

Ethics Committee Teleconference March 2015 Minutes

Attendees: Nina Davis (Chair), Suzanne Hagen, Andrew Farkas, Ruwan Fernando, Tom Rosenbaum.

Apologies: Alvaro Bedoya-Rong

Also in attendance: Jenny Ellis

1. Approval of Rio and Teleconference minutes

ND asked committee to approve. SH first, TR second.

2. Number and composition of EC

ND advised that David Castro-Diaz has been assigned to the committee in an ex-officio capacity. ND wanted to make committee aware of this as he might be involved in committee calls going forward. TR thinks that committee needs to be independent of the Board. AF thinks this is a negative response, having a trustee liaising with the committee would be beneficial. TR I think the liaison will hamper the work of the committee. JE advised that this role is to assist the committee and strengthen communication. ND no hand over from Ed so not sure of any past issues, communications with Board, in relation to this but I think it will work well. TR thinks the purpose of the committee is not to have interference with external communications e.g. pharmaceutical, WHO, Board etc.

ND read the purpose of David on the committee asked Jenny to send to all committee members.

Action: Send Board info to all committee members.

Postscript: Please see below correspondence from David:

Subject: Committee's Trustee liaison

To Nina Davis

Chair of the ICS Ethics Committee

Dear Nina

Following on from the Committee Consultation in 2014 and the Board of Trustee meeting in January, I am emailing you to confirm that I will be your Committee's Trustee liaison. My role is to assist your committee (as a non-voting member) to improve communication between the Board and Committees, in both directions. I will therefore have the dual role of advocating the work of your committee and ensuring that committee work is governed within the strategic direction of the ICS.

My responsibilities include:

- Attendance at formal meetings of the committee (face to face and teleconference)*
- Keeping abreast of committee activity by involvement in email discussions, projects and in reading all minutes and reports.*

- *Formal report of committee activities to Board. These will not replace the formal committee reports of the Chair.*
- *Formal report on Board activities to the committee.*
- *To act as source of ad hoc advice to Chairmen of committees.*
- *To act as lead trustee for annual revisions to your committee's terms of reference document. To work with the committee Chair to ensure the terms of reference fit committee and ICS strategy.*

Jenny will shortly be adding me to your committee member's page so that I can be involved in the day to day discussions of the group. I therefore wanted to highlight this to you before I am added on to the page.

Should you have any questions regarding this change or your committee's projects then please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Kind regards

David Castro-Diaz

SH asked if the remit is the same for all committees? ND confirmed that it was. TR thinks that it changes the ethics committee. ND thinks what's being asked is reasonable. TR thinks that the committee needs to be independent to do their role, this should be discussed at AGM. AF thinks it may change the committee for the better, we may have more to do. I don't think it would be unreasonable to ask to discuss our work privately. JE thinks it would be possible to ask David to step out if you need to discuss issues without Board involvement. ND we have a new GS and strategy, it's changing, our committee has done a fantastic job in Rio and we need to see how it goes with the liaison. ND proposed that the committee wait and see, see how it goes, the Board of Trustees are trying too and trying to get the ICS moving forward. TR asked what everyone thinks? SH agrees with Nina, need to wait and see. ND asked if TR wants to make a motion? TR yes, this needs to be discussed at the AGM further.

Action: Discuss the role of the committee and Board of Trustees liaison at the AGM

TR I feel this changes the essence of the committee and our meetings and should be known to the membership. JE advised that maybe a call with Adrian and David would be beneficial, it would clarify the role and the committee can voice their concerns- before it goes to the membership. RF agrees clarification would be useful. TR concerned that the committee might not be seen as impartial to the membership as we have a member of the Board on it. ND thinks this would be a good idea to discuss this further. TR doesn't have an issue with executive sitting in and not voting but would like to reserve the right to voice concerns during the meeting. Need to clarify that ex-officio is non-voting?

Action: Office to check that ex-officio is non-voting.

Post script note:

Page 2 of the [ICS bylaws](#): General Secretary is a non-voting ex-officio member of all ICS committees. Therefore a member of the Board on a committee as ex-officio would be non-voting.

2. TOR

ND before we change our TOR we need to discuss the composition of the committee. RF which speciality is missing? SH missing a nurse. ND would the committee like a nurse or paediatric member? Some committees have geriatrician or trainee members, so something to consider. TR what does the executive want us to do (projects), ND doing annual meeting project. What happens if work load increases? ND just asking committee based on TOR, all aspects. ND we have the opportunity to co-opt people for projects, so we can have expertise on projects. TR so you think we need to be seen to be more representative? ND I think a nurse offers a different perspective for the committee. TR more young people is very important. ND agrees, just thinking of ideas, we don't want the committee to get too big.

Motion: Membership at 10 people and amend page 2, 1 other rather than 2.

Second: SH. All in favour- yes. Passed.

SH what happens if no one from that discipline applies? Do we take anyone? ND yes, I think so. Trustees have introduced a criteria to assist committee when choosing people to join, so we can use that to help select the best person for the job.

Action: JE to specify nurse/ paediatric specialist/other/scientist in nominations.

ND preference in another scientist, asked if SH staying on after Montreal? SH yes, I have a 1 year extension. Doug Small suggested by AF. SH suggested Jim. ND asked members to ask people to apply.

ND reviewed TOR functions, committee suggested moving the functions around. Nina feels that educational is missing, AF 5 is educational. ND thinks needs to be broader and number 1, most people thought it should be 2 or 3. AF thinks 5 should be 3 and broader, 1 and 2 should be moved around. SH how would it be broader, year round courses? ND wasn't thinking year round but good idea. AF can organise an on-going educational programme in line with the ICS strategic aims and AGM. ND settling any ethical questions coming up during the year. AF happy to keep 4 further down the list, ND this is part of the bylaws. ND agrees nearer the bottom. TR does the order matter? ND thinks it does. TR thinks as long as it is in the terms of reference then it doesn't matter. ND thinks there's too many points, 4 & 7 should be combined. AF thinks they should be separate and kept in same order.

ND outlined 3 aims of strategy: education, finance and science.

JE suggested educational could be short videos or articles for ICS news and social media. This would be good for committee and ICS publications. ND agreed this would be good educational content.

Amend point 3- shouldn't be based on Board of Trustees, should just be time to time. Don't need to wait to be asked, just do it when see fit. "as the committee see's fit and as requested by the Board of Trustees."

ND need to include maintaining the values of ICS.

ND is purpose sufficient? All members happy with the wording. ND composition- amend GS to GS or designated Board rep. ND asked if we need subcommittees? All think not! SH thinks that whilst we shouldn't have subcommittee, projects should be split into smaller groups. ND agrees, not a subcommittee but a group working together.

Meetings: Don't need to specify number of meetings but should add teleconferences and emails to the TOR- all agree. AF thinks the teleconference work well and very easy to use. ND thanked the office for arranging calls.

JE confirmed the process for minutes- goes to chair for review and then to the committee (2 weeks to review), final changes and then goes to chair and final version emailed to all committee members.

Motion- to amend TOR as discussed above. SH second, all in favour- all.

3. Review of activities for ICS 2015. (1st June- reminder will be sent from office)

Ethics workshop- RF attending FIGO. SH unable to attend Montreal. ND asked for substitute speakers. JE to confirm the deadline for final speakers- to ensure printing is correct.

JE to arrange for deadline to be sent to Nina.

Action: JE to check deadlines and confirm to ND.

ND Peter Rosier speaking at the debate, Nina doing introduction. Cases will be discussed- selected by speakers.

ND basic science- where all our work will be focused, RF will you be involved in the ethics cases? RF yes, think members should suggest cases. Committee discussed FGM case. Elise De wanted to discuss this as one of our cases- thoughts? Mixed view from committee.

Action: ND to send out reminders on committee role and syllabus for ICS 2015

4. Thanks to reviewers

ND thanked all reviewers for their assistance.

5. Ethics cases for Basic Ethics Course

ND need suggestions from members, personally feel 1 end of life case and 2 other case. 3 10 minute discussions. Suggested 1 research 1 end of life and 1 other. TR thinks needs to be based on real life issues- not necessarily continence but that would be preferable. ND suggested we can bank one's not used. ND asked members to email the details to her.

6. New business

No.

7. Establish a rough date for our next teleconference.

ND suggested 3 teleconferences per year. 1 before the course- end of May/beginning June. 2nd call August-need to start planning for 2016. Any objections? TR thinks that committee members very busy, need clear important items to deal with. AF I think face to face plus 2 teleconference fine. Then emails.

Call Ends