IAPB Executive Committee

27th June 2014 – Teleconference

Time - 16:00-117:00 London time
Venue - Tele-Conference
Attending - Chair: Bob McMullan (BM)
Member(s): Johannes Trimmel (JT); Adrian Poffley (AP); Kathy Spahn (KS); Serge Resnikoff (SR)
In attendance: Peter Ackland (PA); Blandine Labry (BL); Richard Bennett (RB)

Minutes

1. Membership & Governance Review
PA outlined that thinking at present was that the review had identified five key issues: i) member engagement through work groups, ii) governance responsibilities between the BOT and the Executive and Audit committees, iii) membership categories and fees, iv) the Board composition and election processes and v) the role of regional chairs. Draft papers would be prepared covering each of these five areas for the Paris BOT. The next proposed consultation with members would inform the 3rd and 4th of these issues.

BM pointed out that the second of these - governance responsibilities - should include the Council. He explained that he intended that the Board would come to a conclusion on the first four of these issues in Paris, though the regional chair issues may be resolved subsequently.

RB’s introduced his draft paper on the next consultation with the Members. He stressed that the point was not to ask members to choose between the various options but to express how their organisation would react to the various scenarios presented – the responses would then inform the BOT as they seek to reach conclusions.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- All agreed that the overall approach and process was acceptable.
- A fourth model – based upon a fully elected Board – needed to be included.
The paper needed to take account of the terms of office of trustees, which might be different between those that are elected and those that represent a Member with an automatic place on the Board.

The wording describing the governance responsibilities in the Venn diagram may not be clear to Members that had not been closely involved in the process and thinking to date.

The document should be finalised and sent out for consultation asap.

There should be active follow up with individual members to ensure a good response rate, including telephone interviews.

Model 2 should be clarified to make it clear that this would mean ALL such global members would be on the Board, i.e., all members who are global in reach and have an eye health budget of greater than $5 million.

RB thanked all for the feedback and noted he would re-draft the paper in light of the discussion.

2. Board of Trustee and Council meeting agendas for Paris

The draft agendas were reviewed. Clarification about timings and some of the topics was sought. It was decided that:

- To discuss with Brian Doolan the inclusion of an agenda item on the outcomes of the meetings in New York & London by some Members – this could replace the proposed CEO group feedback.
- To make sure that the discussion on the membership & governance review started no later than 11.15 so that sufficient time was devoted to the discussion.
- That if the overall budget situation had not improved by September that longer may be needed for the 2015 budget discussions.
- That at the AGM we will probably need longer in order that any resolutions arising from the membership & governance review can be managed. It was also noted that resolutions will require preparing in advance for Members not attending the AGM.
- It was mentioned that it may be expedient also to look at the medium-term outlook for SiB, so that the BoT gets a sense of the likely replenishment and drawdown of the restricted funds.

3. Financial update

BL highlighted some key points from her papers relating to the latest forecasts for 2014 and 2015. Despite some good success with income generation in 2014, the deficit budget position was largely unchanged due to increased expenditure resulting from i) the strong £ making the salary costs more expensive when converted into $, ii) a previous error, due to unclear guidance from the tax office, that had led to an under-estimate of national insurance costs and iii) the
high attendance at the Paris Council meeting which was welcome but charges increase per
delegate. The 2015 deficit is accentuated by the need to allocate expenditure ahead of the
Durban General Assembly, whereas most income will not be realised until 2016 and the
anticipated loss of one group A and one group B member.

It was pointed out this is a conservative estimate and that income in both 2014 and 2015 could
be expected to improve e.g. a pending application to a corporate for membership at patron
level would add $150K over the course of the two years in question if successful.

The committee noted the 2014 forecast; it was comfortable with the anticipated outcome.

It was agreed that it would not be plausible to present theses 2015 forecast figures as a budget
for 2015 when this is discussed in Paris. If the situation has not improved by then it will be
necessary to cut back on activity.

AP mentioned that in Paris we should have a look at the medium-term outlook for SiB, so that
the BoT gets a sense of the likely replenishment and drawdown of the restricted funds.

4. Feedback on the meeting of members in New York.

Following on the discussions at the closed session in the Singapore BOT meeting, a small
number of the larger NGO members had met in New York recently to discuss a potential global
campaign to end avoidable blindness.

The main outcome of the meeting was that most organisations present had indicated their
willingness to mount and support a campaign, but that clarity was needed on the nature of the
campaign. Eleanor Fuller of the QEDJT is to prepare a briefing on the campaign options for the
next meeting of the group scheduled for July.

BM noted that Brian Doolan was checking with those in attendance but the expectation was the
group would be happy to share minutes with the Ex. Committee (UPDATE since the meeting:
this has now been confirmed). BM also noted, and was encouraged by the fact, that Joanna
Conlon from the IAPB Secretariat had been invited to join the next meeting of the group.

There was a consensus around observations made by JT that the idea to significantly raise global
attention on avoidable blindness matters was very welcome, but that it would be undesirable if
the campaign resulted in a parallel structure to IAPB being created.
5. Approval of Membership applications.

The committee approved the request for IAPB membership of SightLife (subject to the receipt of a recommendation from the N Am. Regional chair) and of YWAM Medical Ships - Australia.

6. Date for 2015 meetings

The Eastern Mediterranean region had come back with the suggestion to hold the BOT meeting between the 28th and 30th March 2015 in Cairo, Egypt at the WHO regional offices.

The Committee thanked the EM region for their support. The date was acceptable as was holding the meeting in Cairo, although concerns about both security and convenience (as compared to Dubai) were noted. However the Secretariat was asked to go back to the region to seek clarification on the intended benefits in terms of the relationship between WHO and IAPB in the region and if a contingency plan to revert to Dubai could be developed in the event that the security situation in Egypt should worsen.

The rationale for holding the 2015 Council meeting in China was outlined by PA and the Committee agreed this would appear to be a good location. However the Secretariat was asked to ensure they come back with dates (possibly the first week in October) that did not clash with the UN General Assembly (third week of September) that would be making decisions on post 2015.

7. AOB

As there was no other business the meeting was declared closed.