

WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2009 IN MELAKA, MALAYSIA

Present:

Dr Robert Chappell	President
Professor George Woo	President Elect
Dr Richard Wallingford	Treasurer
Tone Garaas-Maurdalen	LRS Committee Chairman
Ron Fyfe	Public Health Committee Chairman
Dr Uduak Udom	Africa Regional Representative
Professor Carly Lam	Asia Pacific Regional Representative
Dr Akio Kanai	Asia Pacific Regional Representative
Dr Feike Grit	Europe Regional Representative
Dr Juan M Vázquez	Latin America Regional Representative
Dr Nelson Rivera	Acting Latin America Regional Representative
Dr Susan Cooper	North America Regional Representative (Canada)
Dr Peter Kehoe	North America Regional Representative (AOA)

In attendance:

Bryony Pawinska	Acting Executive Director
Caroline Hyde-Price	Executive Director-Elect
Laura Prieto	Executive Administrator

Apologies

Professor Kovin Naidoo	Education Committee Chairman
Dr Victor Connors	Immediate Past President
Dr. Wolfgang Cagniolati	Europe Regional Representative
Armin Duddek	Europe Regional Representative
Yigal Gutman	Middle East Regional Representative
Dr Kevin Alexander	North America Regional Representative (AOA)
Arnulfo Toledo	Latin America Representative

Observers: Dr. Sidney Stern, Dr Douglas Clark, Dr Larry Hookway, Jesús García Poyatos, Bob Hughes.

GB23 Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed the members of the Governing Board and observers. It was noted that ALDOO and AFCCO would confirm three regional representatives following the next meeting of their respective bodies.

GB24 Minutes from previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 and 25 October 2008 in Anaheim were approved and signed by the President as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

GB25 Matters arising

RESC

CHP

It was confirmed that the Ghana Project is nearly finished. There were some issues around finance but the project managers hope to have a report within the next 6 months and an interim report is expected in the next 4-5 weeks. It was confirmed that there have been two payments made to date and the next payment will be sent when the interim report is received.

It was noted that Professor Naidoo had visited Argentina, and that the President was still talking to IAPB in South America and that there is now some ophthalmological support for the Argentina RESC project

Chile

The President reported that there has been a change in the legislation although it is not yet complete and Optometry now has more recognition.

Finance

It was noted that new accounts have been set up in the UK in Dollars, Sterling and Euros and invoices have been sent in the currency appropriate to each member country.

Terms of Reference for Committees

The LRS Committee Terms of Reference had been approved and it was agreed that these would be used as a template for ToRs for the Education and Public Health Committees

IAPB

It was noted the World Health Association has agreed to a programme to encourage governments to improve their input into eye care previous recommendations had not had been backed by a WHO agreed action plan.

Although WOF is paying the increased, IAPB membership subscription (from 35k to \$55K), nevertheless, WCO needs to monitor the value for money of Group A membership. However, Group A membership provides for WCO representation at Board level and the opportunity to interact with major international partners in the decision making process

CHP

The increased involvement of optometrists in the governance of IABP was highlighted: Professors Brien Holden and Kovin Naidoo, as well as the President, are now chairing IAPB committees: and Professor Naidoo is Chairman of IAPB Africa Region, the first optometrist to chair an IABP region. It was noted that the IAPB structure is under review; at present there are over 30 members on the Board.

CHP/GW

Korean Optometric Association

The President and Acting Executive Director will meet with KOA delegates to discuss the problems with the subscription calculation.

LP

Post meeting: it was agreed that the subscription will be recalculated based on 2,000 members. A new invoice for 2009 will be issued and a refund will be made for 2008.

GB26 Global Commission on Ophthalmic Standards (GCOS)

The minutes from the meeting held on 18 May were noted. GCOS had recommended an increase in fees to \$2,500 for the first product, \$1,000 for each additional product and \$18,000 for the licence. This recommendation was proposed by the President and seconded by Dr Kehoe. Approved unanimously.

Dr Richard Wallingford recommended that WCO should separate from AOA in certain projects regarding product categories. Seconded by Dr Peter Kehoe and approved unanimously.

It was noted that the Secretariat are tracking the income and expenditure for the GCOS.

LP

GB27 Report of Legislation, Registration and Standards Committee

The Committee had agreed to continue dialogue with orthoptists even if there is no agreement as it is important to use all resources available in developing countries.

SC/CHP

With regard to the Scope of Practice survey, it was agreed that competence rather than job title is the best way to identify the scope of practice in different countries. It was agreed that extension of optometric scope enables professions to work together.

It was agreed that the Case Statement needs to be brought up to date especially with regard to references to other professions.

The Committee recommended that WCO should produce a Code of Conduct along similar lines to the new ECOO Code of Conduct. This was agreed.

GB28 Report of Public Health Committee

The Chairman reported that the Toolkit does not need further development but needs more opportunities to present it. The new Chairman will take responsibility for developing new programmes for the Committee.

KN

Professors Sandra Block and Tim Wingert had compiled information from all the Colleges of Optometry in the United States on the Public Health component of their courses. WCO had asked them to extend the survey to colleges worldwide.

The researchers have reported that the global list of schools provided by WCO is not up to date. It was agreed that the Secretariat should update the information for the researchers.

CHP/LP

It was recommended by the Committee that WCO should look at setting up a pool of optometrists who can be called on in a global emergency situation, e.g. earthquakes, and that this should be pursued through other NGOs such as the Red Cross with WCO helping to co ordinate. This was agreed.

CHP

It was also agreed that the Scope of Practice Survey should be extended to include Refractive Error statistics. These will have to be checked (they are available on the IAPB website for most of Latin America and Caribbean)

It was noted that the WCOE6 and the Refractive Error Conference will have an overlap next year.

SC/CHP

GB29 Report from Education Committee

The Committee had agreed to look at twinning programmes like ECOO's TUPO conference. It was agreed that there was a need to collaborate with ASCO.

The committee considered the proposed revised dates for WCOE6 in Durban, South Africa to be offered alongside the Refractive Error Conference. There was concern that the revised date in November 2010 would be too close to the meeting of the American Academy and that the Secretariat should work with ICEE to identify a more suitable date.

MY/CHP

The Governing Board agreed that WCO should ensure that the programme for WCOE6 has common interest for delegates to the Refractive Error Conference including community workers and ophthalmologists. It was noted that the next meeting of the WCOE6 Steering Committee will be held at the American Academy Meeting in October 2009.

The Secretariat will append the names of Steering Group members to the Minutes.

LP

GB30 Report from Fellowship Committee

It was agreed that Dr Susan Cooper, who will be replaced as Chairman as she is taking on the chairship of the LRS Committee, will continue as a member of the Committee as the academic member. Mrs Bryony Pawinska, who will relinquish her duties as Acting Executive Director on 6 July will join the committee as the member bringing financial expertise and Dr Jerry Vincent will continue as the NGO representative.

CHP

The Committee need to know how much money is available from WOF and the secretariat will create a spreadsheet to show WOF investment income and WOF will be asked to identify the amount available each year for fellowships.

The Committee had agreed in Anaheim to develop a revised fellowship scheme, and the Head of Research at the College of Optometrists had prepared a comprehensive report. The next stage for the Committee is to develop the scheme outline to include criteria for fellowships, documentation and guidelines. It was recommended that the Executive

Committee should be asked to consider and approve the outline, and that the new Scheme should be officially launched at the Governing Board meeting in Toronto in December, following which it will be widely promoted to WCO members. This was proposed by Professor Kanai and seconded by Mr Fyfe.

The Committee was asked to consider the merits of translating the documentation into Spanish.

The President thanked Professor Kanai for the funds he had brought in for fellowship over the years.

GB31 Report from Executive Committee

Terms of Reference

CHP

It was agreed that Secretariat will draft Terms of Reference, to include responsibilities delegated by the Governing Board, to be considered by the Governing Board in Toronto.

Governing Board Membership

It was confirmed that Committee Chairmen are additional to three regional representatives on the Governing Board.

Committee Chairmen

It was recommended and approved unanimously that Professor Maurice Yap should chair the Education Committee, Dr Susan Cooper should chair the LRS committee, Professor Kavin Naidoo should chair the Public Health Committee, Professor Carly Lam should chair the Fellowship Committee and the Immediate Past President should chair the Membership Committee.

The Secretariat will follow up regional nominations for Committees and will work with the Chairmen to fill individual vacancies.

WOF

It was recommended and agreed that Dr Chappell would replace Dr Brisbin as the WOF nominee on the Global Board of Optometry Giving Sight.

It was recommended and agreed that the WCO President, Immediate Past President and Treasurer should be the WCO officers to sit on the WOF Board during their term of office.

It was further recommended and agreed that Yigal Gutman, whose term of office expires in December 2009, be reappointed until Dec 2011. It was noted that Dr Sidney Stern will remain as a trustee as his term of office ends in December 2010.

It was recommended and agreed to appoint Dr Victor Connors to the WOF Board for a three year term.

It was agreed that the remaining trustee vacancy should be considered by the new WOF Board with a view to finding someone who can bring fundraising expertise

Recycled Spectacles

It was agreed that the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Executive Director should consider any research evidence, and draft a formal statement for approval by the Governing Board in Toronto.

CHP/KN

GB32 General Delegates Meeting

Memorandum and Articles of Association

It was agreed that the delegates should be assured of the support of the Governing Board for the new constitution. This was proposed by Dr Kehoe and seconded by Professor Woo. The proposal was approved unanimously.

GB33 Treasurer's Report, WCO and WOF

The Treasurer presented both reports and audited accounts for 2008 and recommended that they were approved. This was proposed by Dr Kehoe and seconded by Dr Udom. The proposal was approved unanimously.

GB34 Membership

New Applications

- **Vision Aid Overseas, United Kingdom, application for** Affiliate Membership. It was confirmed that the application was supported by ECOO. Approved unanimously.
- **Colegio de Optometras de Puerto Rico**, application for Associate Membership. The application was supported by ALDOO. Approved unanimously.
- **Associacao de Profissionais Licenciados de Optometria, Portugal** application for Associate Membership. The application was supported by ECOO. Approved unanimously.
- **Pakistan Optometric Association, application for** Associate Membership. Approved unanimously subject to confirmation of the legal standing of the organisation

It was agreed that the Secretariat will attach the application of the Pakistan Optometric Association to the minutes when they are distributed

LP

GB35 Events Programme

2010

GW

It was agreed to investigate the implications of holding the Governing Board Meeting in the proposed new Eastern Mediterranean Region in Spring 2010. It was agreed that this should be discussed with Yigal Gutman.

It was reconfirmed that the WCOE6 will be held in Durban, South Africa. Dates to be

confirmed

2011

The next General Delegates Meeting will be held in Latin America Region and ALDOO will suggest a suitable location.

JV

The Autumn/Fall Governing Board meeting will be held in Europe. The Secretariat will discuss the possibility of a joint meeting with ECOO

CHP

GB36 Any other Business

Refocusing Ophthalmic Education – paper from International Council of Ophthalmology

The Executive Committee agreed that the President-Elect would write to Bruce Spivey asking if WCO and the ICO can work together.

In the meantime, the Education Committee will send the ICO document to the committee members to comment on.

The Public Health Committee had also agreed that WCO should take an active part in this project.

Eastern Mediterranean Region

The President reported on interest in the creation of an Eastern Mediterranean Region from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Palestine and Pakistan who are in the process of setting up a Council of Optometry in the Region.

It was agreed to grant preliminary recognition for the Region and to invite the Officers to attend the Governing Board in Toronto as observers with a view to receiving a formal application for consideration in Toronto.

Virtual Optometry Clinic 2009

Professor Carly Lam introduced a project that the Hong Kong University has developed for optometric education. It was agreed that Professor Lam should present the project to the GDM.

GB37 Date and Time of next meeting

The next Governing Board meeting to be held on 4 December 2009 in Toronto