

Agenda:

Present:

Iliana Medina Guzman (President)
Megan Head (Vice President)
Erin Macartney (incoming Secretary)
Matt Baker (outgoing secretary)
Alistair Evans
Venkatesh Nagarajan (incoming Treasurer)
Losia Lagisz
Matthew Symonds
Rowan Lymbery

Arrived during meeting:

Sara Ryding
Thomas Anthony Keaney

Apologies:

Alexandra McQueen (outgoing Treasurer)
Tiffany Sih (outgoing Social Media officer)

Item 1. Welcome and Apologies

President acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land.

Item 2. Previous Minutes

2.1 Approval of the minutes

Megan Head proposed and Alistair Evans seconded. Minutes from previous AGM approved.

2.2 Update on actionable items from previous minutes

- ECR representatives were appointed.
- Created social media team (John, Tiffany).
- New logo was created.
- Coordinated social media on twitter.
- Updated website for ecology and evolution jobs and links.

Item 3. Nominations for upcoming positions

3.1 Vice president elect (nominations: Sasha Mikheyev)

3.2 ECR representatives (nominations: Sarah Ryding, Rowan Lymbery)

3.3 Social Media representatives call for nominations

- Megan noted we had 3 positions we wanted to appoint.
- Need VP-elect because it is rolling VP-elect to VP to President.
- VP Blurb:
- Sasha Mikheyev elected unanimously (9/9). Congratulations!
- Sasha blurb from email circulated to all members:
 - Having done my Ph.D. in the US, and having worked for almost a decade in Japan, I am a relatively recent arrival in Australia, slowly becoming familiar with the local customs and practices. So, why should you have me as vice-president? On a practical side, I have lots of experience running meetings. In fact, one of my biggest achievements was introducing Robert's Rules of Order to the faculty meetings at one of my previous employers (before then people just talked over each other... usually the same people). Underneath a layer of somewhat dry formality, the core philosophy behind Robert's Rules is that all sides can get heard and everyone can provide input. Making sure that everyone's voice is heard is something I care deeply about, as diversity of opinion is what makes working with people interesting, and what drives innovation in the long term. Why do I want the position? Two reasons. First, to get to know more people in the evolution community in Australia. Second, to try to encourage collaboration

and foster cross-institution training for early career researchers, particularly Ph.D. students, who can benefit from meeting fellow students and researchers outside their home institutions.

- ECR representatives:
- Rowan introduced self, based in WA works on sexual selection. Excited to be involved.
- Rowan Lybery elected unanimously (9/9)
- Sarah Ryding elected unanimously (9/9)
- Matthew Symonds gave strong recommendation and endorsement as colleague at Deakin.
- We are looking for a 3rd Social Media Representative to support Tom Keaney (incoming) and John Whale.
- Matt Baker observed the offsite social media team did great job at AUSEVO2021 conference and were very helpful for onsite organisers.

Item 4. Reports

4.1 Presidents report (report on conference) (Iliana Medina Guzman - President)

- 214 attended conference in 2021 in Melbourne.
- 102 in person in Melbourne, some from ACT and NSW.
- 50% were students - strong ECR/student attendance.
- First live conference for many of the students.
- Very rewarding to be able to make that happen.
- No COVID cases as a result of the conference.
- Mike McDonald led the initiative to subsidise travel for interstate attendance. This was significant portion of the budget but enabled many, especially students, to attend in person. Students were very grateful, as were PIs.
- We had tag team talks as something new, different, and fun. Challenges as was hybrid, some participants were not here.
- 3-min talks instead of posters. Fun and energetic, and easy to share with people online or in person.

4.2 Treasurer report (Venkatesh Nagarajan)

- Balance pre AES \$33,118.28 (all amounts in AUD)
- Deposits from registration \$7293.35
- Expenses:
 - Accommodation awards \$50005
 - Conference costs: catering \$7930.39
 - Discretionary Costs: \$1128.01
 - Transport Costs: \$984.87
 - Bank fees: \$100
- Balance available: \$25,263.36
- Account has \$10fee per month
- Matt Baker commented transport costs were for DiDi transport for students to get back to accommodation from CBD to Monash.
- Matt Baker commented about removing fees. The fees are there because that gives us a corporate card which was decided this was probably overall worth it in terms of not having to reimburse every single payment to multiple people.
- Megan Head noted that we did have greater expenses than outgoings, but this was decided as acceptable to encourage attendance and given the previous years conference had been online only.

- Matthew Symonds noted the AES was registered in WA - so the requirements would be as per WA rules (was a discussion before meeting, but worth noting)

Item 5. Topics for discussion

5.1 Voting for bank access for Megan

- AGM unanimously (9/9) approved that Megan Head and Venkatesh Nagarajan be approved for bank account access to replace Mike McDonald and Alexandra McQueen.

5.2 Offering Research grants in 2022

- Iliana proposed awarding Research Grants during the year as another reason to get together at times outside the conference and also build name as a community.
- Sara Ryding thought this was a good idea, and wanted to know how we might define the scheme to get collaboration in certain areas.
- Erin Macartney mentioned ESEB had a programme that worked well to build collaborations, for travel as well as research grants.
- Venkatesh Nagarajan mentioned that Genetics Australia had a similar small scheme.
- Matt Baker mentioned need to decide what you want to do ie few larger grants, or many smaller grants.
- Venkatesh Nagarajan mentioned \$1000 grants, that could facilitate travel or sequencing. Listed many examples that are small, ie, around \$1000.
- Iliana Median Guzman mentioned that they had considered around \$2000. She noted that offering three grants would mean probably roughly 10 or so applicants and could have 20-30% success rate, ie, we don't typically have huge numbers of applicants for categories or prizes, so don't need to have so many grants available.
- Matt Baker took a vote and it was unanimously decided (11/11) that the Exec had permission to formulate an award scheme with \$10,000 total budget to support collaboration and research across the society.
- Losia Lagisz asked: "what would be the award purpose and criteria?"
- Iliana responded that the exec would discuss the targets, what was desirable for student/ECR population and what the criteria would be.

5.3 2022 Conference - when, where and how

- Melbourne last year 2021
- Megan Head mentioned that ANU/Canberra could be possible.
- Hasn't been in ANU for at least four years.
- WA not currently possible with border restrictions.
- Rowan Lymbery mentioned there is still WA enthusiasm for hosting it and it would be great. However not known who would step up to organise and when the border situation would open.
- Megan Head noted that ANU is an option with Megan Head and Sasha on the exec.
- Matt Baker said Canberra is great - looking forward to it.
- AGM voted unanimously for Canberra as a venue.
- Iliana noted need to secure the date and make sure not overlapping.
- Iliana asked how the zoom experience was for online-only participants.
- Rowan said it is difficult but AES was as good as anything, and the satellite group with which he watched it was a good idea, built some community.
- Matt Baker asked do we want to have the hybrid option available given that domestic travel will be open.
- Iliana noted that given we have 100 people online attending, we shouldn't go back to in person only as clearly there are people using this option.
- Matt Baker noted hybrid does enable fewer flights, a problem sometimes with WA hosting and carbon costs. 100 online attendees is a strong statement, but not sure level of participation.
- Matthew Symonds noted that we always still have travel concerns from WA and AES (and border issues).
- Megan Head said she would look into what hybrid options were possible. Likely not a big venue like Monash, but should be participation and access to people who can't travel.
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Item 6.

6.1 No other business was noted at the time.

- Megan Head emphasised they are available for comments at any time.
- Matthew Symonds remembered he did have some other business he wanted to mention:
 - As role in Editor in Chief of Evolutionary Ecology he noted that if you publish there that it is free OA as per agreement with Springer Journals.
 - There is a quota, but quite generous.
- Megan Head noted that you could tweet this and retweet this to publicise, vs email distribution.
- <https://twitter.com/AustEvolSoc/> is AUSEVO twitter and happy to be tagged there.

Meeting was officially closed at 16.00 AEDT on 17th Feb 2022.

Minutes recorded by Matt Baker 15.00 17th Feb 2022.