

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY (ISS/SIC)

ISS/SIC General Assembly 2015
at Centara Convention Centre, Bangkok

Thursday, August 27, 2015
Convention A1 Room at 11.15 a.m.

Minutes General Assembly 2015

77 Members of ISS/SIC which includes the Executive Committee members plus additional 24 guests (various Travel Scholars) are present.

1) Call to order and address by the President of ISS/SIC

President N. Wora-Urai calls the meeting to order and asks for a minute of silence in memory of the Secretary General Jean-Claude Givel who passed away at the first day of the congress.

The president states that the invitation and new constitution were provided by mail and in the June Newsletter in good time. After no changes to the agenda were required, he opens the GA officially at 11.20.

2) Report by the Secretary General

In view of the very unexpected passing away of Secretary General J.C. Givel, Treasurer S. Pillay who was appointed in an emergency meeting on Sunday, August 23, 2015 as SG ad interim for the period of the congress, provides the membership report. Measures to increase the active membership and to strengthen the National Chapters are the main goals for the future.

3) Vote on the new Constitution as proposed by the Executive Committee

President Wora-Urai recalls that the new Constitution was sent to all members in the June Newsletter and was published on-line in good time. A group of prominent members proposed acceptance of the same but requested that the historic name of the society must remain as before INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY/SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DE CHIRURGIE (ISS/SIC). The Executive Committee approved this change and therefore also propose acceptance. The new Constitution with the historic Society name was accepted by vote of a large majority and only 2 votes against. The new constitution under the historic name of the society is in force with this GA.

4) Change of Administrative Office per January 1, 2016

The General Assembly is informed that the Executive Committee has approved the change of the administrative office to Twister Consulting company in Zurich which will become effective on January 1, 2016. M. Iliopoulos will take over as Administrative Director of ISS/SIC at this date. The Officers will work out a contract for an initial period with Twister Consulting.

5) World Journal of Surgery

Editor in Chief J. Hunter provides his report and the one of the publisher Springer New York. The journal is in sound condition and a new and advantageous contract with Springer has been signed late in 2014 retrospectively to January 1, 2014. ISS/SIC members are still offered the paper copy of the journal besides the electronic version which includes access to 10 other surgical journals.

The list of new Members of the Editorial Board is presented and all are accepted “en globo” by acclamation. The list of name is published WJS in of September.

6) Report by the General Treasurer

The audited Statements of Accounts 2013 & 2014 and the report of the auditors by Weidinger & Partner Chur as of the distributed folder is presented by S. Pillay. In the following vote, the statements of accounts 2013 and 2014 are unanimously accepted.

The Budgets for 2016 and 2017 given in US Dollars only are based on the new dues structure in Swiss Francs (CHF) and other income in US Dollars. A profit of US Dollar 67'685 will result for 2016 respectively USD 50'337 for 2017. In the vote after some further explanations the members approve the presented Budgets 2016 & 2017 unanimously.

S. Pillay explains that the change of the dues structure foresees that charges in Swiss Francs will apply for the Membership Fees 2016 & 2017. By this measure the budgeted income and expenses for the office in Switzerland can be granted. The members present at the General Assembly unanimously accept the annual dues for 2016 and 2017 to be charged in Swiss Francs of CHF 180.00.

The Office of the Auditors Weidinger and Partner in Chur is elected for an additional term of 2 years i.e. until the next General Assembly by unanimous vote.

7) Report by the Secretary-Treasurer of ISS-Foundation

ISS-Foundation Secretary General Jay Grosfeld informs about the activities, the Finances and the awarding of 10 Travel grants of each US \$ 4'000.- at WCS 2015. The same is planned for WCS 2017.

J. Grosfeld hands over the Secretary-Treasurer of ISS-Foundation to Past ISS-President Mike. Sarr; USA with this GA and the exchange of Board members will apply according to the rotation agreement. N. Wora-Urai will become ISSF President. J. Grosfeld is thanked by M. Sarr for his ongoing support over more than a decade. The election of M. Sarr as successor is approved by acclamation by the General Assembly.

8) End of term and election of Officers

President Wora-Urai informs that the term in office of the following committee members comes to an end with this GA. Göran Åkerström, Sweden, Past President; Adam Dziki, Poland, Councilor at large and Yuko Kitagawa, Japan, Councilor at large. All are thanked by acclamation.

The nomination by the Nominating Committee for the election of the President-elect 2015 – 2017 of ISS/SIC, Alberto Ferreres, Argentina is accepted by unanimous vote.

Furthermore the new Councilors at large, Rowan Parks, United Kingdom and Seigo Kitano, Japan are confirmed and elected also by unanimous vote.

Information and Confirmation of election of the Representatives of Collective Members (former Integrated Societies) in the ISS/SIC Executive Committee 2015 – 2017 is given as follows:
ASAP: Stephen Bickler, USA; IAES: Dimitrios Linos, Greece; IATSIC: Manjul K. Joshipura, India; IASMEN: Dileep Lobo, United Kingdom; BSI: Cheng Har Yip, Malaysia and ISDS: Alberto Ferreres, Argentina

After acceptance of the new constitution, the election of 3 members of the Court of Honor is required. The candidates: Felix Harder, Switzerland; Masaki Kitajima, Japan and Ronald V. Maier, USA are approved by acclamation. All of them have indicated acceptance.

Information is given that because of the vacancy of the post of the Secretary General, the Executive Committee has elected on August 26, 2015 Felix Harder as Secretary General ad interim until the end of March 2016 and Victor Bertschi as Executive Director until the end of 2016. Both have accepted election. A new Secretary General will be elected in March 2016.

9) Confirmation of ISS/SIC President

M. Patti is officially confirmed President of ISS/SIC 2015 – 2017 and Congress President of WCS2017 in Buenos Aires by the symbolic hand-over of the President's chain by Past President N. Wora-Urai.

10) Address by the new Society President

New ISS/SIC President M. Patti, thanks for his election and hands over the Past President plaque to N. Wora-Urai and informs about his future plans and program as president

11) Election of Congress Vice Presidents WCS 2017

The election of the ISS/SIC Congress Vice Presidents is postponed but will include presidents of South American surgical societies. The elections by the 6 collective members (past presidents of form Integrated Societies) have been received and are confirmed.

12) WCS 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

LOC President A. Ferreres and MCI Representative R. Haller provide their report. Place and date are confirmed to be from August 27 to 31, 2017 at Buenos Aires Sheraton Hotel. It is aimed to motivate many South American National Societies to take part actively. Promotion campaigns are well under way. All Members are kindly invited to attend.

13) WCS 2019 – information

The GA is informed that the ExCom of ISS/SIC is favoring Cracow, Poland to host WCS 2019. Further investigations are needed so that only in March 2016 a final decision can be expected.

14) Varia

After no further item under Varia came up, ISS-President M. Patti closes the meeting at 12.45 by thanking all who have attended this meeting.

Lupsingen, September 30, 2015
Victor Bertschi
For the minutes