



## 07.09.2020 – Minutes of the First (1st) Online Meeting of ExCo 2020-2021

The first (1st) Online Meeting of the IVSA Executive Committee (ExCo) 2020-2021 was held at 20:00 pm GMT+1 on 07.09.2020. Merel Knoops (President) was present to Chair and Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) was present to take the minutes.

### Attendance

#### **Executive Committee Officers Present**

Merel Knoops	President
Nicole Hartman	External Relations Officer (ERO)
Mehdi Amrani	Secretary General (SG)
Emily Freeman	Committee Coordinator (CC) and Vice President (VP)
Nabeelah Rajah	Member Organizations' Director (MOD)
Panos Doerffer-Efraimidis	Treasurer
Elen Hernandez	Development Aid Director (DAD)
Iina Airasma	Public Relations Coordinator (PRC)

#### **Other IVSA Officials Present**

Adinda Rana Fauziah	Secretary to the PRC
Glenn Adjei	Secretary to the PRC
Karoline Aamo	Secretary to the MOD and the DAD
Luregn von Planta	Secretary to the ERO and the CC
Miran Abdul	Secretary to the MOD
Nina Vasic	Secretary to the CC
Diana Teixeira	Standing Committee on Veterinary Education (SCoVE) Chair
Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha	Standing Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW) Chair
Adetona Mutiat Adenike	Standing Committee on One Health (SCOH) Chair
Naveesha Kaur Shergill	Standing Committee on Wellness (SCOW) Chair
Izabela Baclawska	Standing Committee on Career Attributes (SCoCA) Chair
Vincenzo Gaita	Working Group on Alumni (WGA) Chair
Javier Puente	Regional Representative for the Americas
Laure Chevalier	Regional Representative for Europe
Adnane Imghi	Regional Representative for MENA
Elwin van Oldenborgh	Trustee
Daniel Lund	Trustee
Branden Nettles	Trustee





### **Apologies**

Anna Ciećkiewicz (Trustee) apologized for not being able to attend the meeting.

1. **Opening** – Merel Knoops (President) called the meeting to order at 8:03 GMT+1.
2. **Approval of the Agenda** – The Agenda of the First (1st) Online Meeting of ExCo 2020-2021 was approved with one amendment.

### **3. Action Points**

Merel Knoops (President) explained that the Officials will be using Trello for action points and encouraged all the Officials to check the Action Points and update them regularly. Merel Knoops (President) then explained the Trello system, and showed the basics of using it by discussing the current action points.

Merel Knoops (President) discussed the Office Change. Every year, IVSA Global has to change its board and send required documentation to the Belgian Government. Merel Knoops (President) explained that all the necessary files have been completed and that they will be sent in time. Merel Knoops (President) then discussed going to Brussels in order to file them, or sending them via the Post services, but had reservations about using the Post as there have been instances where documents have been lost in the mail.

Merel Knoops (President) then explained that the Minutes for the Handover Meeting are finalized, but that there has not been enough time for them to be consulted by all the Officials and that they will be approved at a later meeting.

Merel Knoops (President) also discussed the unsigned MoUs, and filing taxes. Since the taxes were lost in the mail last year, they could not be filed, and IVSA Global received a 50 Euros fine. Merel Knoops (President) explained being in contact with Kathi Loose (Post-Treasurer) but not having an idea if they have been filed yet, then asked the IVSA Treasurer in order to provide more information.

Panos Doerffer-Efraimidis (Treasurer) explained not being able to contact Kathi Loose (Post-Treasurer) and not having enough information to give a definitive answer. However, a Taxing File had been created through the app, but no further information was available for the filing of taxes.

### **4. Trust Report –**

#### **4.1. Taskforce on Bylaw Realignment**

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) discussed the Trust Project of rewriting the bylaws in order to make them more consistent. As this process will take a significant amount of





time, the Trust discussed with ExCo forming a Taskforce on Bylaw Realignment in order to have the necessary manpower and make it more transparent because many points will need to be changed.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed about the importance of keeping the process transparent and inquired about the Trust's opinion on a person to be in charge.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) explained not having any objections to him being in charge, but had no issue if any other member of the Trust was of the same mind.

Merel Knoops (President) inquired about the Application process.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) explained that the members of the Taskforce would have to be chosen within Current and/or Past Officials as they would need to be very knowledgeable about the Bylaws and IVSA Global. Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) then continued to explain that Trust had an opinion about some individuals they felt would add to this Taskforce, as well as many others who had already expressed interest.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed and made a motion for ExCo to vote on the creation of the Taskforce on Bylaw Realignment.

The Members of ExCo voted unanimously in favor of the motion, and the Taskforce was officially formed.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) asked for ExCo's opinion on who should open applications, Trust or ExCo.

Merel Knoops (President) explained not having an issue with handling it, and this was agreed upon. Merel Knoops (President) also expressed plans to have a meeting with the Trust in order to discuss details related to this.

## **5. Committee Coordinator (CC) Update –**

### **5.1. Committee Handovers Update**

Emily Freeman (CC) explained that the six committee handovers were finished, and expressed her thanks to the Committee Chairs and Secretaries. Emily Freeman (CC) also expressed her excitement for this term's projects.

### **5.2. Committee Applications- Open Call**

Emily Freeman (CC) discussed having a different approach for the Committee Applications this term, in the form of a single application for all committees, then explained how it would work. Emily Freeman (CC) explained having received all the committees' individual questions and informed the Officials that the PRC team will make the Posters and Google Form to promote the applications.





Laure Chevalier (Regional Representative for Europe) agreed and expressed an opinion about it being a great system, but was wondering if it would be possible to synchronize the Committees' and Regional Teams' applications. Laure Chevalier (Regional Representative for Europe) also inquired about the possibility of it being discussed during this meeting.

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) explained that it will depend on each Regional Representative, as each region has its own needs, and that it will be discussed on a later date.

Emily Freeman (CC) agreed and explained opening the application within the following week. Emily Freeman (CC) then expressed her thanks to the chairs for accepting, and gave additional information about this decision and the improvements it brought to the system currently in use. Having a single form would allow the CC team and Committee Chairs to see applicants who have applied for multiple positions, and thus removing the possibility of applicants being accidentally chosen for positions by two different Committee Chairs.

### 5.3. Equity and Diversity Task Force

Emily Freeman (CC) explained that the previous ExCo voted to form this taskforce, and it was subsequently announced during the 69<sup>th</sup> IVSA Congress in Greece SGA. In light of recent events, IVSA became more vocal about important social issues affecting IVSA Members and veterinary students in general. Emily Freeman (CC) explained the importance of being more vocal about these issues. The Taskforce was created in order to guide veterinary students on how to deal with them and how to be involved. Emily Freeman (CC) then explained that ExCo needed to vote on who will chair this taskforce.

Merel Knoops (President) informed the attendance that since the creation of the Taskforce on Bylaw Realignment, IVSA now has three Taskforces (The other two being the Equity and Diversity Taskforce and the OC Manual Taskforce) and added that it would be best to elect the Chair of this Taskforce among the Officials, as this would give ExCo a direct line to consult and supervise all advancements. Merel Knoops (President) then opened the floor to individuals who would be interested in chairing the Equity and Diversity Taskforce.

Emily Freeman (CC) explained her passion and excitement about this new direction for IVSA and expressed interest in chairing the taskforce.

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) explained why the MOD should work closely with the taskforce to avoid future misunderstandings between IVSA Global and Member Organisations.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) inquired about the goal of the Taskforce and whether its aim was to create a Policy paper.





Merel Knoops (President) explained that the taskforce is just for IVSA Global to know how to handle and improve equity and diversity within its ranks, but they could decide how IVSA should improve equity and diversity in IVSA through, for example, establishing partnerships with organizations, or creating a Committee or Working Group, and only then, through partnerships, write policy papers.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) inquired about the use of language. English is the most practical, but in case any documents are to be written, more people would be needed in order to translate them to other languages so as to be more inclusive in communicating any results.

Emily Freeman (CC) agreed and discussed making sure to have members from every region aid in formulating and translating any publications.

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) discussed involving the Member Organizations in that process. Asking MOs for help would not only be helpful to the team of Officials but would also be great from an inclusivity aspect.

Merel Knoops (President) opened the floor again for any attendees who wished to chair the Taskforce. There were none. Merel Knoops (President) then moved to vote on electing Emily Freeman (CC) as the Chair of the Equity and Diversity Taskforce.

All Members of ExCo voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Emily Freeman (CC) was elected as the Chair of the Equity and Diversity Taskforce.

#### 5.4. Committee Sponsorship Booklets

Emily Freeman (CC) explained that the Committee Sponsorship Booklets Project was developed during the previous term. The Committee Sponsorship Booklets have been generated and finalized except for the Standing Committee on Career Attributes. Nicole Hartman (ERO) and Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) will work together on it with Emily Freeman (CC). Several committees have been working on updating the Projects' section of the Booklets. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) has been in contact with Nicole Hartman (ERO) regarding this. Emily Freeman (CC) suggested that Nicole Hartman (ERO) send the booklets to the Committee Chairs and discuss amendments with them.

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that a meeting is currently scheduled with Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) to update the SCoVE Booklet, and discussed working with the Standing Committee on Career Attributes on the SCoCA Sponsorship Booklet.

### 6. **Committee reports –**

#### 6.1. **Standing Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW):**





#### 6.1.1. Fear Free Workshop

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed that this project was initiated by Laure Chevalier (Regional Representative for Europe) during her term as Chair of the SCAW. Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) explained that the SCAW is currently in discussion with a lecturer from Fear Free who will be giving an online lecture about a better welfare handling method for small animals. Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) explained the need for time considerations and the possibility of offering live lectures as well as prerecorded workshops and that the dates for the Workshops needed to be carefully considered. For logistical reasons, Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed having no more than two workshops during the same month and continued discussing that Fear Free did send a promotional video. Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) expressed her idea about working on a specific intro to the video featuring the SCAW once the dates are determined.

#### 6.1.2. Veterinary Medical Association Hong Kong

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed that this project was initiated by Laure Chevalier (Regional Representative for Europe) during her term as Chair of the SCAW. Essentially, the Veterinary Medical Association of Hong Kong asked for the SCAW to contribute to their project by sharing an anecdote about their involvement in animal welfare. Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) then explained that IVSA is not represented in Hong Kong and emphasized the importance of supporting their efforts on Animal Welfare and joining IVSA.

#### 6.1.3. Handovers

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed that her handover went smoothly and expressed her thanks to the former chair, the Committee Coordinator, as well as the Secretaries to the Committee Coordinator.

#### 6.1.4. Global Voices Ambassador Profile Project

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed involving ambassadors to create a weekly feature for Social media following a Q&A format and using this to create a Social media campaign, blog posts, and address different animal welfare related issues around the world. Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) also discussed the idea of the ambassadors recording short videos and using them for the Youtube channel, but explained that it would be best for it to be kept as a visual and text-based project until further notice.

Emily Freeman (CC) discussed having a meeting with all the committees about ambassador programs in order to determine which committees would be interested in having ambassadors as many committees already have ambassadors, but also overall ambassador engagement throughout the committees.





Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) inquired about the possibility of beginning applications for the new ambassadors at her own discretion.

Emily Freeman (CC) discussed the advantages of a centralized call, but also explained having to consult the other chairs, as it could be logistically challenging.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) discussed the advantages of keeping the Application Forms to the committees and ambassadors separated, as well as electing committee members first. Unsuccessful applicants for the committees are more likely to apply for the Ambassador Program.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) expressed interest in starting to work on this project as soon as possible, and inquired about the possibility of involving ambassadors from the last term.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed.

Emily Freeman (CC) also agreed, and explained the advantages it would have in showcasing former ambassadors and the project in general.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed using the former ambassador profiles as promotional material for the ambassador program.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) inquired about official terms for ambassadors.

Merel Knoops (President) explained that the ambassadors are not elected but they are selected. This means that the exact dates depend on the new Chair and the application process.

#### 6.1.5. Committee Contract/Agreement

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed establishing a clear idea for the committee for the coming term, and inquired about the approval process of having Committee members sign agreements with the Chair.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed and advised Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) to discuss the matter with Emily Freeman (CC). Merel Knoops (President) then explained that this does not need approval from the ExCo, but advised for it to be done for all the committees.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) agreed that it would reinforce the selected members' commitment to the Committee tasks and the program in general.





Emily Freeman (CC) agreed, as well, and discussed creating a generalized template for all committees. Emily Freeman (CC) also expressed interest in the ideas that Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) had in mind, and would gladly accept all propositions.

#### 6.1.6. Committee Initiation Pack

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) expressed her aim to create a real vested interest in the work of the SCAW. Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) explained her idea to assign some of the SCAW's budget to provide The SCAW Committee members with books on animal welfare and build a reward scheme throughout the year.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed, but explained that it would depend on the cost. Merel Knoops (President) then discussed the possibility of the project being monitored by Emily Freeman (CC) in order to determine the costs.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) agreed to work on a draft of the costs and to keep them reasonable.

### 6.2. **Standing Committee on One Health (SCOH)**

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained that the first points of the agenda are updates from the last term.

#### 6.2.1. Veterinary Public Health Journal

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained that the SCOH publishes three journals every term, and discussed trying to publish more as soon as the SCOH team is formed.

#### 6.2.2. Asia Event

The Asian Online Symposium took place during the last term. The theme of the event was articulated around Zoonoses and Public Health.

#### 6.2.3. 1HOPE :

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained the collaboration between the SCOH and 1HOPE. The SCOH is invited to attend meetings and give suggestions as veterinary students related to their scope of action.

#### 6.2.4. Handover Manuals :

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) expressed having received a good handover.





#### 6.2.5. OIE Ambassador Program :

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) discussed a previous meeting with Merel Knoops (President), Nicole Hartman (ERO), and Maryem Ben Salem about the OIE Ambassador Program, and that there might be a slight change for the current term.

#### 6.2.6. Next Term Projects :

##### 6.2.6.1. Podcast idea :

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained that this project was suggested by Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) during her term as Secretary of the SCOH. Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained further that this project aims to spread more awareness about One Health. The SCOH Team members will take turns hosting the event, where major One Health issues will be discussed.

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) continued by explaining how she started to discuss this idea during the last few months of her term in the SCOH. Podcasts are widely used as a form of communication and many podcasts deal with One Health. It is also a great opportunity to liaise with other student organizations, and foster relationships. Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) also explained that the previous team already started to work on a logo, as well as the first episode. Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) explained that the progress made by the previous team will make it easier for the next team, as they will have some material to build upon.

##### 6.2.6.2. Rabies Awareness (GARC)

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained having published the link on the Social Media Platform, and discussed setting a meeting with Kim from the GARC.

##### 6.2.6.3. Open call committee applications

As previously mentioned, Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) will transfer all questions for all committee members to Emily Freeman (CC) as soon as possible.

##### 6.2.6.4. Annual SCOH event

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained that the Annual SCOH Event was initiated by the previous Chair in collaboration with the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA). Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) then discussed the event lasting three days with student attendance. However, due to the COVID Pandemic, the event has been postponed without a date. Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) expressed her hope that the next chair will be able to move forward with it.

##### 6.2.6.5. Year Round One Health Challenge





Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained that the winner of the last challenge was IVSA Nepal, and expressed her intention to move forward with the challenge once the call for applications is done. All other projects such as World Rabies Day are still pending since the SCOH team has not been selected yet.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) asked for more details about the Annual SCOH Event.

Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) explained that it was a collaboration with IFMSA.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) will contact Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) privately for more information.

### **6.3. Standing Committee on Wellness (SCOW)**

#### **6.3.1. Vet Privilege and Inclusivity Group**

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that this project was initiated by Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD).

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) discussed SCOW spearheading the project and gave more details about it. Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) explained the need to recognize privilege in our daily lives and speak about what we are doing about it. Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) then discussed sharing a template in order to clarify her intentions, and discussed the Officials' involvement as well as the MOs', creating enough momentum to involve non-IVSA veterinary students and professionals.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed that Officials need to participate.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) discussed sharing some of the videos on Youtube and having a short ad on Facebook, and using that to direct more traffic towards the IVSA Youtube Page.

Branden Nettles (Trustee) suggested starting a Youtube playlist for this project.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) discussed combining all ExCo videos into one, and do the same with others before making a playlist out of them.

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) discussed that the SCOW will start the project, but that it was planned before the Equity and Diversity Taskforce was launched. Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) then expressed her interest in linking the project with the work of the Taskforce.





Merel Knoops (President) agreed, and suggested that Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) works with Iina Airasmaa (PRC) about Social media posts.

#### 6.3.2. Vet Recipe Book - IVSA Colorado

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that a student from IVSA SAVMA reached out and expressed interest in starting the Vet Recipe Book. A meeting was set for Thursday in order to determine how the SCOW could collaborate on this project.

#### 6.3.3. Wellness Survey- IVSA Portugal

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) shared information about IVSA Portugal doing a Survey about Student Burnout. Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) sent an email asking if they were interested in collaborating with the SCOW and is still waiting for an answer.

#### 6.3.4. New position : Wellness Ambassador Coordinator

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) expressed her interest in having a Wellness Representative in as many MOs as possible, and thus decided to establish a new Wellness Ambassador Coordinator position within the SCOW. The ambassadors' aim would be to promote the SCOW's events within their community, as well as their own events and ideas with the SCOW and the Wellness Ambassador Coordinator.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) inquired about who determined what a good recipe was.

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that it was discussed as a team, but that there were no strict limitations regarding submissions. Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) then explained that the book would be categorized following dietary restrictions, but that there were no animal welfare considerations in place. Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that the recipes have not yet been compiled.

Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) raised concerns regarding the consumption of animal products and discussed promoting animal welfare as an imperative of the consumption of animal products, and promoting the welfare of animals involved in the production of animal products. Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) then offered her help in dealing with the subject of animal welfare as it relates to the Vet Recipe Book Project.

#### 6.3.5. Reimbursement and prize giving for Wellness Week and Vet Recipe Book

As winners of the SCOW's Wellness Week, IVSA South Africa is entitled to a partial reimbursement to an IVSA Symposium or Congress.





There was another individual winner as well, so Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) reached out to Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) and Panos Doerffer-Efraimidis (Treasurer) about the matter.

#### 6.3.6. Mentor-mentee collaboration with WGA

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that the Mentor-Mentee Project started last term. However, there were too few mentors and many mentees. Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed working with Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) to involve more Alumni as mentors.

#### 6.3.7. IVSA SA 'Lift Me Up Challenge'

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that the "Lift Me Up Challenge" was initiated by IVSA South Africa, and went on to detail the concept of the challenge. IVSA South Africa then nominated the SCOW, but seeing as the SCOW team hasn't been formed yet, Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) asked the Chairs if they were willing to partake in it first and have other IVSA Officials involved at a later date.

#### 6.3.8. Instagram - September (Suicide Prevention Awareness Month)

Naveesha Kaur Shergill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed sharing contact on the Instagram page regarding Suicide Prevention Awareness.

#### 6.3.9. Potential partnerships with psychology professionals

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) explained that there are many international organizations working on Mental Health and expressed interest in partnering with them. Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) then gave an example that IVSA Morocco had made plans to partner with a psychologist and offer private counseling sessions to members in need, but these were canceled due to the sudden and acute evolution of the current pandemic.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) discussed having extensive wellness event plans with her MO, including a discussion group with the school psychiatrist. Iina Airasmaa (PRC) then agreed with the idea of approaching psychiatrists, and discussed the Not one more vet campaign, stating that it would be useful to reach out to them.

Elen Hernandez (DAD) discussed partnership with psychology students instead of professors, as they will relate better to student issues. Elen Hernandez (DAD) then mentioned that psychology professionals give webinars about coping mechanisms and meditation.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed.





Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) also agreed that reaching out to international psychology student organisations would be best, and mentioned promoting outreach programs and the work of universities who provide this type of service to their students. Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) discussed collaborating with universities which are working on this and giving them a platform for them to promote their work.

Merel Knoops (President) called a recess for 10 minutes until 10:55 PM GMT +1.

Merel Knoops (President) called the meeting back to order at 10:56 PM GMT +1.

#### **6.4. Working Group on Alumni (WGA)**

##### **6.4.1. Member Planet/Wild Apricot**

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) explained that the WGA had some issues with Member Planet and that they lost 300 Euros, which the past Chair tried to get back unsuccessfully. Member Planet informed the previous Chair that it was due to some information during the application being unclear. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) then discussed another platform (Wild Apricot) in order to get more memberships. Through the Wild Apricot free trial membership, the WGA can receive up to 50 subscriptions but can't collect any payments, as that will require the WGA to change their membership status to a full membership, costing 40 Euros a month.

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) further explained that it would mean the WGA would have to accept three new members per month, in order to cover the cost of the full membership. The first point on the WGA's agenda for this term is to fix this issue, as members need to pay in order to be considered Alumni Supportive Members, especially since there are now applicants who expressed their interest in joining the Alumni, but can't join because they cannot pay.

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) then explained that Member Planet is not an option, it cannot be linked to the Paypal account, and costs a significant amount (around 400 dollars per year) which the WGA can't afford at the moment. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) offered two possible solutions, the first being to collect applications with Google forms and collect payments directly using the Paypal account, or proceed with Wild Apricot and pay full membership fees. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) then expressed intentions to retrieve the 300 Euros back from Member Planet and look into the feasibility of switching to Wild Apricot to see if the promotion allows for sufficient new memberships in order to afford it.

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) also explained that there is a Facebook group with Alumni members and old IVSA Members, as well as a database based on Delegate Lists from previous IVSA Events.





Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) inquired if it would make more sense if the money was directly wired to the IVSA Paypal account without going through an intermediary, as the treasurer of IVSA can handle the transfers.

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) explained that, in normal circumstances, the money goes directly to IVSA and the Treasurer gets notified that money has been received. However, the issue now is that some members paid, but IVSA did not receive the money.

Daniel Lund (Trustee) explained that when the Alumni Fund was originally created, money was being transferred into the account, but Member Planet was chosen because of the other benefits of Member Planet. Daniel Lund (Trustee) expressed his interest in offering assistance with this issue.

#### 6.4.2. Alumni SGA Videos

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) discussed the WGA's Alumni Workshops during the SGA, and that they will be published on the Youtube channel.

#### 6.4.3. Call for collaborations with other committees

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) expressed interest in involving the Alumni more through collaboration with the other committees. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) explained having already been in contact with the SCOW and the SCoCA, and that a special team will be put in place to handle such collaborations.

#### 6.4.4. Alumni Events

During the last term, the WGA only held one event in Morocco, but was preparing for another Alumni Event in Greece until it was canceled. It is still unsure whether the WGA will plan an event for Indonesia. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) expressed his idea about having Alumni events that are separated from IVSA Official events. As of now, the feasibility of these events depends on the global sanitary and travel restrictions, as well as sponsorship.

#### 6.4.5. VVC Sponsorship

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) explained that Branden Nettles (Trustee) worked to put VVC in contact with Alumni. As they are based in the United States, in exchange for their sponsorship, the WGA will promote their recruitment in the US. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) discussed a MoU being currently written with the President and the External Relations Officer, and discussed keeping ExCo and the rest of the Officials updated.

### **6.5. Standing Committee on Career Attributes (SCoCA)**





#### 6.5.1. Committee Manual/ Strategic Plan

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) expressed her intention to consult the Committee Member manual to make sure everything is up to date for the new members and change the Committee positions for the application, as well as in the manual. Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) discussed working with Nicole Hartman (ERO) about the SCoCA Sponsorship Booklet, and with Emily Freeman (CC) about the Committee Strategic plan.

#### 6.5.2. SCoCA Blog

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) discussed committee publications and her plan to have longer articles written as soon as the Committee members are selected.

#### 6.5.3. Soft Skills Survey

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) explained the Soft Skills Survey as a project from the previous term, as well as creating a survey with students and Alumni in order to collect data about what they are struggling with and what soft skills they lack.

#### 6.5.4. Soft Skills Marathon

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) explained the Soft Skills Marathon as being a project from the previous term, and discussed contacting Vera Gonzales, who was the Advisor for the SCoCA last year about helping in the organization of the event. Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) then discussed the event being held online and her intention of organizing it during the first part of the term.

### 6.6. **Standing Committee on Veterinary Education (SCoVE):**

#### 6.6.1. IVSA JVE 2

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained that the second edition of the JVE was supposed to have been published already. However, due to some issues, the new deadline was set for the 12<sup>th</sup> of September by the previous chair, which will be kept.

#### 6.6.2. Diagnosis challenge

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained there were some problems with the payment, but it was solved.

#### 6.6.3. First Aid Course

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained there were small issues with the First Aid Course and that it was being solved. Some parties showed interest in collaborating on a long term basis, as well as the Liverpool Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society





who also expressed interest. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) contacted them about the possibility of a long term collaboration, but received no answer yet. The fifth module is about ophthalmology.

#### 6.6.4. Interviews

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained having interviews for the Committee members. But as previously discussed, the matter will be overseen by Emily Freeman (CC) during a meeting.

#### 6.6.5. EDU+

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) discussed adding Vet school websites on the platform and is awaiting formal confirmation.

#### 6.6.6. Collaborations

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) discussed collaborating with the MOs. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) was contacted by IVSA Portugal who asked for assistance in creating their Local SCoVE. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) expressed her interest in assisting MOs in creating their local committees, and discussed meeting with the MOD about possibilities for collaboration on a regional level, as well as organizing regional workshops.

#### 6.6.7. Ambassadors project

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) shared her concerns about the SCoVE Ambassador Program and not receiving any ambassador reports for the previous term.

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) then explained that the program was at fault and the rules needed to be changed, and that the ambassadors needed to be remotivated.

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) then discussed meeting with the SCOH Chair and the Committee Coordinator, as the Standing Committee on One Health is currently facing the same issues.

#### 6.6.8. MO's involvement

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) discussed a media restructuring of the regions to address the problems in the region during those meetings, and for the Regions to interact more. Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) explained that it would be beneficial for the Standing Committees' Chairs to attend and address their issues in depth.

Laure Chevalier (Regional Representative for Europe) agreed and discussed having workshops with the committees involving the regions.





Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) agreed.

#### 6.6.9. Communities

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) discussed *Vet School Team* as being interested in forming the Pre Veterinary community, and discussed some of the key topics of interest for this community. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) also explained some points about opening applications.

#### 6.6.10. Policy making

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained that the SCoVE creates surveys each term. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) also reported on having discussed the creation of a Policy Officer position within the SCoVE.

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) also explained the importance of writing more policies in light of the agreement between IVSA and EAEVE, and having a meeting with former members of the SCoVE who were involved in creating surveys in order to improve them.

Merel Knoops (President) shared the Trust's recommendation to work more on policy writing, and shared some ideas about creating a database for experienced members and a list of relevant topics that need to be addressed.

Merel Knoops (President) made a motion to table points 7. until 15.1. and point 16.

There were no objections and this was approved.

#### 15.2. 69th IVSA Symposium in Indonesia

Merel Knoops (President) discussed the 69<sup>th</sup> IVSA Symposium in Bali Organizing Committee cancelling the event. Traveling restrictions to Indonesia were supposed to ease by September, but they did not and were postponed until the end of the year instead, leaving very small room for chance, and a high risk of delegates not being able to attend at all.

Merel Knoops (President) explained the three options available to ExCo regarding the special general assembly being:

- Hosting the SGA completely online, with no live attendance.
- Hosting the SGA in Indonesia with no restrictions about the dates and all. Merel Knoops (President) explained the importance of hosting the SGA by halfway of March at the latest, in order for the SGA and the Congress not to be too close to each other.
- Opening application for SGA Host, preferably in Europe where the situation is better and where travel is more or less allowed. The SGA will then allow online





attendance. Merel Knoops (President) expressed concerns about hosting the SGA in Europe, the eventuality of not reaching Quorum, and the possibility of European Delegates being the only ones able to attend.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) read the Trust's letter underlining the importance of already starting to prepare for Online Attendance. Even if IVSA has the experience of hosting an Online SGA, it would be best to start preparations as soon as possible. The Trust also highlighted the importance of preparing for the EO meeting, committee workshops, and regional meetings. Furthermore, the Trust thinks it unlikely that the situation will improve in time in Indonesia and would not advise the SGA to be hosted there.

The Trust advised ExCo to open a call for a Host of the SGA in order to determine if any MOs would be willing to host it. The Trust also advised ExCo to open a call for an Online Organizing Committee in case the event is held completely online. All the screening and confirming of the Applicants would otherwise fall onto the MOD team, which would be undesirable.

Nabeelah Imraan Rajah (MOD) inquired about what stops everybody from reevaluating the entire way we hold the events.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed that this was a valid point although not very urgent, and agreed to discuss it later.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) discussed being involved in the Online Attendance Committee, and expressed concerns that whatever is decided, there is a high possibility of the event being completely online. Iina Airasmaa (PRC) also discussed the uncertainty related to this issue. Iina Airasmaa (PRC) then agreed on having a call for an Online Organising Committee, explaining the advantages of having an early start in tackling the Online Attendance, while also discussing the hardships of working from a long distance on an online event.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed, and then discussed having a clearer structure, and getting started as soon as possible in order to support the MOD team.

Elen Hernandez (DAD) also agreed and discussed the importance of working closely on such a big event. Elen Hernandez (DAD) then explained the importance of having an Organizing Committee to help in person and with IT issues, and discussed some issues that happened during the SGA. Elen Hernandez (DAD) explained that the Committee Chairs were informed late about the workshops, and that they needed to be informed earlier in order to better prepare for them.

Merel Knoops (President) explained that she had started to think about the application form for the SGA Host, as well as all the stipulations that would be required from MOs in order to host the SGA. Merel Knoops (President) also discussed the previous Live





Special General Assembly in North Carolina, and that it would be ill advised to consider it as a model for this SGA.

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) expressed concerns about the logistical difficulties surrounding a live SGA. It would be very complicated to ask Delegates to provide negative test results. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) recommended not having a Live SGA, as there would be too much uncertainty regarding many aspects of it. Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) also inquired about the responsibility that IVSA holds in regards to suspect cases, the risk of quarantining, and interaction with the local authorities.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) discussed the disadvantages of not acting decisively sooner rather than later, as that would put the Officials in a difficult position in case the situation worsens over time.

Merel Knoops (President) explained that having a live event, even though small, holds many advantages, mainly in regards to the interaction with the General Assembly. It is difficult to supervise and interact with the delegates online. Merel Knoops (President) explained the importance of this aspect in order for the Delegates to make well educated votes.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) agreed, and discussed the importance of live attendance for all parties concerned.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) inquired about the requirements that would force ExCo to cancel the Live SGA and move it completely online, as well as the timeframe regarding this possibility.

Merel Knoops (President) explained that there are no date requirements for the cancellation of an SGA. Merel Knoops (President) expressed preferences for opening the Call for a Host of the SGA, all while preparing for the possibility of it being moved completely online.

Branden Nettles (Trustee) agreed with Iina Airasmaa (PRC), and had two comments. If ExCo decides to move forward with opening the Call for the Live SGA Host, it would be best to include a clause about the Host entertaining the possibility that in case of cancellation of the SGA, they would agree to host a smaller event with online attendance. Branden Nettles (Trustee) also advised ExCo on setting a reasonable deadline in order to safely take a decision in case the current situation does not get better. In Addition, Branden Nettles (Trustee) discussed the inherent risk with making such a decision, but then asked that if ExCo did make the decision to move the SGA completely online this early, what change would be expected for the same decision not to be taken in regards to the 70<sup>th</sup> IVSA Congress in The Netherlands. Branden Nettles (Trustee) then advised ExCo to open the Call for a Host of the SGA, try as best as possible to have the event take place Live, and continue monitoring the situation and preparing for an Online SGA.





Panos Doerffer-Efraimidis (Treasurer) discussed the importance of having an ExCo Live Meeting circa the SGA, whether it be Live or Online, and agreed with opening the Call for a Host of the SGA.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) discussed the requirements to impose in the scenario of a Live SGA, especially considering the number of attendees.

Merel Knoops (President) discussed her proposition for the number to be around 50 delegates, and discussed limiting the number of days to four. Merel Knoops (President) also discussed imposing a negative test requirement for attendees, observing sufficient distance between members at all times and especially during GAs, sufficient ventilation of the GA Hall, as well as the abundance of hand soap, among other requirements.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) agreed with the idea of a minimal Live SGA. Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) then advised reaching out to MOs and thinking about having an educational program along with the SGA. Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) then discussed the importance of having GA Officials (Chair, Parliamentarian, Secretary, and at least one member of the Election Committee and the Online Attendance Committee) at the same place in order for the SGA to run smoothly. Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) also advised approaching the Committees and Working Groups in advance in order to provide quality workshops for the delegates and advised on starting to make preparations for the Online Attendance Committee. Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) then discussed the advantages of having Online Attendance during all IVSA Official Events would do for inclusivity, but expressed concerns about its feasibility from a logistical aspect, as well as Bylaw specifications.

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) inquired about the possibility of imposing requirements to be fulfilled by the SGA host.

Merel Knoops (President) explained that it was possible to impose specifications for the SGA Host to respect. Merel Knoops (President) also explained that the SGA does not need to take place in January, but could take place in March, which would still leave ExCo some time to make decisions later. Merel Knoops (President) also discussed many International Organisations programming Live events for March such as WSAVA.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) discussed the risks related to having up to 50 attendees during the SGA, and the difficulty of controlling delegates especially in regards to basic necessities such as meals. Keeping contact with the outside world during the event to a minimum is harder when the number of attendees is higher. Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) also discussed concerns about leaving the SGA until March as the SGA and the Congress would be very close to one another, and expressed wishes that ExCo decide sooner rather than later about having a Live or an Online SGA.





Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) raised concerns about the target number of delegates being at 50 and explained that one delegate from each voting entity would be sufficient to meet quorum, meaning the number of delegates can be lowered to 30 Delegates.

Merel Knoops (President) explained that IVSA currently recognizes 51 voting entities, meaning that quorum can be achieved as long as 21 entities are present. Merel Knoops (President) expressed concerns about last minute cancellations and absentees and determined the safest minimum number of delegates to be at 30. Merel Knoops (President) also discussed that the number of delegates is not set in stone and all details can be subject to change following ExCo's decision.

Nicole Hartman (ERO) expressed concerns in regards to the backlash to be expected following a decision of ExCo concerning the SGA. Nicole Hartman (ERO) suggested that ExCo be transparent about all the decisions that are made in order to avoid such situations.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed that some sort of backlash is to be expected, but also expressed a major difference between the current situation and the 69<sup>th</sup> IVSA Symposium in Greece Online SGA is that many other international veterinary organizations have also scheduled their events for the same period.

Merel Knoops (President) opened the floor for any more discussion. Seeing none, Merel Knoops (President) reiterated the three options previously mentioned.

Merel Knoops (President) asked for a show of interest in including Indonesia as a possible host for the SGA. No members of ExCo showed any interest, and this option was removed from the list of options.

Merel Knoops (President) asked for all members of ExCo in favor of opening applications for a Host of the SGA to raise their hands.

ExCo unanimously voted in favor of the motion. And it was approved to open a Call for Host of the SGA.

Merel Knoops (President) expressed her thanks to all the officials for having participated in the discussion, and discussed transparency within the application process, as well as periodic reevaluation of the current situation.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) inquired about opening applications for the Online Organizing Committee.

Merel Knoops (President) explained that the application for the Online Attendance Committee will be opened first, and that the application for the Online Organizing Committee will follow later.





Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) explained that the Online Attendance Committee was a priority and strongly advised ExCo to start consulting interested members in applying for the Online Attendance Committee, as well as contacting the Standing Committees in order to provide an educational program for Online Delegates.

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) discussed organizing an Alumni event in the case of there being a Live SGA, or in the other case, organizing Alumni Workshops if the SGA is fully Online.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) explained that since the Officials would need to have more information about the Online Attendance Committee, Election Committee, and all other GA-related information, that all manuals would be made available in the Shared Officials Drive for the Officials to consult.

The meeting was adjourned at 23:33 PM GMT +1

Mehdi Amrani  
Secretary General 2020-2021  
International Veterinary Students' Association

