

EAFP council meeting
Belfast, September 2nd 2017

MINUTES

The meeting was attended by Jose Garcia (president), Patrick Smith (vice president), Ivona Mladineo (meetings secretary), Sean Monaghan (publications-officer) and Snjezana Zrncic (general secretary).

Klaus Knopf (treasurer) was not able to attend the meeting.

1) Status of action points from minutes of Porto council meeting April 2017

All actions points done apart from

President and publications-officer will prepare the draft of new statutes to be presented during the General Assembly (GA). It will be done after presentation of the proposed statute changes during the GA and discussion of members.

2) President

a) Changes of statute

The President presented the points that should be changed in the statutes; the manner of voting should be changed and option of “postal voting” should be omitted and replaced by “electronic voting”. The web master should be included into the statutes as a non-council member. The requirements for some council board members should be amended, e.g. a candidate for meeting secretary should have previous experience in organising scientific meetings. The need for changes in statutes should be presented during the GA and members will be invited to discuss and express their opinion on the changes. The agenda for GA will be made public to attract as much participation from members as possible.

Action: General Secretary will distribute the agenda for GA via the app

b) Small grant scheme – the call was closed at the end of June and only one application was received and eventually granted. The beneficiary is Jerko Hrabar, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, Croatia. Next SGS will be announced at the beginning of 2018 via the EAFP web page and social media. Despite the attempts of the meetings secretary to encourage poster presentation of work completed by grants received through the last call, only

two beneficiaries submitted it. Therefore in the future the obligation of the beneficiaries should be strictly defined.

Action: The president and publications-officer will prepare a new call to be published at the beginning of 2018. The president and meetings secretary will prepare the agreement for future SGS beneficiaries.

c) New sustaining members

The president approached two Spanish pharmaceutical companies CENAVISA and HIPRA who became new sustaining members.

d) Raising the membership fee

The membership fee has not been changed for eight years and it should be taken into consideration in the future but after discussion it was decided it should be kept the same for the next year.

e) FAO

The president will continue to find a route to cooperate with the FAO for getting funds enabling members from third/low income countries to attend the EAFP conferences.

3) Vice president

a) Report

The Vice president reported that unfortunately we lost Marine Harvest as an EAFP sustaining member. The vice president tried to approach them to encourage them to return as a sustaining member. A letter to the branch officer was sent with a request to detect potential sustaining members. Possible sustaining members should be contacted officially by the council board. An action plan to recruit new sustaining members should be prepared.

b) Small grants

Due to the scarce reporting of former SGS beneficiaries, in the future an agreement with beneficiaries should be prepared where reporting and obligation of presentation of that work performed by SGS support should be arranged specifically.

4) General secretary

a) Report

The total membership for 2017 is 842 members, compared to 804 in 2016, but the same as in 2015. In the conference years approximately 70 new members have joined while in non-conference years this stands at about 40. Currently the membership can be divided into 699 regular members, 85 student members, 8 honorary members, 33 library members and 17 sustaining members.

b) Council elections in 2017

Elections for posts of EAFP president, meetings secretary and treasurer had been announced via the EAFP bulletin, website, Facebook page as well as the newsletter. There were two candidates for the EAFP president. The election was performed by electronic voting via the EAFP website and finished with an equal number of votes (64) for both candidates. In the second poll Jose Garcia was elected for position of the EAFP president with 59 votes whereas Sven Bergman received 52 votes.

As the poll was organised for the first time via the EAFP website, some deficiencies were noted that should be improved on for the next ballot.

c) Cooperation with branch officers

A statute was distributed to all BOs with the request to share it with members and call for comments. A single document with suggestions for changes was received from Dirk Willem Kleingeld. Thanks to Sarah Poynton for the initiative to organise the working lunch with branch officers that will take place on Tuesday.

5) Treasurer

a) Report

31/08/2015: 172,981.02€

31/08/2016: 166,279.27 €

11/08/2017: 165,405.48 €

Compared to EAFP assets on 31/08/2015, the sum on the account decreased by 7,575.54 €. Taking into consideration that the final payment for the necropsy manual (6,153.00 €) was a transitory item, there was an actual account deficit of 1,422.54 €. Collected membership fees were 2.7% (1,193.41 €) less than expected due to bank charges, variable exchange rates and ATF fees in Germany.

b) Audit

An external auditor (Norbert Krämer, Berlin) confirmed proper documentation of the bank movements from 1st August, 2015 to 30th June, 2017.

6) Meetings secretary

a) Report

b) Belfast conference update

At the EAFP conference in Belfast there will be 479 presentations out of which 217 will be oral presentations and 236 poster presentations. The programme will be organised through 36 oral sessions and there will be 7 workshops. There are 512 participants registered until now. 28 presentations were cancelled. Unfortunately MSD will not cover the expenses for conference bags like they did for many past conferences. The histology workshop will take place before the conference. Very good cooperation with the local organising committee was highlighted.

c) 2019 conference update

The Conference site will be “revealed” at the GA.

d) Bids for 2021 conference

Aberdeen have bid as a location for the 2021 conference and through communication with Dr. Chris Secombes, their intention has been confirmed, and a new local organisation team has been suggested

7) Publications-officer

a) Report

Submitted manuscripts in the first third of this year are relatively low compared with previous years but the number of accepted manuscripts has increased. Published articles by topic have changed a little bit compared the last two periods each of four years, with parasitology and bacteriology decreasing while histology is slightly increasing.

The mean time from submission to print has prolonged from around 4.1 to 5.8 months. Keynote speakers are requested to submit short review articles of their keynote presentation. In the last year, report of UK, German, French and Finnish branch meetings were published.

A free demo submission system SCHOLASTICA was trialled.

b) The bulletin becoming available online for members will be an activity in progress and Open access in the future will likely raise the impact factor.

Action: Members should be questioned in the post conference questionnaire and also within the membership renewal letter to express their preference regarding the online or hard copy of the bulletin.

c) Cooperation with 5M

Nigel Balmforth from 5M publishing would like to contact potential authors and/or editors associated with the EAFP. He also proposed to use the EAFP logo on the publication and offer the discount to EAFP members for books.

8) Any other business

The membership only area should consist of the full text papers published in the Bulletin in two recent years.

Student awards should be available not only for PhD students but also to postdocs 5 years after graduation.

EAFP Bulletin best picture competition 2011-2015 will be launched before the end of the year.

9) Next council meeting

Madrid between March 15th and April 15th 2018.

October, 4th 2017.

General Secretary

POSTCONFERENCE MEETING, 9th October

Conclusion and actions to be done after discussion during GA:

- Short report (summary) of the GA discussion should be prepared
- Abstract book for the future conferences will be printed for extra charge
- Deadline for conference abstract submission should be evaluated
- Open access – during the next year (2018) the bulletin will be issued both as “open access” and printed copies
- Abstract book of the Belfast conference will be published on-line in the “members only” area couple of months after the conference
- The call for SGS will be published at the beginning of the next year
- The EAFP twitter profile will be set up
- The case study session will be included into programme of the next conference
- A potential new honorary member will be discussed
- Possibilities and pricing for the EAFP badges will be surveyed
- Branch officers meeting with council members will become a part of the EAFP meetings

Newsletter will contain branch officers meeting report with main topics discussed and photos.