

## CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY STUDENTS

### 1) NAME

The name of the Association shall be the Association of Veterinary Students (Great Britain and Ireland). The Association is a division of the British Veterinary Association.

### 2) AIMS

The aims of the Association shall be:

- a) To promote the interests of veterinary students in Great Britain and Ireland
- b) To further links between veterinary students in different schools, both within the Association and outside.

### 3) MEMBERSHIP

- a) Shall be open to all veterinary students currently studying for a degree which entitles them to become MRCVS on graduation, at one of the eight colleges in Great Britain and Ireland, namely at the University of Bristol, the University of Cambridge, University College Dublin, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, the University of Liverpool, the University of Nottingham and the Royal Veterinary College (London).
- b) Membership shall be by payment of an individual annual subscription from the individual veterinary student societies at each college. Included in this is an amount to pay the IVSA International membership fee through IVSA UK.
- c) The subscription shall be fixed by 2/3 majority at a properly constituted general meeting.
- d) The Treasurer shall keep a record of the number of student members, and the names of any students who wish not to be included in the Association.

### 4) OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Officers of the Association shall be:

President  
Senior Vice-President  
Junior Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
IVSA representative  
Welfare representative  
JAVS Editor  
Web Editor  
Marketing Officer  
Sponsorship Representative

### 5) COMMITTEE

The Committee shall be constituted as follows:

- a) Voting members shall comprise all the Officers and in addition, one senior and one junior representative from each college.
- b) The President shall be Chairman with a casting vote in all matters.
- c) The committee is responsible for all general and financial policy of the Association. All sub-committee proposed expenditure shall be subject to the committee for approval.
- d) Quorum at committee meetings shall be 1/2 the total membership of the committee.
- e) The committee shall have the right to use its discretion to limit the number of non-members attending association functions where necessary.

#### 6) FINANCIAL

The accounts of the Association shall be prepared by the Treasurer, approved by the BVA and published at the Annual General Meeting.

#### 7) GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) Notices of all general meetings shall be posted not less than 7 days before hand, together with an agenda.
- b) The quorum at general meetings shall be 1/50<sup>th</sup> of the membership of the Association.
- c) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called in response to the Secretary by not less than 1/50<sup>th</sup> of the total membership of the Association.
- d) The AGM shall be held during the spring term of each year.

#### 8) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All elections shall take place at the AGM. Nominations for Officers may be handed to the Secretary prior to the AGM although nominations from the floor will be allowed.

All candidates must be proposed and seconded by a member of the Association.

- a) The President, subject to approval at the AGM, shall be the junior vice-president of the previous year.
- b) The Senior Vice-President, subject to approval at the AGM, shall be the President of the previous year.
- c) The Junior Vice-President shall not be in his/her penultimate or final year of study.
- d) The IVSA Representative, subject to approval at the AGM, shall be the IVSA UK President.
- e) All other Officer positions are normally for a two year period and newly elected Officers should not therefore be in either their penultimate or final year of study.

## 9) COMMITTEE CHANGES

- a) Notification of changes of college representatives must be sent to the Secretary by the old representatives immediately following college elections.
- b) Any changes of address, of Officers and college representatives shall be sent immediately to the Secretary.

## 10) ELECTION PROCEDURE

The election of Officers shall be a simple ballot paper issued at the AGM, and counted by the secretary a simple majority sufficing. The president will have the casting vote if there are equal numbers counted.

## 11) STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON NATIONAL COMMITTEES

- a) The Association's nomination for representation on Veterinary Practice Editorial Board and any ad hoc BVA or other committees shall be the PRESIDENT.
- b) The Association's nomination for representation at BVA Council shall be the PRESIDENT and one other member of the AVS Committee.
- c) The Association's nomination for representation on the Clinical Studies Trust Fund, fund-raising committee and BVA's Members' Services Group shall be the VICE-PRESIDENT.

## 12) ASSOCIATION EMBLEMS

The Association crest shall be a centaur, bearing a trident in his left hand, destroying the serpent beneath.

## 13) TRAVEL EXPENSES

- a) The Association will pay the travel expenses of all the committee members up to a maximum of the current 2<sup>nd</sup> class rail fare. This applies to all committee meetings other than those held at the Sports Weekend and Congress.
- b) Committee members should try to use saver fares and railcards, where possible.
- c) The Association will only pay the travel expenses of the Senior Vice-President where he/she is still at veterinary school.

## 14) CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- a) Any amendment to the constitution must be carried by a 2/3 majority at a properly constituted general meeting.
- b) All proposed amendments and additions must be sent in writing to the Secretary, prior to the general meeting.

## 15) REMOVAL OF MEMBERS FROM AVS MEMBERSHIP

Where a member of the AVS behaves in a manner which is unacceptable to the committee, or brings the Association into disrepute, the committee, after a full

investigation into the matter, shall have the power to instigate disciplinary action as follows:

Ban the member(s) from attending AVS events for a period of one year

OR

Ban the member(s) from attendance at AVS events throughout their student life.

- for repeated 'offences' – ban the member(s) from AVS membership

The committee must make the decision at a committee meeting by a majority show of hands. The member(s) concerned may be offered the chance to speak to the committee prior to a decision being made but must not be present for the vote.

#### 16) ELIGABILITY FOR ATTENDANCE AT AVS EVENTS

Attendance at AVS events is to be limited to students studying for a degree which entitles them to become MRCVS upon graduation. Students on other degree courses shall not be allowed to attend unless an insufficient number of places have been filled. Students attending the host university are exempt from this rule, allowing students studying any veterinary-related degree to attend the event at the discretion of the host university organising committee.

**Last amended at the AVS AGM 2011 Bristol**