

**Agenda Council Meeting**  
**Friday 29 June, 12.25-14.00, Meeting room 1, first floor Bailey Allen Hall**

**Present:** Gerd Müller, Frietson Galis, Michael Schubert, Charlie Scutt, Pete Olson, Ronald Jenner, Beverley Glover, Paula Rudall, Dmitry Sokoloff, Annette Becker, Ram Reshef, Uri Frank, Ariel Chipman, Peter Dearden, David Ferrier, Isaac Salazar-Ciudad, Philipp Mitteroecker, Rainer Melzer, Tom van Dooren, Alessandro Minelli, Gerhard Schlosser.

- **Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held at the Uppsala Biennial in 2016**

The minutes were approved.

- **Matters arising**

The Society's constitution stipulates that there cannot be more than three non-Officer councilors representing institutions from the same country. However, there are currently four UK-based nominees available for election or re-election to Council. This issue can be resolved by appointing Beverley Glover to be a representative of international funding agencies, including the Human Frontier Science Program, on the Council of which she sits. Council voted on this proposal and unanimously agreed.

- **President's Business (Gerd Müller)**

The entire Executive Committee is turning over at the end of the Galway meeting, and Gerd wants to ensure that the transition to the new Officers will proceed as smoothly as possible. The outgoing Officers have a lot of experience from which the incoming Officers can benefit. To ensure the transition goes smoothly Gerd and Frietson will remain in post until the 2020 Biennial meeting, at which time their roles as President and Program Officer, respectively, will be taken over by President-elect Jukka Jernvall and Program Officer-elect Sylvie Retaux.

Gerd also discussed the potential offers from Lyon, Bergen, and Naples to host the next Biennial meeting, explaining that Naples was the firmest offer. Sandro Minelli was the driving force behind organizing the Naples offer, for which Ina Arnone would be one of the local organizers. Sandro and Ariel Chipman will be attending an international entomological meeting in Naples the week after the Galway meeting, with roughly 1,000 attendees, and they will report back any impressions relevant for organizing the next Biennial in Naples.

Finally, Gerd thanked all the outgoing Officers for their work on the Executive Committee, and provisionally welcoming the incoming Officers.

- **Treasurer's report (Michael Schubert)**

Michael reported that he had had a conversation with Tom van Dooren about the need to look into establishing a certified accounting system for the Society to make sure that our

accounting is legally bullet proof. Tom, as the incoming Treasurer, will look into getting this done. Moreover, Michael explained that Frietson and he are still registered as being legally responsible for the Society, and with their exit from Council this needs to be changed.

Michael explained that our finances are healthy, but that we have made a loss since the Uppsala meeting in 2016. This is because normally the costs of the Officers attending the meeting are covered by the fees included in organizing the conference. However, because the Uppsala meeting was relatively expensive, and local organizer Graham Budd thought that he would have difficulty balancing the books if these costs had to be taken into account as well, it was decided that the costs of the Officers attending the meeting would be covered from the Society's coffers.

Michael asked Pete to arrange that the emails submitted from our membership page by people who want to join the Society between meetings will no longer go to Michael but to Tom van Dooren instead.

After a discussion it was decided by Council that it would be good to notify past members as well that the next Biennial meeting will be held in Naples. Ronald will therefore email all Galway and Uppsala attendees that the next meeting will be in Naples, and that if they want to stay a member and have not attended the Galway meeting they should contact the incoming Treasurer Tom van Dooren so they can pay their membership fee.

- **Local organizers' report (Uri Frank and Gerhard Schlosser)**

The Galway Biennial meeting was attended by 524 delegates from 34 countries. The conference agency Keynote has been very helpful in organizing and running the meeting. The local organizers explained that the initial plan had been to organize the meeting elsewhere in Galway (the Radisson) to keep costs down as much as possible, but that the university wanted to host the meeting on campus, which is more expensive. In contrast to previous years the Company of Biologists did not provide funds for the meeting overall, although as is usual they did provide support for many symposia. The Science Foundation of Ireland also gave €13,000 for the conference. This made up for not receiving the expected level of support from the Company of Biologists.

Sandro Minelli noted that the conference book includes a list of presenters, rather than attendees. Might, Sandro asked, it not be better for future meetings to include a list of attendees? Sandro also noted that many names were misspelled, creating annoying redundancy in the index. We discussed whether the conference registration form could be adjusted to include a box that would allow their email addresses to be printed in the conference book alongside their names, to make it easier for delegates to contact each other.

- **Program officer report (Frietson Galis)**

Frietson noted that there had been a very good collaboration with the local organizers. Compared to the Uppsala meeting there were more talks and posters focused on plants. Frietson also noted that having symposia with just 4 speakers helps secure a good diversity of topics. Of the twenty-five submitted symposia proposal twenty-four had been accepted, one had been rejected, and one had been withdrawn. Frietson had fed back to the proposers of the rejected symposium that they should re-submit their proposal for the next meeting, making sure to include an evolutionary angle, which was completely missing from their submitted proposal.

- **Marketing & Sponsorship officer report (Pete Olson)**

Pete noted that his work for this meeting had been made easier by the conference agency Keynote taking over all sponsorship and marketing duties, except for seeking support for specific symposia. Marie Rose Rushe from Keynote had submitted a short report to Pete during the meeting, but that was too shortly before the Council meeting to report on it. Pete complimented the local organizers Gerhard and Uri on securing all the funding that they had.

- **Venue for 2020 meeting**

This was discussed after the local organizers presented their report (see above).

- **AOB**

Andreas Wanninger had expressed concern that during the summer of 2020 there would also be a meeting of the International Society of Invertebrate Morphology, from 2-7 August, because this meeting and our Biennial meeting are likely to have a significant overlap in attendees. People who have to travel from far to attend meetings in Europe would be more likely to attend both meetings if they would be held closely enough together so they could attend both as part of a single long-distance round trip. There was some discussion about this, and it is good if the local organizers of the next Biennial meeting are aware of this so that the two meetings are at least not planned for the same time.

Rainer Melzer noted that there currently is a gender imbalance in Council. This was noted, and it was pointed out that this issue would be addressed to a degree with the upcoming election and re-election of council members, where the vast majority of new nominees are women. [After voting in the new Council at the Galway meeting we have 36 councilors, of which 13 are women. There clearly is still an imbalance that needs to be addressed in the future.]

Frietson mentioned the desire to proposal a change to the bylaws of the Society's constitution to help ensure that Council members attend the Council meetings. We would expect new Council members to have attended at least one recent Biennial meeting, and that they are expected to attend the Council meetings held during their tenure as councilors.