NASCE Council Meeting

Thursday June 8, 2017

Time 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm

18th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology, Lake Louise 2017,

1. ***President’s welcome***

Bob Dores welcomed everyone to Lake Louise and the ICCE18. He indicated that it has been a pleasure working closely with the executive committee over the past two years since the last NASCE meeting in Ottawa. He indicated that the feedback he has received so far from members is that the joint meeting of NASCE with ICCE is successful. He also indicated that this joint meeting would not happen for about another 12 years. It only occurs when the ICCE overlaps with a NASCE meeting.

Bob asked all councilors to introduce themselves. Since we only had one NASCE council meeting at ICCE18 it included both new and outgoing members. Bob Dores thanked those that are leaving the committee for their work and commitment and also thanked the new members of council for taking on this new role. There was a round of applause thanking the members.

1. ***Approval of minutes from the last NASCE 2015 Council meetings in Ottawa.***

There was a call to approve the minutes from the last meetings of council.

Moved, seconded, Approved.

1. ***Report of the Nominations Committee, John Chang (Chair and VP, NASCE)***

John Chang began his report by discussing the solicitation and planning for the 5th NASCE Biennial Meeting in 2019. Three possible hosts for the meeting were identified and after further communication two proposals were received; these were Florida and Texas. Proposals were then given to the council members and a vote was taken. In the end the University of Florida at Gainesville was chosen for the next NASCE meeting in 2019. An idea of providing the 2019 LOC with a NASCE scientific program committee to help with organizing the 2019 meeting was also discussed among the officers of NASCE. Identification of possible venues for the 6th NASCE Biennial meeting in 2021 probably should start soon – venue should be in Mexico if the rotation is kept.

* 1. *Introduction and approval of newly elected officers and council members.*

Nomination of officers and councilors: A nomination committee was set up with the VP as chair to identify candidates for NASCE council and VP positions. Members of the committee include Drs. Mark Sheridan, Carlos Arámburo, David Lovejoy, and Maricela Luna.

To maintain the rotation of the presidency among the three founding countries, the incoming VP should be from Mexico. There were one candidate for VP, and ten nominees for councilor. Electronic voting opened on May 3 and closed on May 9. The outcome was:

* VP candidate Dr. Aurea Orozco (Mexico) was acclaimed
* Councilors: James Carr (USA); Valerie Langlois (Canada; re-elected); Christopher Martyniuk (USA); Hamid Habibi (Canada); Katie Gilmore (Canada); Rodolfo Cardenas (Mexico); Marta Romano (Mexico)

He also thanked all the other candidates for allowing their names to stand for election.

1. ***Brief review/evaluation of the joint meeting (ICCE18)***

Hamid Habibi indicated that the support from NASCE and IFCES was valuable and was allocated mostly to students and speakers. He indicated that there were 329 attendees from 31 countries. Funding was given to:

* 31 students at $350 each in consultation with the executive committees
* 6 other student awards – one Louis Guillette (NASCE), and two for best poster award and three for oral presentations - $200 each.

Hamid thanked Suraj Unniappan for his hard work fund raising and also indicated that he received a lot of support from U of Calgary as well as money towards this conference. University of Calgary were invaluable for helping with the venue.

Overall, thought it was a good meeting. Full credit given the NASCE and IFCES – has heard good feedback. For the future, IFCES council has indicated that each society constituting IFCES will provide one symposium at each subsequent ICCE meeting. NASCE councilors agreed with this and indicated that money should be put aside to support the symposium.

1. ***Report of NASCE Secretary/Treasurer – Angela Lange***

Membership -Membership was somewhat of a challenge since it was not collected with the registration of the meeting. Therefore there were many e-mails out to past members as well as, individual e-mails from the President and secretary.

Current membership is:

Lifetime members: 6

Full members: 36

Student Members: 18

This is a difference from 2015 at which time we had approx. 251 members who attended the Ottawa meeting. This is a challenge and we need to be aware of this for the next joint meeting.

Conference Support -We gave USD$8,000 to the LOC for the ICCE18 meeting. The money that we allocated to ICCE18 went to cover NASCE identified items such as support for:

NASCE Gorbman-Bern Lecturer: Bob Denver (USA)

NASCE Gorbman-Bern New Independent Investigator Valérie S. Langlois (CDN)

ISAREN Plenary Lecturer: Taisen Iguchi (Japan) – shared with IFCES

18 student awards that cover registration

$500 towards student poster award

Additional NASCE funds also covered:

Support for the 3 invited President Symposium speakers

Travel, hotel and airfare for the Gorbman-Bern New Independent Investigator

2 supplemental hotel awards for students

The Louis J. Guillette, Jr. Graduate Student Travel Award -This award is new and was set up since the last meeting, housed in a dedicated fund administered by NASCE. The account has accumulated $6431.80 in donations. The first award was given this year. The account now has $5931.80 available.

Research Support Awards -We gave two research awards in 2015-2016 each worth $1000 (Marilyn Vera Chang and Andrea D’Aquila) and one research award in 2016-2017 of $1000 (Thomas Fleming).

NASCE Finances: NASCE Balance – June 2, 2017: $25,056.86 – (2015 balance $24,666.23)

Discussion centers on membership and future joint meetings. Some discussion on health of balance and whether we need to increase membership. More appeals will be sent out to try and regain our membership prior to the next meeting in 2019.

1. ***Reports of NASCE Committees***
   1. *Communication Committee – Chair, Valérie Langlois*

Over the last 4 year term, the first two years was devoted to website design. This was done with a committee. This committee also supported the Ottawa 2015 NASCE meeting. Jean-Paul Paluzzi took the lead on this committee for the last two years.

*Election of a new Chair* –

Motion to elect Jean-Paul Paluzzi for next chair, approved.

* 1. *Awards Committee – Chair, Yun-Bo Shi*

9 members total on this committee and 5 will come off the committee. We need to e-mail the outgoing members to see if they will remain and if not, then elect new members

They received 3 nominations for Gorbman- Bern Lecturer - Bob Denver chosen.

They also received 3 nomination for Gorbman-Bern New Investigator Award – Valerie Langlois chosen.

Research fellowships for September, 2015– there were two candidates – both given an award. One candidate applied for September 2016 and they were supported.

One discussion point was “How do we get more students to apply for these awards?” Increase social media might be important to get more interest from others that would not. Executive will have to look at who does information.

* 1. *Development Committee – Andreas Heyland*

They oversee a Facebook site. They also submitted a proposal for to Ottawa for funding but were not successful.

Discussion on overlap with Communication Committee. One problem highlighted is that there is a lack of knowledge of what is occurring in the organizing committee. Perhaps the Development Committee should be modified to allow them to help facilitate and coordinate with the local organizing committee of the meetings. Executive committee to discuss this.

*Election of a new Chair* – this was put on hold until the executive discussed any changes to the development committee.

1. ***Discussion of the venue for NASCE 2019 - Christopher Martyniuk. – University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida***

Christopher Martyniuk gave a short presentation. He thought it would be good to do a joint meeting with ISAREN. Holding the meeting in May would be best due to the heat. Consensus following discussion is that the last two weeks in May might be good.

Some discussion on facilities. UF has strong conference management team – they take care of the details.

The NASCE Council is the program committee. Aureo is the Chair of program committee and will start development of the program in January. Developmental Committee Chair should be on the program committee.

1. ***Discussion on possible sites for NASCE 2021***

Mexico is thinking about a possible place – the same place as last time or a different venue. There are many suitable sites and it depends on preference. Question on ease to get to different places. Several have easy access. Some by air others not. There will be further discussions.

1. ***Initiatives for the next two years -*** None were highlighted.
2. ***Other business***

Some concern was raised about going to the US by the Mexican members. Society should think about this and how this movement can be facilitated. University of Florida has a very successful International center that can help look into how they can facilitate border crossing for the upcoming meeting.

1. ***Passing the baton to the new president.***

John Chang thanked the outgoing President, Bob Dores and presented him with a gift of ice wine.