

Minutes of SFRR-International General Assembly: Orlando 2010

Held during the SFRR-International Biennial Meeting / SFRBM meeting on SATURDAY, 20th November 2010, 12:30 to 13:00 at the Caribe Royale Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida, USA

Present: The President (Angelo Azzi), President-Elect (Malcolm Jackson), Secretary-General (Michael Davies), the Treasurer (Henry Forman) and a considerable number of members of the society.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cesar Fraga.
2. **Approval of the agenda:** Approved
3. **Minutes of the General Assembly held in Beijing, 2002:** Approved
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting:** All covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

5. Report of the President:

The President outlined a number of initiatives that had been progressed over the last two years to improve the society and its finances:

- a) Establishment of the SFRR-Foundation. The establishment of this Foundation and its accompanying tax-free status would potentially benefit Society fundraising as it would allow both commercial / industrial donors and individuals to make donations to the Society in a tax-advantageous manner. An attorney has provided a draft set of articles of association for the Foundation and these are being progressed with the addition of details provided by the officers of SFRR-I. It was noted that the officers of the Foundation would be the President, Past-President, President-Elect, Secretary-General and Treasurer of SFRR-I and that the holding of these offices would be coincident with and entirely dependent on the holding of identical offices with SFRR-I. This would maintain complete alignment of objectives and aims of the two bodies.
- b) Potential new SFRR-I journal. Prof. Azzi had contacted several publishing houses with regard to the potential formation of a new journal and some interest had resulted. The current preferred scenario was for an open-access, web-only, short communication journal on Transnational research. This would minimise potential overlap and conflict with existing journals. As many of the international committee had conflicts of interest with regard to this proposal, Prof. Azzi would draft a discussion document that would be circulated and discussed by the regional societies, with feedback requested from the regions as to desirability of this suggestion.
- c) Professional Conference Organisers for future Biennial Meetings. The potential use of professional conference organisation teams for future meetings is being explored. As these have both advantages, and also some possible down-sides, this was being exploring in depth. Elsevier would be carrying out this function for the 2012 London meeting. Prof. Jackson would progress this further.

6. Report of the Secretary General.

- a) The international committee has met typically twice per year. Further business conducted electronically between meetings
- b) Website (www.sfrr.org) is being constantly updated. Includes up-to-date list of meetings and web / email links. Details of future meetings can be submitted to: daviesm@hri.org.au
- c) Conference listing and other items emailed out ~ 2 per year.
- c) Website includes minutes of meetings, presentations, contact details for each regional society
- d) SFRR-I has supported several meetings including two Free Radical Schools – one in Europe and one in Japan
- e) Supported awards for young scientists

7. Report of the Treasurer.

The Treasurer outlined the current financial situation of the international society and reported on spending over the last few years. He emphasised that spending was necessarily limited at present by the low level of income (chiefly from dues and a low level of interest on an interest-bearing account), as a result of the global financial situation. The majority of the available funds over the previous two years had been spent on two Free Radical Schools (Greece and Japan), the Biennial meeting in Orlando. This expenditure accounted for ~ 80% of the available funds. Smaller sums had been allocated for the website and support of meetings in developing countries. Further details can be found in the attached file.

8. Report of the President Elect: Nothing additional to add

9. Elections:

Single nominations had been received for each of the vacant positions, and each of the nominated candidates had confirmed that they wished to stand for election. In the absence of any other nominations the meeting approved the election of:

Prof. Michael Davies as President-Elect

Prof. Giovanni Mann as Secretary-General

Prof. Cesar (Billy) Fraga as Treasurer

These candidates will take office in the relevant positions from 1/1/2011.

10. Future meetings:

The next Biennial meeting is scheduled to be held in London, UK, from Sept 6-9th 2012.

No decision has yet been made as to the venue for the proposed Biennial Meeting for 2014. The members of the society and affiliated regions were encouraged to discuss possible bids for this meeting with their regional societies. The proposed timetable for decision making was outlined as: initial expressions of interest by end June 2011, refinement of bids over the period July-November 2011, with a final decision to be made in November 2011. Further details of the bidding process and the required information and format, could be obtained from the current Secretary-General (daviesm@hri.org.au) who would welcome all enquiries and expressions of interest.

11. SFRR Foundation: Covered in President's report.

12. Any other matters:

a) In answer to a question from the floor, it was noted that this meeting was not the first joint meeting of SFRBM and SFRR-I, with previous meetings held in Pasadena and that the Buenos Aires meeting had also been held in the SFRBM region, though under a different format. It was noted that it would be desirable to have more regular joint meetings of a similar format to the current meeting, and this Orlando meeting had been very well organised, of a very high quality and had attracted very large numbers of people.

b) It was suggested by a speaker from the floor, that it might be highly advantageous to plan Biennial meetings further in advance than is currently being achieved. It was agreed by other speakers that this was desirable, and it was noted that many other societies managed to achieve this. These comments were noted and would be acted upon as soon as possible. In the light of these comments, expressions of interest for hosting Biennial meetings in 2016 and 2018 would be welcomed.

c) President-Elect, Malcolm Jackson thanked Prof. Angelo Azzi for all his considerable work as SFRR-I President. He also thanked Prof. Henry Forman for his extensive and long-standing work as SFRR-I Treasurer during a particularly difficult time. He thanked Prof. Davies for his work as Secretary-General.

13. Next General Assembly: To be held during the XVIth SFRR-International Biennial meeting, London, UK, Sept 6-9th 2012.