

Minutes of the teleconference meeting (TC) of the WSAVA Executive Board (EB)

Jan 16th , 2025

The meeting was held via Teams with Jim Berry as Chair.

Present

Jim Berry (JB)	President
Ellen van Nierop (EvN)	Past President
Jerzy Gawor (JG)	President-Elect
Oscar Umana (OU)	Treasurer
Nalinika Obeyesekere (NO)	Board member
Veronica Leibaschoff (VL)	Board member
Frederic Gaschen (FG)	Board member
Natasha Lee (NL)	Board member
Derick Chibebe	Board member
Roula Shaaban	Board member
Richard Casey (RC)	WSAVA Secretariat
Liat Geller (LG)	WSAVA Secretariat
Debbie Gray (DG)	WSAVA Secretariat
Joyce Dao (JD)	WSAVA Secretariat
Cecilia Westerdahl (CW)	WSAVA Secretariat

Consent agenda

- C1 Minutes from the December 2024 Executive Board Meeting
- C2 Summary from January 2025 Officers Meeting
- C3 Status Report and Summary from January Congress Planning Meeting
- C4 Report from Veterinary Practitioners Association of Nepal
- C5 Status Report from Chief Community Officer
- C6 Status Report from Chief Communications Officer
- C7 Status Report from Chief Learning & Development Officer

Operations

Overview of SOP on the Awarding of Member Representative Travel Grants

LG

LG introduced a proposal to reinstate the travel grant program aimed at supporting member representatives who would otherwise be unable to attend the General Assembly and Congress. The grant will require recipients to attend both assembly and congress, and present a clear dissemination plan for the knowledge gained. The process is intended to be agile and decisions

made swiftly to allow ample time for travel arrangements. The proposed budget is \$10,000, with preference given to engaged associations, rather than specific regions. It was also clarified that the association, rather than the individual, should meet active membership criteria.

It was decided to place a cap of 75% coverage of travel costs to encourage personal or association contributions, and exclude applicants who have not fulfilled past obligations from future grants.

The EB agreed the focus should remain on bringing member representatives to the Assembly, not just Congress, and ensuring that grant recipients demonstrate both current involvement and future potential to contribute.

Motion to approve the SOP for Travel Grants with modifications to 75% sponsorship cap and emphasis on engaged association rather than individual

All in favor

Motion has passed

Strategy

Framework for Working with Regional Veterinary Federations

RC

RC presented a proposal outlining a new framework for relationships with regional veterinary federations — specifically FECAVA (Europe), FASAVA (Asia), and FIAVAC (Latin America). The framework focuses on Congress-related collaboration and proposes three tiers of engagement. The proposal aims for simplicity, clarity, and adaptability, with federations to be informed and consulted about their expected contributions.

The EB discussed criteria for tier placement. There was broad agreement on the need to include these criteria in the documentation for transparency and future reference. It was also suggested that expectations from each federation be better defined, and that federations be invited to articulate what they can offer before finalizing their tier designation. The EB emphasized that while WSAVA partners with regional federations, its core responsibility remains supporting its own members.

It was agreed to focus on FECAVA at first stage, with next steps to refine criteria for other federations and consult with them accordingly. Further discussions will continue regarding FASAVA and FIAVAC, with the aim of establishing mutually beneficial, clearly defined partnerships.

Motion to accept the proposal just for FECAVA at this point based on tier three as defined.

All in favor

Motion has passed

AOB

The EB discussed the tier system used for WSAVA classification, based on World Bank classification, and noted that the topic of membership dues and privileges as a result of said classification will be brought up to the membership as part of the upcoming membership consultation.

Motion to approve the consent agenda

All in favor

Motion has passed.