

Minutes

IASSID 2008-2012 : Council Meeting No. 1

Date and Venue: August 30th, 2008, Cape Town, South Africa

Attendance: G. Murphy (Chair), C. Adnams, D. Allen, C. Bigby, I. Brown, P. Davidson, B. Davis, E. Emerson, D. Felce (ex-officio), T. Heller, T. Holland (ex-officio), U. Jacobsen, M. Kerr, G. Llewellyn, J. Mansell, K. McVilly, K. O'Grady, H. Ouellette-Kuntz (Recorder), N. Ross (ex-officio), M. Seidel, V. Timmons,

Apologies: G. Albertini, R. Hastings, J. Ding Lin, L. Mayo, P. Dodd, H. Reinders, F. Sturtz, D. McConnell, M. Janicki (ex-officio)

Absent: J. Levy, B. Maes, L. Mayo, S. Suemitsu, G. Weber

1. Commencement and Roll Call: Approval of Agenda

G. Murphy called the meeting to order at 2:30 and made brief introductory comments. All council members in attendance introduced themselves and apologies were noted.

To increase transparency, the new list of council members to be posted to the website will identify clearly who each member is representing.

There being no additions or changes the Agenda was approved.

2. Previous Minutes and Issues Arising

The Minutes were reviewed and discussed.

V. Timmons noted that reports presented have been posted to the Council website. The new website link for all council documents will be emailed to all members in the Fall.

The past-Treasurer's recommendations are postponed for further discussion until the next council meeting, by which time the new treasurer will have had proper time to consider them.

The Secretary will email the amended by-laws to all Council members. A brief discussion ensued regarding further changes to the by-laws which will be considered over the next few years, including simplifying the language and moving the appointment of new officers to the year before their term begins, to facilitate transitions.

The minutes were approved by Council.

3. President's Report: Congress Review

G. Murphy was very pleased with the support for the Congress received from the University of Cape Town and the audiovisual services. The outstanding quality of presentations was noted and the Program Committee members were congratulated for their excellent work. The evening receptions were appreciated. A series of observations/recommendations were made to assist with the planning of future congresses.

3:00 T. Heller arrived

C. Adnams suggested that IASSID Report back to conference venue regarding the price of boxed lunches (too high in her opinion) and lack of availability of other quick lunch options. B. Davis also asked that those responsible for preparing the boxed lunch be made aware that some participants reported food poisoning symptoms following consumption of the lunches.

4. Officers for the 2008-2012 Term

G. Murphy - President
V. Timmons - President Elect
D. Felce - Past President
H. Ouellette-Kuntz – Secretary
P. Davidson – Treasurer
N. Ross – webmaster (ex-officio)
T. Holland - JIDR Editor (ex-officio)
M. Janicki - JPPID Editor (ex-officio)
3 Vice-Presidents to be appointed

The 3 Vice-Presidents will represent the following three regions:
North/South America, Europe, Asia/Pacific.

H. Ouellette-Kuntz has agreed to oversee the application of by-laws in her role as Secretary. The following tasks will be assigned to the Vice-Presidents: By-law revisions, SIRG Coordination, WHO Liaison, Publications, Membership. A brief discussion of each role followed.

T. Holland reviewed the role of Vice President responsible for Publications. These include reviewing proposals for IASSID publications (guidelines are on the website) and promoting IASSID publications with Blackwell-Wiley. He noted that Blackwell-Wiley now have

software/platform for web-based professional education that could be explored.

D. Felce commented on WHO Liaison Role noting that as an NGO member organization of WHO, IASSID is to have a work program submitted to WHO. In the past SIRG produced position papers but only one gained endorsement of WHO. The WHO appears more interested in engaging IASSID in their initiatives on a volunteer basis (eg. ATLAS).

During the past term, SIRG Coordination was done by H. Lantman who indicated she would meet with SIRG representatives at each Council meeting (once a year).

To date, Membership has been handled by Treasurer (M. Janicki) but it is felt that this role should be assigned to another council member to reduce the demands placed on the Treasurer.

Members were asked to inform G. Murphy of their wish to take on a vice president post within the next two weeks (eg. by September 15, 2008)

3:20 R. Brown (guest, Academy Chair) arrived.

The Agenda was revised to accommodate our guest.

5. Academy Report

Report (circulated) was presented by R. Brown who noted that the Academy is described in a one-page document posted to the website. He requested suggestions from Council members to update the document which serves to inform those interested in working with the Academy to contact him to discuss and develop their request.

R. Brown reported that 3 of the 4 workshops planned for this Congress took place plus one roundtable. Participation was less than enrolment with approximately 20 attending the roundtable, and 12 to 15 attending the workshops. Workshops to be held in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific regional Conference in Singapore (2009) are in preparation.

A discussion followed regarding the desirability of linking SIRG educational activities to the Academy's program. Questions were raised regarding the representativeness of the Academy's Board membership to SIRGs. B. Davis suggested that a more formal relationship between SIRGs and the Academy should be developed over the next few years. As a first step, it was agreed that the email addresses of each SIRG Chair

would be sent to R. Brown and that the Vice President responsible for SIRG Coordination be the link to the Academy Chair.

It was noted that Council would be conducting a formal evaluation of the Academy in 2009.

R. Brown left at 3:50

6. Work for the upcoming year in relation to the 2012 World Congress

D. Felce and V. Timmons will be meeting with the Halifax Convention Center to set the date and sign the contract. G. Murphy will send V. Timmons the 4-year plan template for organizing IASSID World Congresses.

7. 2009 Asia-Pacific Updates

K. McVilly reported on a meeting held with the planning committee for the Singapore Conference during this Congress. A list of key local dignitaries to invite is being developed. He noted that they are working with a tight budget needing 400 delegates to break even. On-line Abstract submission will begin in September.

M. Kerr left at 4:00

V. Timmons asked that each Regional meeting announce that the 2012 World Congress would be held in Halifax.

8. SIRG Recommendations

G. Murphy invited B. Davis to speak to these recommendations. The key issue is to improve communication between SIRGs and the Council. Financial accountability also needs to be clarified. This will be looked at with the new Treasurer. As the role of SIRGs within the IASSID structure evolves (such as the expectations of council for SIRG Chairs), it will need to be reflected in the by-laws

It was suggested that all SIRG meeting dates and locations be posted centrally.

4:05 C. O'Grady left

It was noted that some confusion remains regarding the relative benefit of different types of memberships. For example, while centers and

associations can sign up for several SIRGs, they are counted as one membership.

G. Murphy noted that the Down Syndrome Affinity Group has submitted a proposal for SIRG status. Much discussion followed regarding the process and criteria for granting SIRG status. T. Holland pointed out that the discussion paper developed by D. Felce attempted to address this. He noted that affinity can be another way to 'cut' the interest within the context of a set number of SIRGs, rather than seeing affinity groups as a developmental stage towards a SIRG being formed. In such a context, the issue of financial support to affinity groups also needs to be reviewed. V. Timmons clarified that the Down Syndrome Affinity Group's request had not been denied but had been asked to wait until issues of SIRGs (eg fragmentation of interest, viability, support) were resolved by the Council. A number of members raised worries about having 'syndrome' SIRGs; others commented about the importance of not stifling enthusiasm; others also commented on the need to avoid fragmentation.

4:10 C. Bigby and J. Mansell left

4:20 M.Seidel left

9. Other Business

E. Emerson asked if SIRG webpages would be integrated on the main site. Chairs are to submit content to N. Ross who has a template and will post the materials. N. Ross asked that URLs for where material is to go be sent to him along with well edited documents.

4:25 T. Heller left

10. Next Council Meeting: Singapore

G. Murphy indicated that the next Council meeting would be held in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Singapore in June 2009. The following dates and times were tentatively set:

Executive Meeting the morning of June 24

Council Meeting on June 27 starting at 12:30.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by G. Murphy at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted
Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz, Secretary