



General Council Meeting, Gothenburg June 3rd 2016 at 13.15
Room: Hall F2 on the first floor of the Gothia Towers Hotel

MINUTES

Attending: Executive Council Members; Sub-Committee Representatives
Notified National Society delegates
Secretariat (MM)
Prof Melissas invited for item 18

1. Minutes

General Council meeting, Vienna, Thursday August 27th 2015

The Minutes of the General Council Meeting, Vienna, August 27th 2015 have been circulated and were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

No matter arising

3. Outgoing President's Report

Noted The Chapter has now 31 societies with 2292 members (almost 30% of the IFSO membership). Recent joiners: Azerbaijan, Jordan and Kazakhstan. Iran society's affiliation is under debate. Further discussion with the IFSO President will follow.

It seems that some societies have decreased their number of members, such as Germany, UK and Italy.

Bylaws modifications:

BL 11 Creation of Legal Entity (ratified in Vienna)

BL 2 Modifications to Membership Rules to be ratified

New Bylaws proposal:

BL 12 Statement of Values to be ratified

Progress in transparency:

1. Publication of Executive Council Minutes

Unreserved Minutes of Executive Council Meeting 14th May 2016, approved by Executive Council on 1st June 2016: will be published on website forthwith.

Unreserved Minutes of Executive Council Meeting 1st June 2016: to follow after formal approval.

2. Chapter Values and Conflicts of Interest: see Bylaws 12

Challenges in Participation

1. Low Response Rate to e-ballots

13 out of 31 societies responded to ballot on Bylaw 11, Executive Council had to invoke Bylaw 10b

2. Low Response Rate to e-calls for Nominations

Only 5 out of 31 societies responded, and 2/5 responded late or very late

The question on whether the Chapter should get any income out of the IFSO membership fee is still unresolved and it should be discussed with IFSO.

New Initiatives:

1. Multinational Advisory Group - Last year in Vienna we set up the Multinational Advisory Group to

interact with the national societies and let them be in closer contact with us. The Group has been inactive so far, but then the EC invited Nicola Di Lorenzo to take on the *ad hoc* leadership of this group and he has agreed. He will be reporting to the EC

2. Communications Subcommittee - Video-library project

3. Clinical Safety Group – Guidelines to ensure patients’ safety, information patients need to know when they leave the hospital.

Personal Initiative of the President - current state: early consultations

4. Obesity Facts and *Obesity Surgery* are the two official journals of the IFSO-EC

Obesity Facts is an Open Access Journal

There is a link on our webpage. 50% Discount on publication fee: currently € 980.-

Prof. Michel Suter takes over the Presidency today

Dr. Fiennes thanks the members of the Executive Council, the Chairs of the subcommittees, the administration of Manuela and Guarant, the sponsors, the members of the General Council.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Noted on May 19th 2016 the balance was 59.150,00 euros. The Vienna Congress’ profit was 12.544 euros; the income from the endorsement fees was 3.262 euros, for a total of 65.465,00 euros.

The expenses: 3.660,00 euros for the Secretariat; 3.000,00 for the 3 Scholarships, total: 6.660,00 euros. Bank fees: 48 euros.

The bank account will be transferred from Vienna to Italy, under Maurizio De Luca’s leadership.

Moved (A. Fiennes) that the EC approves Dr. Miller’s report

Agreed unopposed.

5. Matters for ratification

Modifications to Bylaw 2

National Societies Members of the Chapter may recognize a special membership category within their society for trainee clinicians (“Trainee Members”) and it shall be for National Societies to decide on the membership fees they charge their Trainee Members.

Trainee Members of National Societies shall not be required to subscribe to the Official Journal nor shall the National Society be required to pay dues to the Federation at a rate that includes the fee for such a subscription.

All categories of members of all National Societies shall have equal right of access to all sessions of congresses, symposia, conferences or other scientific or educational events organised, sponsored or endorsed by the Chapter.

Moved (A. Fiennes) to ratify this modification of the Bylaws

Agreed unopposed.

New Bylaw 12 Values of the European Chapter: Statement on Conflicts of Interest

The European Chapter of IFSO is committed to Governance according to its Constitution, as documented by its standing Bylaws Subcommittee and as ratified by its General Council.

The Chapter is further committed to the principle that the needs of patients with patients suffering from obesity and from associated metabolic disease stand above the interests of its membership.

Patients are entitled to expect responsible bariatric and metabolic clinicians to behave honestly and openly as well as observing proper professional & clinical guidelines.

Accordingly the Chapter is committed to the principles of Transparency, Democracy and Inclusiveness. Hence the records of its business processes are accessible to its membership.

Will treat its membership equally, whatever their professional background.

Expects financial probity of its membership and of its Officers and allows inspection of its accounts by its membership.

Conflicts of Interests

The Chapter expects its Officers to declare all relevant financial interests. The Executive Director shall maintain a Register of Interests which shall be available for inspection by all.

Officers shall not engage in activities that conflict with or that may be seen to conflict with or be against the interests of the Chapter or with its ethical governance as set out above. If they wish to pursue such activities they shall tender their resignation.

The Chapter considers that its officers *will* have a conflict of Interests if they:

Enjoy employment by/ directorship of / participation in a company or other commercial entity that provides services or goods to the Chapter or to the wider bariatric clinical community.

The Chapter considers its officers *will not* have a conflict of Interests simply because they:
Enjoy unpaid consultancy (declared to the Executive Director)
Enjoy a remunerated consultancy that has been fully declared to the Executive Director.
Enjoy directorship of / participation in a company or other commercial entity directed only at their own professional activity.
Are Officers of IFSO-EC eV, the Chapter's own legal entity.

The Chapter may at its discretion:
decline goods or services from or decline to endorse the activities of individuals or commercial entities that it reasonably believes may have similar conflicts of interests.

Cases of doubt

These shall be submitted by the Executive Director to the Executive Council for determination.

Moved (A. Fiennes) to ratify this modification of the Bylaws

Agreed unopposed.

6. Appointment of Executive Council Officers

Treasurer Designate

Noted Professor Miller demits later this year; the Executive Council has appointed Professor Maurizio De Luca

Multinational Advisory Group Chair

Noted Nicola Di Lorenzo has been appointed Chair of the Multinational Advisory Group

7. Election of President Elect

Noted The Executive Council chose Gerhard Prager as official candidate for the position of President elect. He has accepted the nominations.

Moved (A. Fiennes) to ratify this election

Agreed unopposed.

8. Designation of MAL candidate

Noted The Executive Council chose Jean-Marc Chevallier for the position of Member at Large, to represent the Chapter in IFSO's Executive Board. He has accepted the nominations.

Moved (A. Fiennes) to ratify this election

Agreed unopposed.

9. Report on present meeting

Noted Mikael Wiren thanks the Chapter for the opportunity of organizing the multidisciplinary Congress. Alberic Fiennes and Martin Fried thank Yuri Yashkov for making this happen as he gave up his Moscow meeting that was supposed to be the official IFSO-EC Meeting in 2016, Mikael Wiren for the outstanding job of organizing this meeting, Guarant for the great job they did as PCO and the two Chairs of the Scientific Committee Prof. Rachel Batterham and Prof. Ralph Peterli who put together the scientific program with its joint sessions with EASO.

The meeting looks to be financially successful for our Chapter.

There are 520 delegates from IFSO-EC and 1000 delegates from EASO side from 53 countries.

10. EASO collaboration

Noted For the moment there is no plan in the near future because there are different interests and rules. Some people in EASO are in favour of doing joint meetings with us and some of them are not. Some of them are afraid that they might lose the scientists.

11. 2018 Meeting

Noted Dr. Pappis was very flexible and loyal to us and agreed to move to 2019 when EASO wanted to cooperate with us. But then we went back to the original date of May 2018.

12. Future of Scientific meetings

Noted In order to strengthen the Chapter, give it more visibility and give our membership more chances to present their studies the Executive Council decided to have a meeting every year, by “chapterizing” already existing meetings putting the label of IFSO-EC on them (such as the Naples meeting, the Frankfurt meeting, the Lyon meeting, the Homerton meeting, etc..). In rotation we’ll collaborate with one of these meetings. It will be 2017 in Naples, 2018 regular Chapter congress in Athens, and so on.

We do not want to compete with IFSO’s world congress but we want to make the Chapter more visible and to give it more negotiation power to get grants from the European Union.

The sponsors prefer to target the audience every year rather than every other year.

The Chapter will have influence on the program and the PCO Guarant will take the financial risk like it was done here in Goteborg. The scientific program will be done in mutual agreement with the local organizer of the meeting that will be “chapterized” on a rotating basis.

Luigi Angrisani recognizes the job done by Martin Fried and Alberic Fiennes which is a fantastic achievement that gives the Chapter more strength.

Noted By means of a show of hands the majority of the audience votes in favour of this new initiative. Further details will be provided in due course.

13. Bidding for 2020

Noted There will be a bidding process for 2020 next year. There will be a General Council in London in 2017 at the world congress and it will be decided there the next location for IFSO-EC Meeting in 2020.

14. EAC-BS report

Noted The Guidelines for Safety, Quality and Excellence in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery were approved in 2007 at IFSO world congress in Porto.

At the 2nd IFSO-EC Meeting in Capri the idea of an IFSO COE Program was accepted unanimously.

The European Accreditation Council examines:

- a. Institution’s facilities
- b. surgeon's qualifications
- c. experience and Volume/year
- d. treatment results

and suggests to IFSO the Institutions and Surgeons to be certified as CENTRE of EXCELLENCE.

The Scientific Board is composed by Chair: N. Scopinaro. Members: M. Fried, A. Torres, R. Weiner, Y. Yashkov, L. Lemmens, J. Melissas.

The Review Committee is composed by Chair: L. Angrisani. Members: A. Fiennes, M. Suter, G. Fetter, C. Copaescu, K. Miller, M. Taskin, M. Anselmino, C. Ballesta, M. Carbajo, L. Hendrickx, F. Rottelar, B. Ammori, A. de Roover.

The EAC-BS produces the International Bariatric Registry-IBAR™ .

Access to International Bariatric Registry-IBAR™ is provided once the centre or the surgeons get the accreditation.

All procedures and patients' outcome are entered in IBAR™ to monitor morbidities, mortality and outcomes.

The final evaluation of COEs is done by OnSite-visit and Auditor’s Report to the two Reviewers. The Scientific Board takes the final decision whether to approve or deny the accreditation.

In 2011 there were

Academic Institutions: 17

Surgeons: 85

Private Institutions: 33

State Institutions: 13

TOTAL : 63 Institutions

In 2013 71 Institutions and 110 Surgeons accepted to participate

22 Countries from Europe, Middle East and Africa

25 Institutions and 34 Surgeons have been fully certified as COE.

In 2016 26 countries are participating in the project, in particular:

EUROPE: Belgium, Czech Rep, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. Austria, France, Portugal, Slovenia.

MIDDLE EAST: Bahrain, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE.

AFRICA: South Africa, Egypt.

The 2016 financial report will be presented before the world congress in Rio.

15. Scholarships: time & place of presentation

Noted To help young members who haven't published extensively to attend the congress and to help them to grow. Martin Fried, Michel Suter and two representatives of our national societies were part of the Scholarship Committee this year. The four winners are: Tatiana Tarasiuk (Ukraine), Daniel Moritz Felsenreich (Austria), Daniel Serralta de Colsa (Spain). They will be awarded the certificates during the gala dinner.

16. Incoming President's statement

Noted Michel Suter thanks Alberic Fiennes, the Executive Council members, Ralph Peterli and Rachel Batterham for their job with the scientific program of this congress.

The idea of integrated symposia at reciprocal meeting is strongly supported until there will be again the opportunity to have a joint meeting with EASO.

17. Any Other Business

Noted Alberic Fiennes thanks Yuri Yashkov for his extremely hard work and Mikael Wiren; they are both leaving the Executive Council.

Yuri Yashkov thanks everyone for the support.

18. Next Meeting

Noted The next meeting of the General Council will be held in London in 2017. Date and time will be communicated in due time.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at approximately 14.30