

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIOETHICS

General Meeting No. 12

25th June, 2014

Don Alberto 1-4, Hilton Mexico City Reforma, Mexico City

1. President's Welcome

The audience was welcomed by the President of the IAB: Søren Holm. Before business could be begun it was objected from the floor that Søren was not President. A long discussion began where it was explained that Søren Holm was President due to the resignation of Angus Dawson. Normally a new President would have been appointed before the Congress, but due to delays relating to the need to discuss constitutional changes at the General Meeting and uncertainty about who was a member due to problems in collecting dues due to issues with the IAB website, this had not occurred. AD felt it would have been unfair to give two Presidential addresses. The Board had unanimously endorsed Søren Holm (as Vice President) taking over as President. It was noted that there was nothing in the Constitution that covered this eventuality, so it was at the discretion of the Board to act in this way. Several members felt this was inappropriate and criticised the Board for their decision.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes of 2012 General Membership Meeting

No significant changes were proposed to the minutes from the Rotterdam General Meeting (no 11).

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was presented by Angus Dawson due to Angela Ballantyne's maternity leave. The main issue noted was the expected move of the IAB secretariat to Birmingham.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report outlined a robust financial position for the IAB, with some funds still held in the Philippines. The main expected future expenditure was for administrative support for the IAB Secretariat in Birmingham and a new website (with the capacity to receive payments as this was no longer possible with changes in banking fees and regulations in the Philippines).

6. Proposed Constitutional Changes

The proposed new constitution had been shared with members in advance and the major changes were explained by Angus Dawson. These include a proposed reduction of the number of board members from 21 to 13, and a reduction of the number of regions based upon WHO regions. Some members questioned the scale of the reduction of board members and regions. There were specific questioning of the appropriateness and fairness of treating North and South America as one region, as well as suggesting that 15 might be a better compromise number than 13 as a first step in a reduced Board. The President proposed that the Board would discuss these suggestions before the final proposed new constitution would be put to the membership vote (by email). [Both suggestions were subsequently agreed by the Board]

7. IAB Networks

A number of the networks were holding meetings at the Mexico Congress. Some networks were not active. All coordinators would be approached to see which networks were still active. Members were reminded that new networks could be proposed to the Board.

