program during the 66th IVSA Congress and read out the list of alumni who applied. Malcolm Chong proposed to accept the list of alumni as it was at this point in time. This was approved. Lara Scherer also explained the program of the alumni event will be the same as for regular delegates, except from the time scheduled for GAs. Lara Scherer also mentioned Arvid Cardinaels has received the login for the committees website, so the website will also be updated soon. At last, the WGA decided to organize an alumni event during the WSAVA congress and will start working on this in the near future.

g. Ad Hoc Committee on Paid Position (AHCPP) – Lara Scherer explained the AHCPP has almost finished the contract and the call for applications. As soon as this will be finished, the documents will be send to ExCo for insight. Afterwards, the documents will be shown to the General Assembly.

7) Previous events

a. IFISO Spring meeting – Ondrej Vitula explained he attended the IFISO Spring meeting in Graz, Austria in April 2017. He has met students from different professions and discussed a lot with ELSA about the relocation of the office and bank to Brussels, Belgium. Ondrej Vitula explained he is still collecting more information on the alumni part of several organizations, which he will include in his report on this event.

8) Upcoming events – IVSA Representatives

a. World Health Assembly (WHA) – The WHA will be held from the 17th to the 21st of May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. Denise van Eekelen explained a preparation meeting was organized a few weeks ago. During this meeting Ann-Katrin Autz and Caroline Bulstra explained how the WHA works and how the
students could best prepare themselves. Denise van Eekelen explained the preparation seems to be going well and the IVSA members that are going to attend very much look forward to the WHA.

b. Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) & European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI) General Assembly (GA) – The next FVE & EVERI GA will take place from the 8th – 10th of June 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia. In an earlier meeting ExCo has decided Denise van Eekelen will attend this GA as IVSA representative. Denise van Eekelen explained there is no further information on this event at this point in time.

c. IVSA Asian Conference – Malcolm Chong explained Ivan has looked into the budget for this and next year. Ivan has explained Malcolm Chong that the IVSA Asian Conference will not be of greatest interest for IVSA and that ExCo has to be very careful with spending money on events. Malcolm Chong proposed not to send an official representative of ExCo to the IVSA Asian Conference. This was approved.

d. World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Congress & Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Association (FECAVA) Congress – Malcolm Chong explained Ivan has contacted him about the attendance of the WSAVA World Congress in Copenhagen by more than one IVSA representative. As concluded before, ExCo has to be very careful with spending money on events. Therefore, Malcolm Chong proposed to send only Ondrej Vitula as IVSA representative to the WSAVA World Congress. This was approved.

e. World Organisation for Animal Health (OiE) – The OiE General Session will be held in Paris, France in the last week of May 2017. Malcolm Chong explained there is no further information on this event at this point in time.

f. World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association Conference and annual General Meeting (WAVMA CGM) – Malcolm Chong explained he has not received more information on the WAVMA CGM, that will be held in Tîrgu Mureș, Romania from the 12th-14th of September 2017. Malcolm Chong will contact the President of WAVMA – Laura Urdes – for more information on delegate spots for students and the opportunities for an IVSA representative to attend. Emma van Rooijen explained WAVMA is very fast in responding and very often able to give (practical) workshops during different events. In addition to this, aquatic veterinary medicine is a field within veterinary medicine, for which there is not much attention, so working together with WAVMA more would maybe result in new opportunities for our students in the future.

g. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – The next AVMA convention will be held in Indianapolis from the 21st of July – 25th of July. Malcolm Chong explained the AVMA convention thus will be held just before and during the beginning of the IVSA Congress in Malaysia. An invitation to attend the convention was already sent to Malcolm Chong. Emma van Rooijen explained she has spoken to Samantha Morici and she is not able to attend the AVMA Convention partly or at all. She also explained IVSA did not attend the AVMA
convention last year as well, so IVSA should definitely try to have a representative at the AVMA convention this year. Possible representatives were discussed. Malcolm Chong proposed Denise van Eekelen to contact Merel Rodenburg about possible attendance of the AVMA convention on behalf of IVSA. Should Merel Rodenburg not be able to attend the AVMA convention, Denise van Eekelen will contact Brian Jochems and if he is not able as well, she will contact Mélissa de Lombaert.

h. **Training New Trainers (TNT)** – Lara Scherer explained she has looked into the idea of organizing a TNT before the IVSA Congress in Malaysia together with Isaac Corderroure. IVSA Taiwan was contacted about hosting the TNT event and did show interest. Lara Scherer explained the only thing that they could not arrange yet is a trainer. Emma van Rooijen explained the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS) or the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) could be asked to provide a trainer. Emma van Rooijen will contact someone from IAAS for training at this event and Lara Scherer will contact IPSF on this. Emma van Rooijen explained she started the organization of a TNT event in Europe together with the European Pharmaceutical Students’ Association. The location of this TNT event should be in one of the countries where European trainers live. Lara Scherer and Vera are also included in the communication about this TNT event, so ExCo will be held up to date via them.

i. **Union of International Associations (UIA) Roundtable** – Malcolm Chong received an invitation for the next UIA Roundtable that will be held at the 21st and 22nd of September 2017 in Thailand. He mentioned Denise van Eekelen already pointed out the budget of this year and the fact that the next UIA Roundtable is in Europe, Belgium, Brussels in November 2017, via email. Malcolm Chong proposed to send no IVSA representative to this edition of the UIA Roundtable in Thailand. This was approved. As soon as a date for the UIA Roundtable in Europe is available and an invitation received, a decision on attendance can be made.

j. **World Veterinary Congress 2017 (WVC)** – Malcolm Chong explained he is attending this event in August 2017, but he still has to pay one hundred (100) US DOLLARS ($) registration fee. Before Malcolm Chong will fill in this registration form and pay the fee, he will confirm the necessity of this with the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and afterwards inform ExCo on the outcome.

9) **Partner points**

a. **WikiVet** – Lara Scherer explained Vera and she decided at least one IVSA representative should attend the meetings with WikiVet. The survey for the 24-hours WikiVet conference has been sent out and WikiVet was very satisfied with the results. The only concern Lara Scherer raised is what IVSA will get out of this conference, as a lot of effort is put into helping organizing it. Denise van Eekelen mentioned the main and most important thing IVSA will get out of it is a free online 24-hours seminar for all IVSA members.
b. FVE, Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), Council of European Dentists (CED), European Medical Students Association (EMSA), European Dentistry Students Association (EDSA) and IVSA collaboration on One Health – Denise van Eekelen explained a draft letter for the project on creating awareness for One Health in education has been written by CPME and finished after feedback of all organizations on this. Denise van Eekelen explained the letter will soon be spread among the faculties by all the organizations together. Afterwards, Denise van Eekelen will try to start closer collaboration with EMSA and EDSA on a position statement on the importance of One Health education.

c. VetCoach – Lara Scherer explained she found out IVSA has sold fourteen (14) VetCoach books over the past years. For this, 140 EURO (€) should be transferred to VetCoach. Emma van Rooijen mentioned to check if the amount of money from the sale of the VetCoach books is on the Development Fund bank account. If this is the case, the money should be transferred to VetCoach from this account. As soon as Lara Scherer has contacted Richard Nap, the money can and should be transferred.

d. WVA – Malcolm Chong has been in contact with the President of the WVA – dr. Carlson – about the idea of having a permanent spot for IVSA in the board of directors of the WVA. Dr. Carlson explained the lobbying process will take a long time and the board of directors would like to discuss this in person during their meeting in August in South Korea before proposing it to their GA. Malcolm Chong explained IVSA representatives should nonetheless start talking to the WVA representatives of the different regions and make them enthusiastic about this idea.

e. World Health Organization (WHO) – Lara Scherer explained IVSA has to be able to show three (3) years of continuing collaboration before being able to become a non-state actor of the WHO. Lara Scherer and Denise van Eekelen will start this project of becoming a non-state actor again and try to launch some projects of collaboration, so the first year of collaboration is started within this ExCo term. Ann-Katrin Autz explained there might be a survey conducted by the Secretariat of the WHO that IVSA could help with to have the collaboration started again.

10) Development Fund – Andrei Ungur – Development Aid Director (DAD) 2016 - 2017 – has informed Denise van Eekelen there is no further information on the projects of the Development Fund at this point in time.

11) MOD Update

a. Algeria problem – Ondrej Vitula explained he has still not been contacted by the student from Algeria who raised the problem a few months ago. He will try to look into this over again, but at this point in time, there is not further information.

b. Potential new Member Organizations (MOs) – Ondrej Vitula explained he is still in contact with the potential new MOs talked about during the last
meeting: AVMS Unimaid from Nigeria, Kiev in Ukraine, Santa Cruz in Bolivia, Nairobi in Kenya, Mexico, Iraq, Shere bangla Agricultural University from Bangladesh Adana in Turkey and Aydin Adnan Menderes University Veterinary Faculty in Turkey. In addition to this, Ondrej Vitula is – together with his team – trying to get in contact with the IVSA MOs that have active Facebook pages, but are officially inactive in IVSA registers.

c. Ask me anything meetings – Ondrej Vitula explained a Doodle Poll has been sent to the MOs in Europe and Africa and unfortunately, only a few responses have been received. The responses resulted in the next ‘Ask me anything meeting’ to be held next weekend with approximately ten (10) MOs. Malcolm Chong asked if more ExCo members should join the ‘Ask me anything meeting’ besides Ondrej Vitula and members of his MOD team. Ondrej Vitula explained he was not able to ask the ExCo members to attend the meeting yet, although it would be pleasant if Ivan and another ExCo member from Europe could attend.

12) 66th IVSA Congress, Malaysia – Dylan Choy explained she had a few questions she would like to ask to ExCo with regards to the 66th IVSA Congress. First of all, the waiting list has just been sent to ExCo for approval and Dylan asked when this list could be approved by ExCo. Malcolm Chong explained the waiting list and proposed to accept the list as it was at this point in time. This was approved. Second, Dylan Choy asked if ExCo has any sponsor they could recommend contacting. Tips and tricks for sponsorship were discussed, as well as options to find sponsors and companies that could be contacted. Dylan Choy also asked if the Central Fund tax should only be paid over the regular delegate numbers or also over the alumni. Ann-Katrin Autz explained the alumni event should be seen as an event separate from the IVSA Congress and therefore tax should not be paid over the fee paid by the people attending the alumni event. Delna Mazda asked if Malcolm Chong should be seen as member of the Organizing Committee (OC) of the 66th IVSA Congress or as member of the ExCo with regards to the fee for attending congress. Emma van Rooijen explained Malcolm Chong became member of the OC before he became President and as such, he should be seen as member of the OC.

a. Invitation of partners – Dylan Choy asked if the OC could get to know how many partners will attend certain GAs and formal dinner already. Denise van Eekelen will inform the OC via Malcolm Chong on the partners that could be invited and which General Assembly (GA) sessions they could attend. Directly afterwards, Malcolm Chong will invite the partners and sponsors of IVSA to the 66th IVSA Congress.

b. Chairman of the GA – Denise van Eekelen explained she had received three (3) applications after the call for a Chairman of the GA has been sent out. All three (3) applications did not fit the position and as such, they were not included in the discussion about the Chairman of the GA during the 66th IVSA Congress. Besides the three (3) received applications, Denise van Eekelen has been in contact with Joseph Lunt, Ann-Katrin Autz and Ondrej Vitula, who all showed interest in the position of Chairman of the GA as well. All these candidates were discussed. Malcolm Chong proposed to start training Ann-Katrin Autz for the position of Chairman by Emma van Rooijen and meanwhile keep the eyes open
for a Chairman for the 66th IVSA Symposium in South Africa already. This was approved.

c. **Bylaw amendments & Documents to be voted on** – Ondrej Vitula and Denise van Eekelen explained the possible bylaw and constitution amendment send to several members of ExCo by Branden Nettles. Over the past months, the problem raised that some students of SAVMA have a hard time being and feeling involved within IVSA due to the communication about IVSA between SAVMA and her members. This was discussed. Malcolm Chong proposed to discuss the involvement of SAVMA students within IVSA with the President of SAVMA – Jeff Olivarez. Afterwards, Malcolm Chong will discuss the outcome with ExCo. This was approved.

d. **American Pre Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA)** – The OC of the 66th IVSA Congress is not able to accept an extra delegate representing APVMA. Malcolm Chong has discussed this with the past-President of APVMA – Nicholas Biondo – already, who understood this well. Therefore, there will be no representative of the APVMA at the 66th IVSA Congress in Malaysia.

e. **GA Booklet** – Denise van Eekelen explained she will soon start working on the GA Booklet, wherefore she will start gathering the yearly reports of IVSA Officials. Besides this, she will get in contact with Ondrej Vitula about the Buddy System, Country hour, Officials hour and Nominees hour to be organized during the 66th IVSA Congress. At last, she will start drafting the GA agenda to have a first draft sent to the delegates far before the 66th IVSA Congress starts. Ann-Katrin Autz asked Denise van Eekelen if she would like to receive separate reports from the Trustees or one (1) report on behalf of Trust. Denise van Eekelen answered she would rather receive one well-summarized Trust report than six (6) separate reports.

f. **Honorary life membership (HLM)** – Malcolm Chong asked if there were any nominees for HLM as this point in time. Denise van Eekelen suggested to discuss this via email. This was agreed upon.

g. **ExCo Workshops** – Lara Scherer explained SCoVE has sent in a proposal for an ExCo workshop together with SCOH. She also mentioned the WGA will start working on a proposal in the near future. Lara Scherer will contact Wild Welfare about the opportunity to do a workshop during congress on behalf of the AWC. Emma van Rooijen mentioned SCoW is going to look into a workshop as well in the near future. There was no further information on ExCo workshop at this point in time. Malcolm Chong proposed to have all the ExCo workshops proposals send in by the 21st of May 2017. This was approved.

13) **Relocation of the office & bank** – Denise van Eekelen explained all documents have been submitted at the Belgian authorities on the 30th of March 2017. Unfortunately, no information on acceptance or rejection of establishing IVSA in Belgium has been received. Denise van Eekelen mentioned she will be contacted as soon as the notary receives information.
14) **Public Relations**

   a. **Website information** – Denise van Eekelen explained it came to her attention that some parts of the website have not been updated for quite some time. To get the website up to date again, Denise van Eekelen will contact the people involved by the parts of the website that need to be reviewed and revised.

   b. **Journal** – Unfortunately, the journal has still not been finished yet. Denise van Eekelen will contact Kerstin to send all the document on the journal to Bartosz Ligeza, so the journal can be published.

15) **Taskforce on the manual on Online Attendance** – Denise van Eekelen explained the first meeting of the taskforce on the manual on Online Attendance will be held next week. During this first meeting she hopes the taskforce to make a good start writing this manual, for which she will draft a first lists of content of the manual.

16) **Google Drive** – Denise van Eekelen reminded every ExCo Officer to upload all documents related to their position and past, current and future projects on the Google Drive as soon as possible.

17) **Promotion of the ExCo positions** – Denise van Eekelen asked how running for the ExCo positions should be promoted this year. This was discussed. Emma van Rooijen raised the point that ExCo needs to think about and start to decide on the names and content of the three (3) ‘members of ExCo positions’. These positions are this term named as follows: External Relations Officer (ERO), Public Relations Coordinator (PRC) and Committee Coordinator (CC). Malcolm Chong proposed to have to the positions filled in as they are this year, unless someone decides to discuss changing it in the next weeks. This was approved.

18) **AOB**

   a. **Chair of the Working Group on Alumni (WGA)** – Ann-Katrin Autz asked if the Chair of the WGA will be reimbursed half of the fee of the alumni event. Malcolm Chong explained this is not possible, as the alumni event is officially an event separate from the 66th IVSA Congress.

The meeting adjourned at 15.12 GMT+2.

Denise van Eekelen
Secretary General 2016-2017