IAA Health Section Committee

Minutes of Meeting
held in Rome, 16 June 2005

Attendees:
Howard Bolnick (Chairman)
Ibrahim Muhanna (Vice Chairman)
Yair Babad (Treasurer) (by telephone)
John Bertko (by telephone)
Alvaro Castro
Sue Elliott (by telephone)
Claude Ferguson (by telephone)
Aisling Kennedy (Secretary)
Rainer Fürhaupter
Giovanna Ferrara
Brent Walker (by telephone)

Observers
Avi Bar-Or
Richard Madden
Graham Rogers
Ulrich Stellman

Apologies
Shaun Matisonn

1. Financial matters

Howard Bolnick reported that the fee charged by the secretariat to the sections will be raised in 2006 from CAD$3 to CAD$5 per member.

It has also been requested that the each of the sections produce a budget for 2006, so that, in future, outturn can be measured against budget. This is required by mid-August – Yair Babad will prepare it.

It was noted that the section fee of CAD$40 – which is the same across all of the sections - has not been increased for a number of years. It may be appropriate therefore to consider increasing the fee to CAD$50 per member. Howard will contact the other section chairs to discuss this issue. It will be necessary to make a formal decision in this regard at the committee’s next meeting in Rio in November.
The matter of waiver of dues for those whose circumstances are constrained (in particular, actuaries from developing countries) has been on the committee’s agenda for some time, but has not been concluded. It was agreed that Yair should prepare a recommendation on this for the committee to consider at its next meeting. Aisling Kennedy will arrange a conference call for Yair, Aisling and Ibrahim Muhanna to discuss the formulation of this recommendation.

2. Website

IAAHS will soon have its own URL so that the IAAHS pages on the IAA website can be reached directly. Howard will forward this to Aisling when it is provided by Christian Levac. Aisling is to review the website pages by the end of June, and will then do an update to members about the website and the direct URL.

3. ASTIN Journal

As noted at the Council meeting, ASTIN would welcome papers from other sections for its bulletin. It was agreed that IAAHS would volunteer Yair Babad to act as co-editor. In time, the topic teams should provide a source for potential papers; however, a key element of the role of the co-editor will be to reach out to potential authors.

4. Committee membership

Due to a change in the nature of his work responsibilities, which no longer include health matters, Rainer Fürhaupter tendered his resignation from the committee. Rainer’s resignation was accepted with regret, and the Chairman thanked him for his major contribution to the development of IAAHS since its inception.

In accordance with Article 9(c) of the section’s rules, it was proposed that Ulrich Stellman should be appointed to fill the vacancy on the committee until the next General Meeting, and this was unanimously agreed.

It was noted that it would be important to advise section members of changes to the membership of the committee, which also include the appointment of Sue Elliott to fill the vacancy created by David Paul’s resignation. Aisling Kennedy will ensure that this is addressed via an appropriate formal notification on the website.

5. ICA2006

Claude Ferguson provided an update in relation to planning for ICA2006 in Paris. IAAHS has been allocated a day and a half on the final two days of the congress i.e. Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd June, which will mean that health actuaries need only attend the 2nd half of congress. IAAHS will be welcome to run as many concurrent sessions as we wish. It will also be possible to duplicate some of the sessions earlier in the week to facilitate actuaries who are only attending the 1st half of congress.
Claude has received a good response from topic teams as to proposed content for the topic-related sessions. He is satisfied that these proposals are suitable and it is not envisaged that the content for the IAAHS part of the programme will need to be reviewed by the scientific committee for the congress.

Additional topics proposed during the course of the meeting included:
- health insurance regulation (recent developments in Australia, Canada, Germany, South Africa and the UK were mentioned in this regard)
- issues in developing insurance markets (e.g. China, India and Vietnam).

Ibrahim Muhanna undertook to ask one of the senior health economists in the World Bank to speak, and Richard Madden will ask a senior person from WHO.

The intention is to finalise the structure of the programme by the end of July and then allocate responsibility for recruiting speakers. The programme will need to be finalised as soon as possible thereafter. It was agreed that a conference call would be arranged to discuss the outline programme when it is available. It was noted that the Paris organising committee may still be willing to fund one or two keynote speakers for the health track, if necessary. The need to ensure that the programme is of high quality and attractive to members was noted; some filtering of material submitted may therefore be necessary.

The committee noted the need to communicate actively and regularly to members about the congress over the coming months. Claude will arrange with the secretariat for an initial communiqué over the next week or two to advise members that the health “track” will occur during the second half of congress, so that they can, if desired, book during the initial booking period which closes at the end of July. Claude will also prepare a brief communication plan for the coming months. Howard and Aisling will take responsibility for communication to the main groups of health actuaries who are not IAAHS members, through the IAA member associations, notably, in Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, UK, US, and through the section’s liaison members.

There will likely be 3 – 6 bursaries available for health actuaries. The committee will need to consider how to determine recommendations for possible recipients of such bursaries. Recommendations will be needed will in advance of the Rio meeting.

5. Cape Town 2007

No update was available from the organising committee for the 2007 colloquium in 2007. The committee will need to become involved actively in preparations for the 2007 colloquium from the Rio meeting onwards.
6. **2008 colloquium**

Possible options that had been considered for a colloquium in 2008 included Canada and the UK. Claude Ferguson provided an update on discussions within the CIA in this regard. The CIA is willing in principle to help IAAHS organise a colloquium, and has asked for clarification as to how the finances would work. A meeting in June or November 2008 would be possible. The committee suggested that November would be preferable, given other events taking place in the first half of the year.

7. **Topic teams**

Howard Bolnick noted that, based on the list circulated, there are 66 actuaries from 19 countries involved in the topic teams; since the list was circulated, another 4 or 5 actuaries have joined. It was noted that most of the topic teams are now actively making progress. John Bertko undertook to make contact with Lori in this regard. Howard asked for feedback on progress to date, and how the committee can best provide support to the topic teams.

Howard noted that the Traditional Medicine team has asked for support, and in particular is looking for participation from Germany. Rainer Fürhaupter expressed doubt as to whether there would be interest in Germany in this topic, but undertook to make some inquiries. It was noted that a report prepared in Australia some years ago on Chinese medicine may be of interest to the team. Some concerns were expressed about the subject matter of this topic team, and it was noted that there is a need to ensure that the team maintains a scientific and/or financial focus, in considering traditional/alternative/complementary therapies.

Sue Elliott reported on progress made by the Critical Illness team. The team is keen to post content and web links to the website. It was agreed that material that any of the topic teams want to post to the website should be forwarded to Aisling Kennedy, who will liaise with Christian Levac in this regard.

Avi Bar-or reported on the Long Term Care topic team. He is keen to recruit additional team members. Ulrich Stellman and Sue Elliott will nominate potential German and UK members respectively. Participation is also sought from Australia.

Alvaro Castro reported on the Developing Countries topic team. He intends to have a first draft of a report available for review by the committee by the Autumn. The intention is to cover general trends and selected countries’ experiences, rather than try to cover every developing country. He noted the need for action – rather than reporting only - in developing countries. The committee noted that it would be preferable not to try to tie down the deliverables too much at this stage, whilst discussion of the issues is still evolving.
An issue for this team is that replies to Alvaro’s initial inquiries have been received in French and Spanish as well as in English. It was noted that there is an automatic translation facility on the IAA website.

It was noted that it would be beneficial to involve actuaries from developing countries in all of the topic teams.

It was also noted that there will be some overlap between the work of the Developing Countries topic team and the Public-Private Partnerships topic team chaired by Howard Bolnick, although Howard’s team is more concerned with developments in developed countries. In time, it may be appropriate to combine these two teams, with separate sub-teams for specific topics.

Graham Rogers noted that public health is an area where IAAHS may be able to make a significant contribution. A lot of Australian members are working in Asia, and Graham Rogers will identify contacts who can help to provide information on Asian countries. He noted also that a lot of work is being done in Australia on medical workforces and long term resource planning, which may be of interest to IAAHS.

Howard Bolnick noted that it would be preferable that each topic team would either be chaired by a committee member or have a committee member on the team. He also asked that each member of the committee consider joining one of the topic teams if they have not already done so.

Howard concluded the discussion on the topic teams by noting that the section has made a big commitment to the topic teams and that we need to focus now on supporting their work. He will try again to organise a conference call for the team leaders.

8. Online journal

Yair Babad provided a brief update on the online journal. The issue of how to get members and others involved in putting forward material for inclusion is an ongoing one.

9. Any other business

Giovanna Ferrara noted that there is a need for the section to consider various matters related to the pricing and management of health insurance business, including employer-sponsored plans. It was noted that material is available via various IAA member associations that could usefully be documented and/or cross-referenced on the IAAHS website pages.

The next meeting of the committee will take place in Rio in November – date and time to be confirmed.