

ICA General Assembly 2011

Agreed Minutes of the General Assembly of the Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA) held on Monday 27 June 2011 at 14.30 at the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, 19 rue Pierre Waguët, 60 000 Beauvais, France.

Present:

The proceedings were presided over by:

Philippe Choquet President of ICA presided over Agenda items 1 to 6

Guido Van Huylenbroeck, ICA Board Member, presided over Agenda items 7 to 14

In attendance: Simon Heath, ICA Secretary General; Marie Dubruque, ICA Executive Secretary

ICA Member Institutions were represented by the following:

AL, Agricultural University of Tirana, Engjell Skreli; **AT, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna**, Martin Gerzabek; **BE, Gembloux Agricultural University**, Laurent de Potter; **BE, Ghent University**, Guido Van Huylenbroeck; **CZ, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**, Michal Lostak; **DK, Aarhus University**, Torsten Rødel Berg; **ES, University of Lleida**, Jaume Lloveras; **FI, University of Helsinki**, Mika Rekola; **FR, Agrocampus Ouest**, Joelle Chancerel; **FR, AgroSup Dijon**, Corinne Stewart; **FR, Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais**, Philippe Choquet; **FR, Montpellier SupAgro - International Centre for Higher Education in Agricultural Sciences**, Didier Pillot; **HR, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture**, Davor Romic; **HU, Corvinus University of Budapest BUESPA**, Karoly Hrotko; **HU, University of Debrecen**, Gyula Vasvari; **IE, University College Dublin**, Jim Phelan; **LT, Lithuanian University of Agriculture**, Laima Taparauskiene; **NL, Wageningen University and Research Centre**, Wim Heijman; **PL, Warsaw University of Life Sciences**, Krystyna Gutowska; **RU, Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy**, Vladimir Bautin; **SE, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**, Lena Andersson-Eklund; **UA, National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine**, Dmytro Melnychuk.

In addition Philippe Choquet (Chair) had been given proxy voting by:

Per Holten Andersen (University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences, DK)

Jernej Turk (University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, SL)

Quorum:

Total number of ICA member institutions	58
Members NOT eligible to vote due to non payment of membership fees for 2010	6
Total number of members eligible to vote	53
Total number of members represented at the ICA GA 2011	24
Quorum is reached when 1/3 of members eligible to vote at represented at the GA	19

The meeting was quorate

Agenda

1. Minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday 16 June 2010 - to be approved
2. Election of ICA Board members
Paper 1 List of candidates – revised
Paper 1A ICA Board elections 2011 – personal statements by nominees
3. Report of the President on behalf of the ICA Board
Paper 2 President’s Report to be tabled
4. Report of the ICA Treasurer – to be approved
Paper 3 Treasurer’s report Annual Accounts for 2010
Paper 4 Budget 2011
Paper 5 Auditors’ report 2011 of the 2010 accounts
5. Membership subscription rates 2012 – to be approved
6. Results of ICA Board Elections
7. Report of the Secretary General – ICA activities 2010 - 2012
8. Reports by several ICA Standing Committees and Associated Networks
Paper 6 Overview of the ICA Standing Committees
9. Report of the Chair of the EAALS Board (European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences)
Paper 7 EAALS Report to be tabled
10. Ratification of new members of ICA - to be approved
Full members:
Azerbaijan State Agricultural University
Saratov State Agrarian University
Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences
Associate Members:
Science and Methodology Centre for Agricultural Education of the Ministry of Agricultural Policy of Ukraine
11. Ratification of suspension of members not paying subscriptions
No suspensions to be approved
12. Appointment of Auditors for the 2011 accounts – to be approved
Philippe Caron, Institut Polytechnique Lasalle Beauvais, France
Prof. Ludwig Lauwers, University of Gent, Belgium
13. Statement by incoming President
14. Any other business

Minutes

1. Minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday 16 June 2010

The Minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday 16 June 2010 had previously been circulated and were approved.

2. Election of ICA Board members – Announcement of candidates and voting

Paper 1 List of candidates

The following had been proposed and seconded, for the election of only two members to the ICA Board.

Philippe CHOQUET, Directeur Général, Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, **France**

Krystyna GUTKOWSKA, Vice Rector, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, **Poland**

Károly HROTKÓ, Dean of the Faculty of Horticulture, Corvinus University, **Hungary**

Milan MESIC, Vice Rector, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, **Croatia**

Philippe Choquet informed the ICA members he would step down from the ICA Presidency at this General Assembly, as he had been asked to take the lead in developing the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations in Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA). However he stated he was willing to be involved in the general running of ICA and submits his candidature to the vote, as his term of office was expiring.

Voting then took place by attendees who were representing their institutions which had paid their 2010 membership subscriptions. The result of the vote is recorded under minute 6.

3. Report of the President on behalf of the ICA Board -

Paper 2 President's Report was tabled as a powerpoint presentation.

Philippe Choquet presented his report outlining what had been achieved by ICA since the last General Assembly and the ICA Board's vision for the future to:

1. Facilitate networking:

- between ICA's members through the development of an effective website, and conferences like GCHERA, and those between ICA and APLU which will now be extended to include the Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (CFAVM)
- towards and within the Standing Committees to achieve a greater strategic density through the convergence of ICA's constituencies under what is referred to as the ICA umbrella
- towards international organisations, and especially through ICA's presence at the GCHERA level.

2. Develop visibility/ lobbying at the European and global level

- at the EU level in order to get political recognition (due to the core societal issues addressed by the life science universities). He had the opportunity to meet with a member of Commissioner Dacian Ciolos's cabinet and with European MPs during the past year in order to promote ICA as a European organisation representing the interests of Life Science universities.
- at the international level, through GCHERA. The development of GCHERA as a Confederation of higher education associations will be a significant tool to communicate globally about ICA and its member institutions in the life sciences. In doing so it should open up new opportunities for cooperation and services to ICA's members.

3. Structure the association to ensure its sustainability

- the ICA Board is working to develop a balanced budget and to increase its income. The lack of finances is a key factor holding back the development of ICA's services for its members
- The ICA Secretary General has been working very closely with the President and the ICA Secretary in a largely virtual environment. Although this works effectively, ICA's representation at the European level would be considerably enhanced with a permanent secretariat based in Brussels. The establishment of a permanent secretariat is the long term ambition of the ICA Board.
- Through Information Technology: the ICA website has significantly been improved thanks to the efforts of Simon Heath. The Website and the Newsletter is a key success factor to implement ICA's communication strategy with our members.

For the forthcoming year ICA should focus on enlarging its strategic density to enable the ICA Board to speak with a European voice in representing the Life Science universities at the European level. The political commitments of the universities should reinforce the “*afectio societatis*¹” with ICA. The development of inter institutional communication is a prerequisite to reinforce ICA’s lobbying activities in the European arena. ICA’s global networking activities through GCHERA will open up new horizons for the association.

In order to meet the expectations of its members, the association relies before all on personal commitments of its members. Philippe Choquet particularly thanked the members of the Board for their commitment to developing ICA for the benefit of members, and also thanked Simon Heath and Marie Dubruque for their support.

Philippe Choquet announced to the General Assembly that the ICA Board, in accordance with the Statutes, had voted for Guido Van Huylenbroeck to be the next President of ICA. Guido Van Huylenbroeck is Dean of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering at Ghent University. Guido Van Huylenbroeck had accepted the nomination by the Board.

Note¹: “afectio societatis” is the French legal concept that means that two people or more share the same idea, and personally commit themselves to achieving the purpose of the association.

4. Report of the ICA Treasurer -

Paper 3 Treasurer’s report Annual Accounts for 2010

Paper 4 Budget 2011

Paper 5 Auditors’ report 2011 of the 2010 accounts

Mika Rekola, ICA Treasurer, briefly presented the Income and Expenditure Account 2010. For the year 2010, there was a decrease of ICA’s total income in comparison with 2009. This reduction in income was mainly due to the lack of income from projects. In addition less than half of the budgeted 25.000 € income from sponsorship was achieved. This resulted in deficit of 25.150 €, instead of the budgeted deficit of 11.270 €. Mika Rekola stated that ICA has thus a structural problem related to its financing of its planned expenditure because the planned sponsorship had not yet been achieved.

Turning to Balance Sheet at 31 December 2010 Mika Rekola commented that the opening balance was reduced at the year end as a result of the deficit on the Income and Expenditure account. The 2009 Balance Sheet is restated here after the removal of the University of Eastern Finland Account on the advice of the 2009 account auditors. The assets at 31 December 2010 included the closing assets of 3.096 € held on behalf of the Standing Committee IROICA. The closing net capital of 82.487 € falls just below the target of 80.000 € for the ICA reserves if the closing assets of IROICA are deducted.

Finally, Mika Rekola reported that there had been a discussion by the Board regarding raising the annual income of ICA. ICA essentially relies on membership fees to finance the expenditure on activities in support of members and general overhead costs. Attempts had been made to raise income through sponsorship but this has been unsuccessful. Moreover, the membership subscription fees had been unchanged for nearly a decade, which represented a decrease in real value of between 20-30 per cent due to inflation. He made the recommendation to the General Assembly that the membership subscription system should be raised to redress this effect of inflation.

Finally, Mika Rekola thanked the Executive Secretaries Ida Krogager and Marie Dubruque, ICA Secretary General Simon Heath and the auditors (Henrik Zobbe and Philippe Caron).of the 2010 accounts for their work

The accounts for 2010 were accepted as such by the General Assembly.

The Budget for 2011 was discussed. It showed a deficit of 2840 €. Jaume Lloveras asked what

would happen if ICA had to face a 3.000€ deficit. Philippe Choquet said that ICA would draw on the reserves.

Didier Pillot asked what the expectations were in terms of projects for the future. Simon Heath said that ICA was keen on developing projects but the problem is the lack of staff resources. However, members could play a leading role if they have an interest in some funded project and ICA would be most willing to support their applications. ICA can have a role to support in dissemination and valorisation.

Philippe Choquet asked the General Assembly to approve the Budget 2011. ***The Budget was approved by almost the majority of the votes, there was one vote against.***

5. Membership subscription rates 2012

Philippe Choquet proposed to raise the full membership subscription from 1000€ to 1200€ for 2012. The membership subscription had not been increased for almost 10 years and had become devalued through inflation as indicated by Mika Rekola in his report. His proposal was made to address this position. In future years the General Assembly would be requested to raise the membership subscription in line with inflation. Where there is an agreement with the AGRINATURA and CASEE for a joint membership subscription the ICA membership fee would be reduced to 1100€. Simon Heath will have discussions with AGRINATURA and CASEE with regard to whether the joint membership subscription for AGRINATURA and CASEE would also be changed. The proposal to raise the full membership subscription to 1200 € for 2012 was approved with the proposal to increase the membership subscription in line with inflation in future years.

6. Results of ICA Board Elections

Anne Dutriaux, International Relations Officer at LaSalle Beauvais, counted the votes with the help of two students from the hosting institution. Following the vote of the General Assembly, Philippe Choquet was reelected with 18 votes and Krystyna Gutkowska, with 11 votes.

Philippe Choquet thanked the General Assembly for its confidence and said that it was very positive to have 4 candidatures for the Board. He welcomed his re-election and that of Krystyna Gutowska to the Board for a second term of office. He also thanked the other candidates for putting their names forward for election and their obvious commitment to supporting the development of ICA for its members. He hoped that they would wish to be nominated again at a future election.

Philippe Choquet handed over the Chair of the General Assembly to Guido Van Huylenbroeck.

7. Report of the Secretary General

The President had asked Simon Heath gave an overview of the work of the Secretary General in the past year since the last ICA General Assembly in 2010. The Secretariat, comprising Simon Heath and Marie Dubruque, had been involved in supporting 3 Board meetings, 9 Secretariat meetings, an ICA Council Meeting and the current General Assembly. Simon Heath had presented ICA's activities at the Standing Committee Conferences of AGRIMBA, CASEE, ERABEE and IROICA. He had supported the transfer of the Secretariat from Copenhagen to Beauvais involving training of the new ICA Secretary in ICA procedures, particularly for managing the finances and the collection of membership subscriptions. Simon Heath had further developed the ICA website and the delivery of the new format Newsletter from the website software. He had attended ICA's associated networks annual meetings of CEDIA and APLU. He had also attended two meetings of the GCHERA Executive which had led to the proposal for the GCHERA to be reformed as a Confederation of higher education associations like ICA and APLU.

Simon Heath gave an overview of the up coming conferences:

European dialogue:

- *3 and 4 November 2011 ICA Rectors/Deans Forum Life Science Universities and Faculties:*

Meeting Challenges and Expectations – Gent

- 18 to 22 June 2012 ICA Week of Conferences including the ECHAE Conference Educating the Net Generation on the 21 and 22 June

Global dialogue:

- 27 to 29 June 2011 GCHERA Conference Universities of Agriculture and Life Sciences: entrepreneurs for sustainable rural development.
- 2 to 5 October 2012 APLU-CFAVM-ICA Conference Growing the Bio-economy: Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

Simon Heath summarised his role for ICA as the detailed development and planning of ICA's activities and events, supporting networking under the umbrella of ICA, and general administration and financial control.

8. Reports by several ICA Standing Committees and Associated Networks

Paper 6 Overview of the ICA Standing Committees

Reports on the current activities of the ICA Standing Committees and Associated Networks were presented

- **IROICA**, European Network of International Relations Officers at Higher Education Institutes for Agricultural and Related Sciences
- **AGRIMBA**, International Network for the MBA Agribusiness and Commerce
- **AGRINATURA**, The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development
- **CASEE**, The ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe
- **ECHAE**, European Conference of Higher Agricultural Education
- **CEDIA**, European Confederation of Agronomists Associations

9. Report of the Chair of the EAALS Board (European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences)

Paper 7 EAALS Report to be tabled as a powerpoint presentation

Simon Heath (EAALS Executive Secretary) made a report on behalf of Andrew Cobb the Chair of the EAALS Board who unfortunately could not be present. EAALS is in a start position and the biggest challenge is to fund the staff resources in order to establish EAALS as viable entity. Since 2008 EAALS has been as Associate member of ENQA one of the bodies currently in place to oversee the functioning of accreditation agencies. In 2011 EAALS is undertaking a review of International Master of Science in Forest Policy and Economics (FOPER) which is led by the Universities of Belgrade and Sarajevo in South Eastern Europe along with other universities in the region.

At the 31 December the EAALS Balance Sheet showed a net capital deficit of 2250 € which was a loan from ICA in 2010, to cover the membership fee of ENQA in 2010. The loan should be repaid in 2013. In addition EAALS received a small grant in 2010 of 300€ to cover the printing of flyers and a banner stand in order to promote EAALS. There was no other income and expenditure in 2010.

10. Ratification of new members of ICA

The General Assembly ratified the following institutions as full members of ICA:

- Azerbaijan State Agricultural University
- Saratov State Agrarian University
- Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences

Associate Member status was granted to:

- Science and Methodology Centre for Agricultural Education of the Ministry of Agricultural

Policy of Ukraine

11. Ratification of suspension of members not paying subscriptions

There were no members at risk of suspension by the ICA General Assembly

12. Appointment of Auditors for the 2011 accounts

Mr. Philippe Caron, Institut Polytechnique Lasalle Beauvais, and Prof. Ludwig Lauwers, from the University of Gent were appointed by the General Assembly to be auditors for the ICA accounts for 2011.

13. Statement by incoming President

Guido Van Huylenbroeck said that he welcomed the opportunity of becoming President of ICA and steering ICA over the coming year. The main activity in which he was taking the lead was the ICA Rectors and Deans Forum to be held at Ghent University from 3 to 4 November 2011. The Forum would address *Life Science Universities and Faculties: Meeting Challenges and Expectations*. The objective was to discuss the future development of our universities and faculties in making a unique contribution to the development of the rural economy, and the food and non-food chains. Our stakeholders had been invited to make presentations in order to allow participants to place the contribution of universities in the wider context.

Guido Van Huylenbroeck concluded by thanking Philippe Choquet for his contribution to ICA during his Presidency. The GCHERA conference, led by ICA and APLU, would in the following days start the discussion on how can support ICA members reaching out globally. Philippe Choquet, through his initiative to reform GCHERA as a Confederation of Higher Educations Associations, has established a framework to allow such discussion to proceed in a meaningful way.

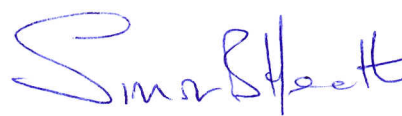
14. Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting was closed by Guido Van Huylenbroeck

Minutes approved at the ICA General Assembly held on June 20 2012 at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano



Guido Van Huylenbroeck
Chair



Dr Simon Heath
Secretary General

