

AASR General Meeting Minutes

Monday, 7 September 2020

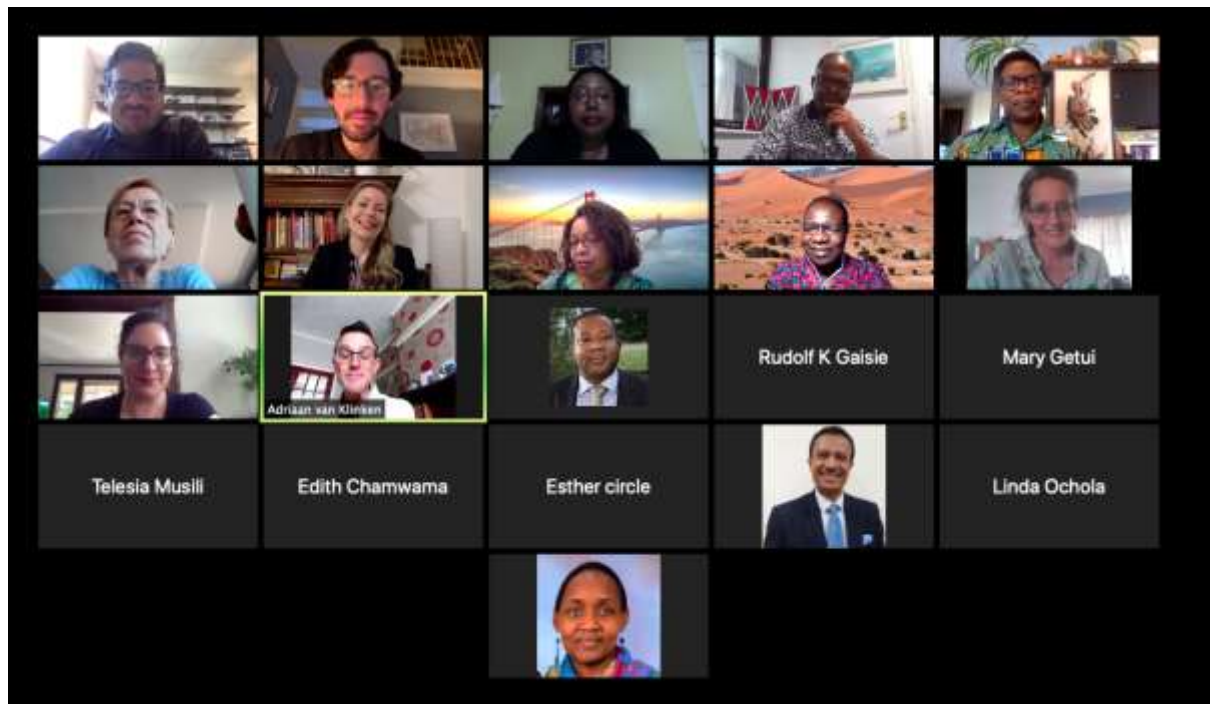
Location: Zoom

Time: 16:00 (WAT)

Opening and Welcome

The meeting was officially opened at 16:10 (WAT) by the outgoing General Secretary, Corey Williams. Due to the ongoing global pandemic, the meeting took place on the virtual meeting platform, Zoom. In total, there were 32 people present from a wide-range of countries, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, UK, and the USA.

PHOTO: AASR GENERAL MEETING ON ZOOM



Announcements

The outgoing President, Elias Bongmba, also welcomed everyone and shared a couple of announcements:

1. AASR Member Prof. Danoye Oguntola-Laguda has been elected as a member of the IAHR Executive Committee. His new IAHR profile is already online: <https://www.iahrweb.org/oguntola-laguda.php>. Congratulations, Prof. Oguntola-Laguda!
2. The AASR's nomination of Prof. Abdulkader Tayob as an Honorary Life Member of the IAHR was approved. Congratulations, Prof. Tayob!

Executive Committee Nomination Process

The co-chair of the Nominating Committee, Adriaan van Klinken, provided an overview of the multi-step process that the committee undertook that led to the official election of the new Executive Committee on 23 August 2020. These steps were already announced on the AASR website (<https://www.a-asr.org/new-aasr-executives/>) and are also re-produced here:

We are writing you as co-chairs of the Nomination Committee for the new Executive of our Association. Earlier this year, in March, we have written to you with our proposal of nominated candidates for the new Executive, following a process of consultation of the membership.

This proposal was as follows:

- *Office of President: Dr Damaris Parsitau (Egerton University, Kenya)*
- *Office of Vice President: Dr Abel Ugba (University of Leeds, UK)*
- *Office of General Secretary: Dr Nathanael Homewood (De Pauw University, USA)*
- *Office of Treasurer: Dr Sara Fretheim (University of Münster, Germany)*

This proposal was sent in an email to the membership and was published on the AASR website. It was also supposed to be published in the AASR Bulletin, but as a result of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, publication of the Bulletin has been delayed. Our apologies for that, but we trust you appreciate the circumstances.

In our earlier communication we invited counter-nominations to be submitted by 22 July 2020. This date has now passed, and we have not received any submissions.

In the absence of counter-candidates, our above nomination was supposed to be affirmed at the IAHR quinquennial World Congress in New Zealand in August 2020. However, the IAHR Congress has been cancelled as a result of the pandemic.

For the sake of the smooth, continued functioning of our Association, the election must proceed. This is also the position taken by the IAHR for their own elections. As Nominations Committee we had already proposed that in the absence of counter-candidates, an (online) vote would not be necessary. This is in line with the IAHR Constitution and the IAHR Rules of Procedure, which the AASR Constitution is based upon, which in Rule 16g states: 'Those whose candidacy is unopposed shall be declared "elected unopposed".' Following these considerations, and in consultation with the current Executive of our Association, we are pleased to declare our nominated candidates for the new Executive to be 'elected unopposed'. The official handover of duties will be on 23 August 2020, which is when the IAHR Congress was originally set to begin.

We trust that you will join us in warmly congratulating Dr Parsitau, Dr Ugba, Dr Homewood and Dr Fretheim on their election, and will offer your support to the new Executive as they

lead our Association in the coming five years.

We further trust that you will join us in expressing our sincere thanks to the members of the outgoing Executive, in particular the departing members, Professor Elias Bongmba and Dr Corey Williams. Together with the members who continue to serve on the new Executive – Dr Parsitau and Dr Ugba – they have provided visionary leadership to our Association, and we owe them our gratitude and respect.

Herewith we have completed the task entrusted to us as Nomination Committee. We thank you for your confidence in us.

*Sincerely,
Co-chairs:
Professor Njoki Wane
Professor Adriaan van Klinken*

*Also on behalf of our committee members:
Dr Rose Mary Amenga-Etego
Dr Chammah Kaunda
Professor Danoye Oguntola-Laguda*

Remarks from the Outgoing AASR President, Elias Bombmba

The remarks from the Outgoing President will be published in full in the next AASR Bulletin.

Installation of the New Executive

The installation ceremony was led by the co-chair of the Nominating Committee, Prof. Njoki Wane. This meaningful ceremony included traditional prayers, the pouring of libation, and the virtual wrapping of the new Executive Committee members with African fabrics. Even on Zoom, this was a fitting and beautiful expression of trust and encouragement for the new Executive Committee.

PHOTO: Njoki Wane Leading the Installation Ceremony



Remarks from the New AASR President, Damaris Parsitau

The newly installed AASR President, Damaris Parsitau, took some time to speak about her vision of the coming five years and the work that the Executive Committee will be undertaking. This will include making a decision about the 9th AASR Conference in Africa, which was cancelled earlier this year, forming new partnerships, the importance of improving the financial standing of the Association, and continuing the work of bringing in younger scholars and providing mentorship opportunities. Damaris noted that the new Executive would be meeting in the coming days to gather ideas and would start moving forward quickly on many projects.

PHOTO: The New AASR President, Damaris Parsitau



Final Remarks and Closing

Following the remarks of the President, many members offered their congratulations to the new Executive Committee and thanks to outgoing committee members, Elias Bongmba and Corey Williams.

The meeting was officially closed shortly after 18:00 (WAT).