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#### IAFSS SECRETARIAT OFFICE

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IAFSS is registered in England and Wales as a charity, No 800306

## IAFSS 2021 Virtual General Meeting – Frequently Asked Questions

## 5 March 2021

#### 1. Will a Zoom link be provided?

Yes! The link for the 24 March meeting is <u>https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/62577478118</u>. Once a decision is made on the meeting package for the 30 April, information / a link for that will be posted as well.

## 2. How will voting be handled?

For the 24 March, Part 1 meeting, voting will be done within Zoom using the yes/no voting feature. Once a decision is made on the meeting package for the 30 April, voting procedures for that meeting will be posted as well.

## 3. How does 'voting by proxy' work?

In general, voting by proxy simply means you empower another member, who is attending the meeting, to cast votes on your behalf. This can be full voting rights, as the designee sees fit, or specific votes as you identify. A proxy form has been developed for use in this meeting. You must at least indicate your desires for how your vote is to be cast (approve or disapprove the proposed amendments), and it is optional if you grant your proxy additional decision authority. As explained below, given the nature of this meeting, with specific action require to permit virtual meetings and voting, the aim is that no changes to the proposals are needed, and approve / disapprove vote is all that is necessary.

#### 4. How will motions and discussion be handled?

For the 24 March, Part 1 meeting, since the Rules of the Association currently do not permit virtual meetings, and by association virtual / electronic voting, we are trying to focus on approving the ability to do this with no other critical actions taken and with as limited time for discussion as practicable and appropriate. We are not trying to limit members the ability to engage in discussion – we encourage participation from all. However, the meeting is just 1-hour in length, we do not yet have a robust procedure for recognizing people or on appropriate comment time, and given the different time zones that the Association spans, many members will be disadvantaged in their ability to participate. This already creates challenges. To try and be as equitable as possible to all, we have asked for questions and comments in advance, in addition to recognising voting by proxy, and are hopeful we can provide clarification in the writing to not further disadvantage those who are unable to participate. If we obtain approval for virtual meetings and voting, we can develop a more robust approach for the 30 April meeting.

IAFSS Committee : •Prof L Bisby, UK • Prof W K Chow, Hong Kong, China • Prof A Coppalle, France • Prof R Dobashi, Japan • Prof B Dlugogorski, Australia • Dr R Fahy, USA • Prof C Fleischmann, New Zealand • Dr J Floyd, USA • Prof E. Galea, UK • Prof M Gollner, USA • Dr T Hakkarainen, Finland • Dr A Hamins, USA • Prof L Hu, China • Mr P Johnson, Australia • Dr B Karlsson, Iceland • Dr B Meacham, USA • Prof B Merci, Belgium • Prof Y Ohmiya, Japan • Dr G Rein, UK • Dr M McNamee, Sweden • Prof A Trouvé, USA • Prof P van Hees, Sweden • Prof B Weckman, Canada • Dr Y Wang, USA

# 5. Why can we not simply address proposed amendments electronically outside of the General Meeting?

Very simply, the Rules do not currently permit this. Discussion was started last year on an approach for electronic changes to the Rules. This included consideration of appropriate time periods to allow for review of proposed changes, where and how to post, appropriate time for comment, comment resolution, whether electronic comment can replace discussion (virtual or in person), and the like. As I hope you will appreciate, this is challenging, and the Committee was not able to finalize a package of proposed amendments to the Rules to allow for this. However, it is expected that the incoming Committee will pick this up, since if anything, the past year has highlighted the need to consider electronic actions and virtual meetings.

#### 6. Why is it important to allow virtual meetings and voting?

According to the Rules, we are obligated to hold a General Meeting at least once in every period of four years. The last General Meeting was 14 June 2017 in Lund, Sweden. If the proposal to allow for virtual General Meetings and voting at these meetings is rejected, we will need to convene an inperson General Meeting prior to 14 June 2021. Given ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, this could end up as a very small meeting, with limited attendance (as per our Rules, a quorum of 30 members must be reached in order for the meeting to take official votes), held where allowed under whatever restrictions may be in place. While permitted by the Rules, we believe this not as equitable solution. If neither virtual meeting nor live meeting were to occur before June we risk not having a serving management board.

## 7. Will there be any verification of votes cast?

As per the Rules of the Association, we have two scrutineers who are empowered to verify votes for the election. We will ask the scrutineers to review the proxy votes for accuracy of count. We will rely on the voting component within Zoom for votes cast during the meeting.