

Draft Minutes – ASHG Business Meeting
21 October 2016
Vancouver, British Columbia

Item 1. Welcome

ASHG president, Hal Dietz, welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their interest in the Society.

Item 2. Approval of minutes from 2015 business meeting

Dietz asked for review and approval of the minutes from the 2015 business meeting, held in Baltimore. Ada Hamosh moved for approval, Neil Risch seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. Moment of silence for recently deceased members

Dietz asked the group to rise for a moment of silence in memory of ASHG members who had died since the 2015 meeting: Alfred Knudson, MD, PhD; Kathleen Rao, PhD; Allen David Roses, MD; Avery Sandberg, MD; Robert Neil Schmike, MD; Nigel Spurr, PhD; and Dorothy Warburton, PhD.

Item 4. Overview of membership

ASHG secretary, Brendan Lee, reviewed the basic demographic profile of ASHG members, including breakdowns by age, sex, ethnicity, highest degree, major type of work, and the top 20 countries from which ASHG members originate.

Lee then provided data on annual reinvestments in ASHG's membership, which reflect the costs, and opportunity costs, per year that the Society incurs to give back to trainees and members through stabilizing fees, awards, and training programs. The total reinvestment in the ASHG community each year totals approximately \$693K.

Member benefits include: reduced rates for annual meeting registration; free subscription to the *American Journal of Human Genetics*; no fee for articles published in the Journal; discounts for subscriptions to journals of interest to the human genetics community; and ASHG leadership opportunities, including election to office, service on committees, and votes on Society matters.

Item 5. Treasurer's report

ASHG executive vice president, Joseph McInerney, presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treas. Geoffrey Duyk. McInerney reported an annual operating budget for 2016 of approximately \$6.6M. Projected net revenues for 2016 were approximately \$376K, down from approximately \$900K in 2015, owing to significant organizational investments in new Society activities and associated staff.

The Society remains extremely strong financially, with a reserve balance of approximately \$17.6M, which constitutes 267% of the Society's annual operating budget. The Society's target range for

reserves, as established by the board of directors, is between 200% and 300% of total annual expenses. The total value of ASHG's long-term investments at 30 June 2016 was approximately \$7.2M.

McInerney concluded the financial report with the following summary:

- ASHG is financially sound and growing.
- As ASHG's endowment grows, our fiscal responsibility to manage membership funds becomes increasingly challenging.
- ASHG has not raised registration fees for the annual meeting since 2010.
- ASHG has not increased membership dues since 2012.
 - We offer multi-year discounts at 10%
 - We offer 20% discounts off combined memberships in ASHG and the European Society of Human Genetics.
- The ASHG board has approved a strategic plan to ensure that resources are used prudently.
- The ASHG board approved a reserve-management policy in 2014.

Item 6. ASHG NEXT

Michael Dougherty, ASHG's director of education, used an audience-response system to solicit the attendees' comments on the status and future of the Society. The discussion focused on eight questions and responses, listed below.

ASHG NEXT questions:

1. How many ASHG meetings have you attended? (N = 48)
 - a. 1-3 = 18.75%
 - b. 4-7 = 20.83%
 - c. 8-12 = 6.25%
 - d. 13-20 = 18.75%
 - e. >20 = 35.42%
2. How important is it for ASHG to be engaged in influencing genetics-related policies, for example, genetic medicine, uses of genetics within society, or the teaching of genetics and evolution in schools? (N=48)
 - a. very important = 81.25%
 - b. somewhat important = 16.67%
 - c. neutral = 2.08%
 - d. not important = 0.00%
3. How interested are you personally in participating in ASHG's policy activities? (N=47)
 - a. definitely interested = 25.53%
 - b. might be interested = 57.45%
 - c. not interested = 17.02%

4. ASHG should supplement its annual meeting by providing year-round content for members, such as webinars, virtual meetings, and podcasts. (N=51)
 - a. strongly agree = 23.53%
 - b. agree = 37.25%
 - c. neutral = 25.49%
 - d. disagree = 9.80%
 - e. strongly disagree = 3.92%
5. Many meeting attendees would like to access platform sessions slides and audio after the annual meeting. To make this possible would you be willing to share your presentation if it was behind the ASHG website firewall? (N=46%)
 - a. yes = 80.43%
 - b. no = 19.57%
6. How would you most like to see ASHG implement an expansion of networking activities at the annual meeting? (N=27)
 - a. networking mixers = 7.41%
 - b. workshops with built-in networking time = 22.22%
 - c. topic- or discipline-specific events = 55.56%
 - d. engagement during poster sessions = 3.7%
 - e. local tours/day trips = 11.11%
7. ASHG provide education for several audiences beyond its regular and trainee membership. Of those we currently serve, which is the most important external audience for ASHG's genetics and genomics education efforts? (N=44)
 - a. high school students = 9.09%
 - b. high school teachers = 15.91%
 - c. graduate and undergraduate faculty = 31.82%
 - d. non-genetics health professionals = 25.00%
 - e. general public = 18.18%
8. Currently, ASHG does not have special interest groups (SIGs) organized around particular topics. Should ASHG develop SIGs? (N=44)
 - a. yes = 61.36%
 - b. no = 38.64%

Item 7. Adjournment

Dietz thanked the group for its participation and adjourned the meeting.