

Meeting of the General

24 August 2023

Assembly of the Southern

Time: 16:00 – 18:00

African Society for Veterinary

Venue: Avani Resort, Gaborone,
Botswana

Epidemiology and Preventive

Medicine

AGM Minutes

1. Welcome

The secretariat, Dr Liesl De Boni, welcomed all members to the meeting – those attending online or in person, new and existing members.

2. Approval of the agenda

The proposed agenda was approved by Gideon Kriel and seconded by Alwyn Krause. No additions were made.

3. Attendees

The meeting was held in a hybrid format with 61 physical attendees at the meeting and XX attendees present on Zoom. No apologies were received. Please see the attached attendance register.

4. Approval of the minutes of the AGM on 25 August 2022, East London

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were emailed to the members before the meeting. The members indicated that they had read them and did not need to go through them in the meeting. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Sikhumbuzo Mbizeni and seconded by Claude Sabeta.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

6. President's Report

Dr Noluvuyo Magadla presented the Presidents report, which covered meetings, logistics, a review of the past year, and the plans for futures ISVEE. See report.

The main issue discussed was the need for the Society to attain a permanent physical address for tax purposes and for the registration on the NPC – at present the address of the treasurer is being used

but this person changes with time. The members suggested the option of getting a post box and physical address through Post Net. Alternatively, an arrangement could be made with an institution such as the University of Pretoria, Veterinary Faculty. It was agreed that the new ExCo would find a solution to this.

7. Secretary's Report

Dr Liesl De Boni presented the secretary's report. This covered the society membership, communications/media, partnerships, sponsorship, funding, training & capacity building, the 20th annual congress, recognitions, prizes, challenges, and recommendations. See report.

8. Financial Report

Dr Sikhumbuzo Mbizeni presented the Treasurer's financial report for the financial year ending in April 2023. This included a summary about the sponsorships and expenses for the ISVEE16 congress in Canada. He explained that SASVEPM was successfully registered as a NPC this year to facilitate sponsorship payments from organisations such as DTRA. See Report.

9. AGM Decisions

9.1. Amendment of membership section in SASVEPM constitution

At the 2022 AGM the ExCo were tasked to suggest an amendment to the membership section of the constitution. The suggested amendment was:

MEMBERSHIP

- 3. Membership will be open to persons either actively engaged or interested in veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine.*
- 4. Membership is conditional on attendance of a SASVEPM Annual Congress at least once within the past 5 years. Online or in-person attendance are equally acceptable.*
- 5. A member is considered to have resigned from the Society if 5 years pass without attending any SASVEPM Annual Congress.*

The members agreed to pass this amendment provided that some extra changes are included:

- Point 4. It should state attendance of the annual congress or SASVEPM-organised workshops/training.
- Point 4. Add that the ExCo has the power to give lifetime membership to deserving members.
- Point 5. Add that members may resign by sending written notice to the secretariat.
- The statement about the annual membership fee should be removed from the finance section in the constitution.

9.2. Expenditure for SASVEPM members to attend ISVEE17

The meeting agreed that 25% of the Bank account balance could be spent on sending members to ISVEE18. However, they requested that the ExCo implements the existing sponsorship policy to prioritise deserving members. The members requested that it is not the same people sponsored to

attend ISVEE each time (unless they fulfill the sponsorship criteria) and that members who participated in the recent AGMs are given due consideration as actively participating members.

The ExCo also informed the members that the ISVEE organising committee will have separate sponsorship for African applicants and encouraged members to prepare their abstracts now and apply for sponsorship from ISVEE with the abstract submission process.

9.3. Election of SASVEPM Executive Committee 2023-2025

Two ExCo members were eligible and willing to serve another term: Mohamed Sirdar and Wonderful Shumba. There weren't objections to this. Four new members were voted in by majority vote of members attending the AGM:

- Oonagh Pretorius
- Itumeleng Matle
- Tandile Ndobeni
- Chris Marufu

9.4. Location of SASVEPM Annual Congress 2024

The ExCo suggested that the congress should be rotated around the SA provinces and then venture outside SA every 3-5 years. The members voted to have the 2024 annual congress in Western Cape.

10. AOB

There was no other business. Prof Michel mentioned that she's working with the WOAHC Centre for capacity building which is doing a lot of training with mutual interests to SASVEPM and that it could be beneficial to join efforts in some cases.

11. Closure

Dr Liesl De Boni thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting.