

## Minutes from the **UV4Plants General Assembly**

30th of May, 2016

Pécs, Hungary

1. Chair (Marcel Jansen) opens the meeting 18.15h. 44 members attended, and signed the register.

2. Agenda accepted

3. Matthew Robson treasurer (presents finances)

### 3.1 Inception of UV4plants - Finances

- Our aim is to break even and use our finances to the benefit of the members
- But caution is required (before overreaching ourselves with the budget) during the first years because we need to establish the reputation and niche for the organisation.

### 3.2 Banking and Business

- After pursuing a range of options, I opened a Business Account at Nordea on 12-11-2014 (leading Scandinavian Banks) for expenditure on scientific activities, at Helsinki Business Branch.
- Most economic option available (with no frills).
- Pedro J Aphalo has co-authorisation to deal with the account.
- Not registered as a small business since our turnover is low enough not to pay tax or VAT (this is likely to change because of the conference turnover).
- The bank keeps a copy of the rules.
- No overdraft facility (as specified in the rules)presents incomes and expenditures

### 3.3 Sources of Income (as of 23/05/2016)

- Membership (2015 = 2375€; 2016 = 2625€)
- Conference + Training School (8290€ + 1300€ – bank fees of 115€ = 9475€ )

### 3.4 Expenditure

- Conference (est. budget 7170€)
- Bulletin & Website (358€)
- Advertisement / Printing (215€)
- Bank fees (monthly service fee 7-10 € + Foreign Currency Fee 6.25€)

Most members have paid directly themselves, but an increasing number ask their university to paid for them. Dealing with the institutions is worse than dealing with the individuals, because the institutions have full-time administrators who are happy to stipulate a lots of criteria before they will pay. This was not quite what I envisaged when the started up, and it might be necessary to charge an admin fee when dealing with institutions directly.

### 3.5 UV4Plants Members

- Personal Members (50€) 32 in 2015, 41 in 2016 (renewals at 81% in 2016, 15 new members)

- Student Members (25€) 11 in 2015, 23 in 2016 (renewals at 64% in 2016, 15 new members)
- Institutional/Corporate Members (250 €) 1 in 2015 (Valoya Oy) 0 in 2016.
- In 2016 each member has received a personal receipt from me by email. On request they receive an invoice prior to payment

Several institutions paid lump-sums for their members, e.g. Ljubiana and Ostrava universities. The increase in membership is superficially healthy...but, most 2016 members joined or renewed only in response to the conference. 10 members from 2015 failed to renew their membership in 2016.

### 3.6 Conference & TS income

- Income: Fees for registration (62: 39 early and 23 late) and training school (15 paid),
- Sponsorship Biology PhD School of Univ Pécs (unknown amount) European Society for Photobiology.
- Expenditure: Catering, Venue, Prizes, Printing Abstracts etc.
- Reimbursement of four external keynote speakers. Only the keynote speakers were reimbursed their travel and accommodation by uv4plants. Reminder that this ad hoc Management Committee were not elected and that finances didn't allow for some members to be reimbursed and others not, so it was decided by the Management Committee that none members of their members would be reimbursed for the conference from uv4plants funds. The budget for the conference and TS is balanced in as far as the UV4plants contribution is covered by registration fees.

3.7 End of year balance for 2015 (967.44€) and 2016 (2130.57€) Current balance, prior to costs from conference and TS (11351.36€)

Questions to treasurer: no

4. Membership data were presented as part of the treasurers report (see above)

5. Communications officer (Pedro J. Aphalo) reports

website

- 4 based on wordpress
- 5 5.640 visits since start

bulletin

- 6 open access
- 7 has ISSN number
- 8 2 issues, 7 articles each, 2 editorials each
- 9 subject editors – Paul Barnes (Loyola University New Orleans) is to be invited to represent non-European members
- 10 2 issues/year are planned
- 11 DOI registration process has started (aim to increase visibility)
- 12 illustration copyrights are to be handled carefully
- 13 further information on Bulletin posted/distributed at the present conference

a flyer was distributed at ESP 2015 to advertise UV4Plants

Question to the communications officer: NO

## 6. Amendments to the Rules (Gyula Czégény)

75:25 majority is needed to change rules

members vote by showing hands

chair: role of former president are specific advising

### **former rules:**

rule 5.4

The Managing Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer, and two ordinary members. When not enough members are available to serve on the Managing Committee, the number of members on the Committee may temporarily be reduced, and/or officers may assume multiple functions. The number of officers and members on the Managing Committee shall not be less than 4.

rule 7.11

At the GM the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Communications Officer, and the two ordinary members of the Committee, who are to be elected by the Committee shall be elected in that order for the following two years.

### **new rules:**

rule 5.4

The Managing Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Former president or former deputy president, and two ordinary members. When not enough members are available to serve on the Managing Committee, the number of members on the Committee may temporarily be reduced, and/or officers may assume multiple functions. The number of officers and members on the Managing Committee shall not be less than 4.

rule 5.10

The responsibilities of the former (deputy) president shall include: Advising the current president and deputy president on all matters relevant to the association.

Rules 5.10 – 5.16 to be renumbered 5.11 – 5.17.

7.11

At the GM the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Communications Officer, Former president or former deputy president and the two ordinary members of the Committee, who are to be elected by the Committee shall be elected in that order for the following two years.

## VOTING

approve: 37

against: 0

Rule changes were approved and became valid per immediate.

## 7. Amendments to the Rules (Gyula Czégény)

### former rule:

7.12 Nominations for the positions of any of the Officers or ordinary Committee members may be taken from the floor or submitted in writing to the Secretary twenty-one days in advance of the GM at which the election is to be held. Proposed names shall be circulated to the members by the Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

### new rule:

7.12 Nominations for the positions of any of the Officers or ordinary Committee members may be submitted in writing to the Secretary twenty-one days in advance of the GM at which the election is to be held. Proposed names shall be circulated to the members by the Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

## VOTING

approve: 40

against: 0

Rule changes were approved and became valid from the next GM.

## 8. Amendments to the Rules (Gyula Czégény)

### former rule:

7.11 At the GM the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Communications Officer, and the two ordinary members of the Committee, who are to be elected by the Committee shall be elected in that order for the following two years.

### new rule:

7.11 At the GM the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Communications Officer, and the two ordinary members of the Committee, who are to be elected by the Committee shall be elected in that order for the following two years. The candidate receiving most votes in a single choice ballot is deemed to be elected. In case of a tie, the chair of the meeting may cast the deciding vote.

## VOTING

approve: 40

against: 0

Rule changes were approved and became valid per immediate.

## 9. Amendments to the Rules (Gyula Czégény)

### **former rule:**

5.4 The Managing Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer and two ordinary members. When not enough members are available to serve on the Managing Committee, the number of members on the Committee may temporarily be reduced, and/or officers may assume multiple functions. The number of officers and members on the Managing Committee shall not be less than 4.

### **new rule:**

5.4 The Managing Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer and two, three, or four ordinary members. When not enough members are available to serve on the Managing Committee, the number of members on the Committee may temporarily be reduced, and/or officers may assume multiple functions. The number of officers and members on the Managing Committee shall not be less than 4.

### **VOTING**

approve: 40

against: 0

Rule changes were approved and became valid per immediate.

## 10. Proposal to elect Prof Lars-Olof Björn to honorary lifetime member of UV4Plants (Marcel Jansen & Pedro J. Aphalo)

Pedro J. Aphalo gave a short overview of Lars-Olof's career and is one of the most influential figures of plant UV research, collaborating with many others and giving valuable advice to all. He is an active emeritus professor and it was suggested to invite him to the next conference.

### **VOTING**

Proposal was unanimously accepted.

## 11. Members propose to scrap Rule 3.3

### **former rule:**

3.3 Up to 30st of April 2015, members of the former COST-Action UV4Growth are entitled to enrol into the Association without restrictions. Others, as well as those applying for membership after the 31st of December 2014, will need a proposer from within the existing membership of the Association.

Rule 3.4 – 3.6 to be renumbered 3.3 – 3.5

### **VOTING**

approve: 38

against: 0

Rule changes were approved and became valid per immediate.

## 12. Election

chair: Javier Martínez-Abaigar to lead this part of the proceedings

No new names put forward from the floor.

**President candidate:** Gareth Jenkins

In his speech Prof Jenkins thanked the former president and deputy-president for the initiative UV4Growth/UV4Plants. Prof Jenkins emphasized that UV4Plants is a community and it is there to do what members wish it to do. Prof Jenkins said that he wanted to discuss with members about what is important for them. Examples are regular conferences, bulletin maintain and website. Prof Jenkins stated the importance of increased membership including non-European membership.

questions to candidate: NO (candidate leaves soon)

### **VOTING**

President was unanimously elected.

**Deputy-president candidate:** Éva Hideg

Prof Hideg in her speech mentioned the importance of using social media to reach young UV researchers who are possible new members of UV4Plants.

### **VOTING**

Deputy-president was unanimously elected.

**Secretary candidate:** Gyula Czégény

### **VOTING**

Secretary was unanimously elected.

**Treasurer candidate:** Matthew Robson

### **VOTING**

Treasurer was unanimously elected.

**Communications officer candidate:** Pedro J. Aphalo

### **VOTING**

Communications officer was unanimously elected.

**Former-president candidate:** Marcel Jansen

Former-president was unanimously elected.

**Ordinary member candidates:** Susanne Neugart

Marie-Theres Hauser

Alan Jones

Ordinary members were unanimously elected.

Former-president thanked Åke Strid and Laura Llorens for valuable their contributions to both UV4Growth and UV4Plants. The former-president thanked Åke Strid for all the support he had received from high throughout the years, and Laura Llorens for her active role in organising several UV4Growth meetings.

### 13. Future activities of UV4Plants (Gareth Jenkins)

GJ calls members to put forward ideas.

Proper use of units to measure UV-B was suggested as a subject for future discussion.

Training schools are important, should continue.

It was proposed to have a conference in every two years.

Fellowships to support visits to labs of UV4Plants were discussed.

It was proposed to strengthen a „market-place” for collaborations on website.

New means of communication needed to target young members.

It was discussed how to expand non-European members, but keep European based.

It was proposed to facilitate joined experiments.

### 14. Global Plant Council (GPC) (Pedro J. Aphalo)

- He presented the opportunity to join GPC.
- Cost to join can be partly waived if the association is not profit oriented based on the income of the society.
- our benefit is visibility.
- 300 EUR/year waivers may apply.
- consider possibility (GPC announced our conference and website visits of UV4Plants increased).
- It was considered to be worth exploring; costs and conditions should be enquired.

### 15. AOB (Gareth Jenkins)

nothing

16. Closure meeting at 20.15h