

WYSE Travel Confederation
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Minutes

Location: Hyatt Regency Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

Date: 12 September 2023

Time: 15:30

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Russ Hedge, Chairman of WYSE Travel Confederation who introduced the AGM Chairman, AGM Secretary, and Board Members.
- Russ provided an overview of the Board Members' roles and the structure of the Board.
- Acknowledgment was given to the Sector Panel members for their service:
 - Accommodation Sector Panel: Tom Cooney
 - Cultural Exchange Sector Panel: Casey Slamin, Patricia Brunner
 - Study Abroad Sector Panel: Jason Nusser, Kevin Morgan
 - Travel Safety Sector Panel: Claudia Reichstein, Linda Langin

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion: James Bell (Alliance Strategies)
- Seconded: Caroline Fox (TWIN)
- The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were approved.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

- Motion: Tom Cooney (TAG)
- Seconded: Francis Stivala (NSTS)
- The agenda was adopted.

4. Report on Confederation Activities

- The Director General delivered a report on Confederation activities, highlighting:
 - 2023 Events:
 - STAY WYSE Conference,
 - ITB Berlin,
 - WETM-IAC,
 - WYSTC 2023
 - Introduction to WYSEup, the new grant scheme for up and coming businesses.
 - Speaker programme across all events with over 70 sessions
 - Interviews and podcasts - 20 sessions.
 - Sector Panels: 30 meetings if panels and sub committees and various thought leadership activities.
- Introduction of staff member Niki Duncan as International Community Manager

- New Horizons 5 Survey: Data collection of 11,000 responses, with first cuts of findings presented at WYSTC.
- Member Portal: Encouraged use of the directory and upcoming new features.
- WYSE Website: Updates and improvements were discussed.

- Motion to Approve the Report: Dave Dahl (WISE Foundation)
- Seconded: Reinhard Bellinghausen (DR WALTER)
- The report was approved.

- 5. Report on Confederation Finances
- WYSE Travel Confederation 2022 Results:
 - The results were not as strong as hoped, with a loss of EUR 168,000 due to lower-than-expected event attendance and increased costs.
 - Motion to Approve: Dave Dahl (Wise Foundation)
 - Seconded: Casey Slamin (InterExchange)
 - The financial report was approved.

- 2023 Forecast:
 - A forecasted loss position for 2023 was discussed, with a focus on maintaining cash flow through December 2024.

- 2024 Budget:
 - A provisional budget was presented, forecasting a surplus of EUR 28,000 for 2024, though still below 2019 levels.
 - Motion to Accept Balance Sheet: Patricia Brunner (IAPA)
 - Seconded: Kevin Morgan (Academic Language Solutions)
 - The balance sheet was accepted.

- 6. Extension of Period for Presenting Annual Accounts
 - Motion: Dave Dahl (Wise Foundation)
 - Seconded: Tom Cooney (TAG)
 - The motion to extend the period was approved.

- 7. Release of Liability for Directors
 - Motion: Reinhard Bellinghausen (DR WALTER)
 - Seconded: Robyn Walker (Cenet)
 - The release of liability for directors was approved.

- 8. Appointment of Auditors
 - Motion: Bill Gertz (AIFS)
 - Seconded: Vicki Cunningham (BUNAC)
 - The current auditors were reappointed.

9. Membership Report

- A general membership report was presented, highlighting a net gain of 48 members for the year.
 - Motion to Accept Membership Report and Ratify New Members: Jono Frankham (World Nomads)
 - Seconded: Daniel Ebert (Green Heart)
 - The report and ratification were approved.

A list of members who had not paid their membership was displayed to the AGM and recommended for disaffiliation.

- Motion to Disaffiliate Members: Jason Nusser (Green Heart)
- Seconded: Dave Dahl (Wise Foundation)
- The motion was carried with one opposition.

10. Changes to the Articles of Association

- A revised Mission Statement and Vision Statement were presented.
 - Motion to Amend the Articles of Association: Nick Pound (World Nomads)
 - Seconded: Nina Slupphaug (Educatus)
 - The motion was carried.

11. Changes to the Articles of Association

- Change to Locations of Founding Sector Associations
 - Motion: Patricia Brunner (IAPA)
 - Seconded: Casey Slamin (InterExchange)
 - The motion to change the locations was approved.

12. Nominations Committee Report

- David Chapman thanked the committee and discussed the diversity achieved in the nominations. The voting process and slate of candidates were introduced.

13. Special Class Meetings for Sector Panels

- Accommodation Sector Panel:
 - Re-election of Etienne Matichard and Kevin McCormick.
 - Motion to Approve Slate: Tom Cooney
 - Seconded: Gil (???)
- Cultural Exchange Sector Panel:
 - Introduction of candidates Romyana Sotirova and Darya Modestova.
 - Motion to Approve Slate: Casey Slamin (InterExchange)
 - Seconded: Daniel Ebert (Green Heart)

- Travel Safety Sector Panel:

- Re-election of Claudia Reichstein (DR WALTER) and Linda Langin (CareMed)
- Motion to Approve Slate: Reinhard Bellinghausen (DR WALTER)
- Seconded: Jonathan Frankham (World Nomads)

- Study Abroad Sector Panel:

- Introduction of candidate Jackie Fox (TWIN).
- Motion to Approve Slate: Nina Slupphaug (Educatius)
- Seconded: Francis Stivala (NSTS)

- Panel Chairs to Join the Management Board:

- Motion: James Bell (Alliance Strategies)
- Seconded: Jonathan Frankham (World Nomads)

14. Members at Large to Management Board

- Re-election of Vicki Cunningham. Introduction of candidates Abby Holland (What Media) and Sebastian Leitner (Cloudbeds).
- Motion to Approve: Gary O'Leary (WeTravel)
- Seconded: Gatalin (???)

15. Appointment of Nominations Committee for 2024

- To be addressed during the EGM in Nov/Dec 2023.

16. Any Other Business

- WYSE staff introductions were made.
- David was recognized for ten years of service to WYSE Travel Confederation and expressed thanks to the retiring Board Members.

17. Date of Next AGM

- The next AGM will be held on 24 September 2024, in Lisbon, Portugal.