11.22.2020 – Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Online Meeting of ExCo 2020-2021

The Fifth (5th) Online Meeting of the IVSA Executive Committee (ExCo) 2020-2021 was held at 2:00 PM GMT+1 on 11.22.2020. 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)
Nina Vasic  Committee Coordinator (CC)
Nabeelah Rajah  Member Organizations’ Director (MOD)
Panos Doerffer-Efraimidis  Treasurer
Iina Airasma  Public Relations Coordinator (PRC) and Vice-President

Other IVSA Officials Present

Adinda Rana Fauziah  Secretary to the PRC
Glenn Adjei  Secretary to the PRC
Luregn von Planta  Secretary to the ERO and the CC
Diana Texeira  Standing Committee on Veterinary Education (SCoVE) Chair
Mairin-Rua Ni Aodha  Standing Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW) Chair
Iftiquar Hassan  Project Manager of the Standing Committee on One Health (SCOH)
Naveesha Shergill  Standing Committee on Wellness (SCOW) Chair
Izabella Baclawska  Standing Committee on Caree Attributes (SCoCA) Chair
Vincenzo Gaita  Working Group on Alumni (WGA) Chair
Laure Chevalier  Regional Representative for Europe
Javier Puente  Regional Representative for the Americas
Anna Cieckiewicz  Trustee
Elwin van Oldenborgh  Trustee
Daniel Lund  Trustee
Branden Nettles  Trustee
Apologies

Elen Hernandez (DAD) and Adetona Mutiat Adenike (Chair of the SCOH) apologized for not being able to attend the meeting.

1. Opening – Merel Knoops (President) called the meeting to order at 14:05 GMT+1.

2. Approval of the Agenda – The Agenda of the Fifth (5th) Online Meeting of ExCo 2020-2021 was approved with some amendments.

3. Action Points

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed the new MoU with Bioethicus.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) explained the website update will be moved till December.

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed updating the Code of Conduct to include Online attendance.

Panagiotis Doerffer-Efraimidis (Treasurer) discussed the ING mandates and explained that some documents need to be signed by the President of IVSA to remove the expired mandates. Merel Knoops (President) will sign them.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) discussed the PR toolkit will be postponed till December.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) discussed the upcoming meetings with the Supranational MOs. There were no updates about IVSA Bangladesh. Panagiotis Doerffer-Efraimidis (Treasurer) gave Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) a list of MOs we need to follow up on.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) also discussed checking in with the Netherlands’ OC this month, and Mexico the following month. The MOD Core challenges were finalized and Regional meetings are ongoing.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) discussed the IVSA History Project, and explained the difficulties of making any progress because the documentation needs to be digitized. Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) will reach out to Iina Airasmaa (PRC) to discuss related matters.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) then discussed the Secretariat project, and the IVSA Archive and Indexing projects. Through retrieving old IVSA emails, some important data was made available once again.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) then insisted on working on the SGA timeline and issuing deadlines to help all officials organize their tasks and obligations related to the General Assembly.
Iina Airasmaa (PRC) explained that the merging of the Youtube Channels is progressing. The meeting to establish the PR Network will be on the 29th of November. The Regional Logos will take some time, but they are projected to be available around new year’s.

4. Trust Report –

4.1. Taskforce on Bylaw Realignment:

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) explained that the first draft will be ready by SGA.

4.2. OC Manual Taskforce:

Anna Cieckiewicz (Trustee) explained the first meeting was scheduled for the following week.

5. Treasurer Update –

5.1. Taxes

Panagiotis Doerrfer-Efraimidis (Treasurer) explained that the Tax agency was unresponsive, and that IVSA still had no confirmation that the taxes had been filed correctly, but that there was also nothing to indicate the contrary. Katharina Loose (Post-Treasurer) will also contact them.

5.2. Bank mandates

Panagiotis Doerffer-Efraimidis (Treasurer) discussed waiting for an answer from the bank.

6. Committee Coordinator (CC) Update –

6.1. Contract between Chair and members

Nina Vasic (CC) explained that the ExCo approved the contract between Chairs and Committee members. It will be shared with the Chairs. An additional agreement between the Chairs and the Ambassadors was discussed, with the idea being to include this document in the Application form, along with the GDPR disclaimer.

Nina Vasic (CC) then relayed some concerns by some of the Committee Chairs that including the agreement in the application form might not be considered seriously enough by the chosen Ambassadors, which defeats the purpose of having an agreement in the first place. Nina Vasic (CC) explained that some of the Chairs were in favor of a ritual of signing. Some additional issues were discussed regarding who would gain access to the Committee Member manuals,
and the modalities and logistics regarding this subject. More recent discussions culminated in the separation of the Contract from the Manual, and shortening the document in order to avoid overcomplicating this procedure.

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) gave some explanations about this idea which originated with her.

Merel Knoops (President) agreed that the Ambassadors often have some trouble figuring out what to expect from such positions. Therefore, the manuals will prove to be a valuable tool to help Ambassadors be aware of the seriousness of the position and expectations of the Committee Chair.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) discussed his point of view on the matter and gave some explanations about how the manuals have already proven to be very useful, and discussed getting good feedback from the SCAW Committee Members who received it.

Merel Knoops (President) shared some concerns about the administrative toll it would impose on the Committees to handle possibly a hundred or more contracts based on the number of ambassadors each committee has. Merel Knoops (President) then reiterated the idea of including the Agreement into the application form and having the Applicants tick a box that they have taken notice of the content in the agreement.

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained her agreement with the ritual of signing, and having individual contracts, stating that the Committees are used to handling a big amount of documents.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) explained that there is nothing requiring such documents to exist, but that the contrary is also true.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) discussed the fact that it would not make sense to create documents that are not worth anything from an official standpoint because it would be a waste of time and energy that will be put into it.

Nina Vasic (CC) gave some clarifications about the difference between the treatment for Committee members and ambassadors, and explained some of the words that were being used to describe the discussed documents.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) gave an account about her own personal experience as a former OIE Junior Ambassador, and explained that the value of the signature would not be enough to enforce some type of action by the Ambassadors.

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed her own personal experience as SCAW Website Manager, and explained how having a manual to underline the tasks that are to be handled by her position would have been more beneficial for herself and the committee.
Daniel Lund (Trustee) explained that there needs to be a line drawn to avoid having too much paperwork.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) reminded the Officials of receiving an email about the Draft of the Manual, and asked for feedback via email in the following days.

6.2. WHSS Update

Nina Vasic (CC) discussed the developments regarding the WHSS, and the factors leading to the decision about the choice of date. She discussed the organizational aspects of the event, including Task assignment per organization. Nina Vasic (CC) then asked members of the Officials if anybody would like to be involved as part of the Organizing Committee, and asked for advice on which tasks would benefit the IVSA most if it were to take them on.

Merel Knoops (President) asked about the time commitment.

Nina Vasic (CC) explained that there was still a lot of confusion regarding many aspects of the organization of this event, and then discussed some of the topics that were up for choice regarding the organization of the event.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) discussed the importance of showcasing the IVSA and Veterinary Medicine as a whole in a joint event, where historically, Veterinary medicine somewhat struggles to shine properly.

There was some discussion about IVSA’s involvement in the educational program, and Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) offered to relay some information from a past event that would be helpful.

Merel Knoops (President) discussed reaching out to interested and related partners once the program was closer to being finalized.

7. Committee reports –

7.1. Standing Committee on One Health (SCOH)

7.1.1. Projects

VPHJ

Iftiquar Hassan (SCOH Project Manager) explained that the SCOH Journal already has 18 editions, and that the 19th will be on the ongoing pandemic and its impact on Animal Health and Public Health Systems. Iftiquar Hassan (SCOH Project Manager) discussed adding a photo
competition, but the criteria to that is still undecided.

- **WAAW EVENTS**

  7.1.1.●.1. SCOH WAAW Event

  Iftiquar Hassan (SCOH Project Manager) discussed a series of events during AMR Week, and the sharing of infographics and videos made by Committee members, Social Media Quizzes and other activities.

  7.1.1.●.2. AMSA/FAMSA Collaboration

  Iftiquar Hassan (SCOH Project Manager) explained that the SCOH joined as an associative partner in the AMSA/FAMSA joint One Health International Congress on One Health in celebration of AMR Week. The SCOH were contacted late, but IVSA will be represented.

  7.1.1.●.3. IFMSA Collaboration

  Iftiquar Hassan (SCOH Project Manager) discussed the IFMSA online event on WAAW (World Antimicrobial Awareness Week). The IFMSA have sent an email to invite a speaker from the IVSA, and Iina Airasmaa (PRC) will be representing the IVSA.

  7.1.1.●.4. Global AMR youth summit

  The Global AMR Youth Summit was a three-day virtual event organized by the IFMSA, the IPSF, the IADS, and in collaboration with the IAAS. Four members from the SCOH were part of the organizing team.

  Iftiquar Hassan (SCOH Project Manager) then discussed a request from the Vice-President of the International Students in One Health Association (ISOHA) who shared their project of creating a network of One Health Groups and Clubs around the world, and asked for the SCOH to help promote a social media post to that effect.

  Merel Knoops (President) agreed.

  Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) agreed and noted that the IVSA had already signed an MoU with the ISOHA, it would not cause any issues.

  7.2. Standing Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW):

  7.2.1. Global Voices Launch

  Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed the aim of the project being to shed light on the work of notable IVSA members and their work related to animal welfare. Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed the open call and the interview with Daniel.
7.2.2. Statement of support for End the Cage Age Campaign

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed the statement and shared intentions to work with the SCAW Research Team in order to create a policy paper about this topic for added support. An additional statement by the President of IVSA was agreed upon.

7.2.3. Animal Welfare Lobbying Panel Discussion

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) provided information about the panel for the upcoming discussions, and shared her intentions to proceed regionally, with the focus being around Europe and the EU first.

7.2.4. Fear Free Partnership

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) discussed the MoU with Fear Free, which is in progress.

7.2.5. Ambassador Programme

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) explained that the application form was ready, and that the SCAW is waiting to open the applications along with the other committees.

7.2.6. SCAW Debate series

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) asked to contact MOs directly about the debate competition, in order to better promote this. Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) explained that since SCAW has launched a multitude of different initiatives lately, there has been a lot less interest in each one.

Merel Knoops (President) suggested reaching out via the EO Bulletin.

7.3. Standing Committee on Veterinary Education (SCoVE):

7.3.1. Ambassador program

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained that the SCoVE did receive some applications while they were going through some restructuring. In result, the position changed. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) shared concerns that it would not be fair to those that already applied since they might be less interested by the new structure, then asked for opinions on the matter.

Merel Knoops (President) advised to reach out to those applicants to inform them of recent developments, and ask them to re-apply according to the new structure.
7.3.2. SCoVE Conference

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained that the documentation regarding the GVE Conference will be shared with Merel Knoops (President) in order to decide the future of this event.

7.3.3. Communities

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained that the host for the first Equine Community Conference had been chosen (Morocco), and further explained that the proposal for the Wildlife Community will be shared in an upcoming meeting. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) also shared that the ideas for the next communities would be the communities on Alternative Medicine and a Pre-veterinary community. Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) raised some issues with SCoVE’s ability to reach out to relevant associations locally.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) proposed to use the Ambassadors to initiate contact. Both agreed on the issues related to the screening process, since the members of the Pre-Vet community cannot be considered as members, and their enrollment in a Pre-Vet curriculum cannot be verified.

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) discussed a map of vet schools to help with the process.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) raised concerns about the added pressure to answer questions and properly advise youth on what they should be doing, which would be improper and logistically difficult.

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) explained that this issue can be resolved by creating a document that interested individuals can be referred to, which will alleviate some of that pressure. Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) agreed and asked to be involved in the development of this document, and to work on it with the MOs in mind.

7.3.4. Collaborations

Diana Teixeira (Chair of the SCoVE) discussed a certain issue with someone reaching out to the SCoVE in order to donate a presentation, and requiring a certificate from the financial department for it.

Different opinions from the Trust were discussed, but all were in agreement that IVSA is a non profit without the NGO status, and that there can be no document to provide that person in order for the donation to be subtracted from their taxes.

7.4. Working Group on Alumni (WGA)

7.4.1. Solving Member Planet issues
Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) explained that the committee is already addressing these issues.

### 7.4.2. Committee Collaborations

Vincenzo Gaita (Chair of the WGA) discussed the Mentor Mentee project, and the steps taken to involve Alumni members to become Mentors.

With SCoCA, the WGA is collaborating on the Soft Skill Survey. Once results are published, they will be discussed to create targeted training sessions.

Other minor points were discussed.

### 7.5. Standing Committee on Wellness (SCoW)

#### 7.5.1. Completed:

##### 7.5.1.1. Code of Conduct

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that the amendments to the Code of Conduct have been completed. The new version will be sent to the ExCo for approval.

##### 7.5.1.2. World Kindness Day

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) provided details on the event which took place on the 13th of November.

##### 7.5.1.3. Wellness Toolkit substitute Linktr.ee

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed finding a substitute for Linktr.ee, a platform that the SCoW uses to manage their links. Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that Linktr.ee will not be used anymore, and that all links have been moved to the Wellness Toolkit website.

#### 7.5.2. Ongoing:

##### 7.5.2.1. Mentor-Mentee

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed the collaboration with the WGA, and explained that the applications have been open for the duration of one month.

##### 7.5.2.2. SGA Bingo

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed suggestions to the SGA Bingo.
7.5.2.3. E&D Taskforce

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that the name of the taskforce had been amended, to which Inclusivity had been added. Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed the recruitment of members of the Taskforce which was underway.

7.5.2.4. Content Calendar

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) explained that the aim of this project is to assemble a calendar of all notable celebratory days related to wellness.

7.5.2.5. Tales of Wellness

Naveesha Shegill (Chair of the SCOW) discussed the aim of this project being to make the connection between human wellness and animals, by emphasizing the common ways in which both species take care of themselves.

Merel Knoops (President) moved to go into recess for 10 minutes at 4:31 PM GMT+1.

Merel Knoops (President) called the meeting back in order at 4:41 PM GMT+1.

7.6. Standing Committee on Career Attributes (SCoCA)

7.6.1. Global communication training

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) discussed the first training of the SCoCA and some of the issues related to Members’ perception of the nature of training. Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) will address these issues in the next training.

7.6.2. EOs & Presidents Training

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) discussed the necessity for EOs and Presidents to be trained in handling issues of various nature (such as political issues …).

7.6.3. ExCo Live Meeting training

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) provided some details about the ExCo Training, and discussed the importance of organizing training during every gathering of Members and / or Officials.

7.6.4. Soft Skills Academy

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) discussed some of the details related to the Soft Skill Academy. Three trainers will be working collaboratively to create trainings, give assignments,
and motivate students. The members will receive a Completion Certificate to incite people to apply for the Academy. In order to reward trainers’ engagement and dedication, the option of imposing a fee was mentioned.

7.6.5. Updates

7.6.5.1. SCoCA Blog

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) explained that the article for this month was almost finished, and discussed its publication on Social Media.

7.6.5.2. Trainings from IAAS

Izabela Baclawska (Chair of the SCoCA) discussed an email from the IAAS Training Network and explained that they agreed to provide IVSA with two training sessions in late December and early January. However, the topics of the sessions have not been decided yet.

8. Public Relations Coordinator (PRC) Update –

8.1. Social Media

Iina Airasmaa gave an update on the number of posts published on Facebook since the previous meeting, which was ten posts. She further gave an update on the process of getting the IVSA Global Facebook page verified. The page was not approved for a verification due to not having enough followers.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) then discussed the IVSA Calendar and urged members of the team of Officials to add events to the IVSA Calendar.

8.2. PR Network

This point was discussed in point 3. Action points.

8.3. IVSA Journal

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) explained that compiling the journal will take a significant amount of time, and urged members of the team of Officials to send in their publications in accordance with the deadlines.

8.4. PR Toolkit

This point was discussed in point 3. Action points.

9. Member Organization Director (MOD) Update –
9.1. Communication and MO involvement

- Screening declarations for MOs and alumni

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) explained the idea behind the declaration forms, and its major benefits, the biggest of which is a great increase in the efficiency of the screening process.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) then explained the way in which the declaration forms work, which requires both signatures of the president and the EO.

- MOD team mid-term assessment and feedback

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) discussed the importance of Mid-Term evaluation for the Officials especially in the MOD team, to ensure that MOs and Members are satisfied with the work that is being put in. This will allow for the MOD team to better answer members’ needs and expectations in the second part of the term.

- Meetings with the MOD (informal)

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) discussed the format in which meetings and interaction between MOD and members is conducted. Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) explained that the regional meetings as well as other meetings with the MOD are conducted in a formal setting, which sometimes hinders the discussion. Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) feels that there should be some format in which members can have more freedom to clearly express their needs and opinions about their specific issues, and the work of the Officials and the IVSA in General.

9.2. Exchanges and International events

- ExCo and IVSA Indonesia Online Exchange

The time and modalities of the exchange with IVSA Indonesia will be discussed with the ExCo at a later date.

- Ethics workshop for SGA

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) explained the reasons behind this idea being that many of the topics related to veterinary medicine are very sensitive, with legal and financial implications for many communities (Dogfighting rings, etc …). Veterinarians and Vet students often have good practical experience, but less training when it comes to ethics, hence the importance of this workshop.

Further discussion ensued about the importance of choosing a good moderator who should be well-experienced in this topic, and Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) discussed contacting rural veterinarians and state veterinarians who work closely in less-privileged communities. Mairin-
Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) advised to also reach out to sociology experts as their opinion would be valuable. Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) agreed, and then explained that because of the lack of time during SGA, the workshop should be at an introductory level.

**- Netherland OC budget**

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) discussed emailing the budget to the ExCo, who have commented on it. Merel Knoops (President) explained that the fees in the Netherlands are very high, and advised to follow up on confirmed sponsors, and inquire about cheaper options.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) gave his comments about the budget, and advised that the OC also take into consideration the fact that the event might be canceled, and start discussing different scenarios in case it happens in order to be prepared for any decisions to be made on short notice.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) will relay all the comments made by the ExCo to the OC.

**9.3. Information and committees**

**- EO Bulletin**

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) discussed the fact that some of our members do not receive the information included in the EO bulletin because sometimes EOs fail to deliver them. Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) explained that in a few cases, perhaps the format of the EO bulletin is not friendly enough for people to read. The idea was then dismissed because the reading time of the EO bulletin was short enough which makes it very manageable.

Daniel Lund (Trustee) discussed his previous experience as an EO, explaining that the difficulty lies with the MO board not being able to reach every member via their emails. There was further discussion on the possibility of making the EO bulletin online, and it was determined that Facebook would be a very inefficient platform to disseminate all the information contained in the EO bulletin, which, unfortunately, many MOs still use to this day.

**9.4. Regional Representatives**

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) thanked the regional representatives for their hard work.

The security of the Declaration Form process was questioned by Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) who thought they could easily be forged. Iina Airasmaa (PRC) explained that the current declarations are temporary, and that the final ones will be watermarked which makes them a lot harder to forge.

**10. Development Aid Director (DAD) Update –**
Elen Hernandez (DAD) was not present at the meeting, but bullet points about the new developments were included and approved in the agenda as follows:

10.1. IVSA Scholarship Grant
   10.1.1. Task force
   ● Members have been chosen
   ● First meeting was held
   ● Decided on process for applications of the first round

10.1.2. Application Date
   ● Aim is January 1st
   ● Hold live interviews via zoom
   ● Announce winners in February

10.2. BSAVA Book Donation
   10.2.1. No new updates

10.3. Philippines Microscopes
   10.3.1. Contract with microscope company
   ● approved by ExCo
   ● signed by Merel Knoops (President)
   ● Waiting on treasurer to send money to purchase microscopes

   10.3.2. Purchase scopes
   ● Finish project!
   ● Get pictures and short story to promote on social media

10.4. Vetbooks Ohio State
   10.4.1. No update

10.5. 10,000 Paws Project
   ● A new contract has been drafted
   ● Need to send out for approval

10.6. BeKind Award
   ● Post has been put on social media to start new term
   ● Can’t send out awards due to Covid
   ● Hoping Anna Cieckiewicz (Trustee) will be able to mail out awards in the next few months
11. Secretary General Update

11.1. IVSA History Project

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) raised concerns over the fact that there seems to be no realistic option that would be cost-free, and allow IVSA to advance with this project.

11.2. IVSA Wiki updates and recovery of old emails

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) discussed having a meeting with Iina Airasmaa (PRC) about the updates needed to make to the current version of the Wiki itself, and discussed that this point will be postponed until there is more time to make a backup copy of the Wiki and research the requirements and consequences of making the update.

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) also discussed the recovery of old files from the WGP (Working Group on Policy) and the previous Secretary General Gmail account, which led to unearthing some old policy documents and drafts that have since been forwarded to interested parties.

11.3. MO email recovery

Mehdi Amrani (Secretary General) explained that email recovery requests are now being forwarded to him and discussed receiving GSuite Admin rights.

12. External Relations Officer Update

12.1. Sponsors:

12.1.1. Purina Institute: Diamond Sponsor Exclusivity discussion

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that through her meetings with Purina Institute, Purina would like to have Diamond Sponsor Pet Food Exclusivity. Nicole Hartman (ERO) then discussed some of the background regarding IVSA’s previous experiences with Exclusive sponsorships, and explained that the IVSA is also in conversation with Royal Canin.

Merel Knoop (President) explained that Purina Institute is not asking for complete exclusivity with regards to other Pet Food companies, but only Diamond Exclusivity. Merel Knoop (President) noted that it was reasonable, also given the fact that Royal Canin are not interested in sponsoring IVSA Global generally speaking, but rather sponsor specific events and projects. Merel Knoop (President) then explained that there has been no conflict of interest so far and discussed that both relationships would be very beneficial for the IVSA.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) explained that previous exclusivity agreements have gone wrong for the IVSA, and advised for more care with the way things are written in the contract.
Anna Cieckiewicz (Trustee) discussed whether it might be beneficial to have Purina Institute as a Pet Food Diamond Exclusive sponsor, and shared similar concerns about the contract wording and the benefits that the sponsor will receive.

Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) explained that the definition of the Diamond Sponsorship changes all the time.

Daniel Lund (Trustee) agreed with the other points to have everything mentioned in the contract, and explained the danger that lies in the change in hiring. We need to make sure of the fact that the contact person will not be changing for the foreseeable future in order to avoid having to rebuild the connection with Purina Institute all over again.

Iina Airasmaa (PRC) asked if this means the IVSA wouldn’t have other diamond sponsors.

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that the aim of Purina Institute is to have no Pet Food Company competition.

Mairin Rua Ni Aodha (Chair of the SCAW) shared concerns related to Purina being owned by Nestlé, who was tied to several scandals, and asked if there was any policy regarding that.

Merel Knoops (President) explained there was no such policy.

Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) explained that Nestlé may be owning animal clinic chains, and that Mars owns Anicura. Elwin van Oldenborgh (Trustee) asked to verify that there would not be any issues with that since the IVSA is currently in discussion with both.

Nina Vasic (CC) explained that the ExCo can’t vote on this issue yet because there needs to be more explanations about the actual terms of agreement, and the modalities of the exclusivity.

12.1.2. Purina Brand

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that Purina Brand will remain a Silver Sponsor of the IVSA. 12.1.3. IVC Evidensia

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed the MoU with IVC Evidensia, and joint projects for Developing Countries.

12.1.4. Bayer

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed sending an Invoice to Bayer.

12.1.5. Royal Canin
Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed an upcoming meeting with Royal Canin where a presentation about IVSA will be made.

12.2. Partners:

12.2.1. GARC

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed the SCOH & GARC joint webinar that will be promoted, and added that it is linked to their Yearlong Project.

12.2.2. VMS

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed the promotion of the VMS Webinar to take place in December.

12.2.3. Vet Books4Africa

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed that Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) was put in charge of this project, and will reach out to Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) in order to discuss a better presentation of the IVSA to be shared during the visitations.

12.3. Potential sponsors / partners:

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that there had already been some verbal confirmations from some partners who agreed to work closely with the IVSA, and discussed some MoUs and contracts that were still in development.

12.3.1. Vetiqo

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that the MoU with Vetiqo is still in development.

12.3.2. IFPACS

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that the MoU with IFPACS is still in development.

12.3.3. VVC

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed waiting on the signed version of the MoU that had been sent to VVC.

12.3.4. Bioethicus– Signing MoU in Progress

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that the MoU was approved by the ExCo, and signed by the
President of the IVSA. Officials have been offered a few free trials, and Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed reaching out to Officials in order to make good use of this opportunity.

12.3.5. PetPower

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that PetPower asked to reschedule discussions for January which would be more accommodating to them, since they are currently going through some discussion about projects to take on for the next term.

12.4. Upcoming projects:

12.4.1. Committee Booklets

Nicole Hartman (ERO) discussed that the How to Use document for the Committee Booklets was in progress, and was being handled by Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) who has been in contact with several other members of the Officials about it.

12.4.2. Regional Booklets

Nicole Hartman (ERO) explained that the Regional Booklets will be on hold until December.

Nabeelah Rajah (MOD) explained that Lina will be taking the lead in working on the presentation, and will reach out to Luregn von Planta (Secretary to the ERO and the CC) for collaboration.

13. President Update

13.1. Partner communication

13.1.1. EAEVE

Merel Knoops (President) discussed the distribution of another round of applications for the EAEVE visitations.

13.1.2. FVE

FVE asked to use some of the slides presented in one of their events by Merel, who agreed.

13.1.3. WSAVA

Merel Knoops (President) explained that the WSAVA Congress had been canceled, and discussed providing the WSAVA volunteers with full online access to the event, to which WSAVA agreed.
13.1.4. ASTUCORP

Merel Knoops (President) is still waiting for ASTUCORP to reach out. Merel Knoops (President) then discussed the misunderstanding with the person from ASTUCORP that directly reached out to MOs, which was not done in accordance with the agreement, nor IVSA Standard Procedures.

13.2. Other things that require attention

13.2.1. Online governmental services

Merel Knoops (President) explained that the Belgian Government was being unresponsive to her demands to access the online governmental services which would allow IVSA to pay its taxes via the platform.

13.2.2. NGO Status

Merel Knoops (President) discussed research for IVSA’s eligibility in order to obtain the NGO Status in Belgium.

13.2.3. Team Building

Merel Knoops (President) discussed the Team building activities organized the previous weekend, which were attended by many officials. Merel Knoops (President) then emphasized the importance of Teambuilding in regards to effective communication and overall enthusiasm within the Officials.

Merel Knoops (President) then reminded Officials to participate in the next teambuilding that will take place during the 2nd ExCo Live Meeting.

14. Upcoming Events

14.1. ExCo Meetings:

14.1.1. 2nd ExCo Live meeting

Merel Knoops (President) explained that the Live Meeting will be online on Zoom on December 29th 2020.

14.1.2. 6th ExCo Online Meeting

Merel Knoops (President) discussed having meetings every two weeks in order to attempt to keep the updates shorter and more frequent, especially heading into a critical period of time
right before the SGA.

14.2. 69th IVSA Symposium - Special General Assembly

Merel Knoops (President) discussed sending an explanatory document to the Officials in order to explain the proceedings of a Special Session of the General Assembly, and urged all the Officials to familiarize themselves with its contents.

Merel Knoops (President) then discussed the applications for the Online Organizing Committee (OOC) and the Online Attendance Committee (OAC).

14.3. 70th IVSA Congress in the Netherlands

This event was discussed in Point 9.4. of the MOD updates (Third Bullet Point).

15. Any Other Business (AOB) –

Merel Knoops (President) shared some information about the EU Grant IVSA applied for the previous year and explained that perhaps due to the ongoing pandemic, there might not be a grant for IVSA to apply for this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM GMT+1.

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