

Association for Research in Otolaryngology  
ARO Council Meeting  
The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada  
September 17, 2006, 5:30 pm EST

**I. Call to order – R. Shannon**

Present: Robert Shannon, Ashley Wackym, Lloyd Minor, Steven Rauch, David Lim, Darla Dobson; Via Conference Call: Lisa Astorga

**II. Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Minutes from the June 22, 2006 Meeting were approved by Council members in attendance. Darla Dobson will request an email vote of approval from Council members that were not able to attend the meeting.

The June FYE financial statements were reviewed. ARO had budgeted for a \$47,321.46 loss in the 2006-2007 fiscal year due to the \$150,000 settlement payment to Pyramid Group Advisors, LLC, but ended up with a profit of \$22,019.04.

The Secretary/Treasurer's Report was approved.

**III. MidWinter Meeting**

Lisa Astorga reported that 29 abstracts had been successfully submitted at the time of the meeting. The majority of abstracts are submitted just prior to the October 1 deadline.

Site selection options for the 2008 MidWinter Meeting were discussed. Options are limited and Lisa Astorga discussed possible venues in Phoenix, San Diego, and Orlando. Council decided to pursue Phoenix, Arizona as the first option for 2008. ARO will need to use a convention center for this meeting. A selection of hotels will be available to meeting attendees at a variety of price ranges. Lisa Astorga will proceed with negotiations. The second option discussed was San Diego. Concerns about the San Diego property renovations were expressed.

Ashley Wackym discussed options for a NIDCD joint symposium proposal for the 2008 MWM. He will continue discussions with Drs. Battey and Middlebrooks regarding the visual and auditory sessions.

The MidWinter Meeting report was approved.

**IV. Membership Report**

ARO membership numbers remain stable. There are currently 2,397 members. The Executive Office will see an increase in renewals and new applications during the abstract submission period from those trying to qualify to sponsor an abstract.

The Membership Report was approved.

**V. Executive Office Report**

A summary of Talley Management Group, Inc. activity was reviewed.

Bob Shannon has been working on committee appointments and the Executive Office has mailed new committee member welcome letters and thank you letters to those with expired terms. Animal Research and Membership Council liaisons are still needed.

An update on grant funds was provided. DRF is the only organization from prior year that has not committed to 2007 travel award funding. Issues concerning reserving DRF meeting rooms during the MidWinter Meeting have delayed their response. Bob Shannon reported that Doug

Cotanche responded to Dr. Gates' concerns over interactions with ARO and we hope to receive confirmation of funding soon.

The Executive Office Report was approved.

## **VI. AAO-HNSF Research Update**

Ashley Wackym provided an update on AAO-HNSF activities. There is a de-emphasis on the interface between basic science and clinical work within AAO. Council discussed ways to improve clinician involvement at ARO. A charge of developing a symposium for the 2008 meeting that would help bring in clinicians was discussed for the Physician Research Training committee.

## **VII. Committee Updates**

Diversity and Minority Affairs Committee: The committee's request for a faculty and student get together was approved. Council requested that this committee event be combined with the Long Range Planning committee's request for a student social. The intention is to allow the Diversity & Minority Affairs committee to have the panel discussions requested. The informal social event will begin immediately following the panel discussions. Times for both can be noted so if there are students that do not want to attend the panel discussions they can just show up for the social event. The events are to be held after the NIH workshop during the MidWinter Meeting.

Education Committee: The committee's update on the short course was reviewed.

Publications Committee: Bob Shannon reported that a new committee chair was appointed to this committee. Keiko Hirose will serve as the chair through February 2010.

The committee reports were approved.

## **VIII. Other Business**

2007 MWM Student Event – Funding Suggestions: Council discussed funding and agreed to dedicate funds to cover food and beverage expenses for the event.

Presidential Candidate from Overseas: David Lim inquired about the logistics involved with having an ARO President from overseas. As most ARO business is conducted via email, there is no reason why it would not be business as usual.

ARO Mailing List Purchases: Council decided to increase the non-member purchase price of the ARO membership mailing list from \$400 to \$500. Darla Dobson will update the mailing list order form accordingly.

## **IX. Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven Rauch  
ARO Secretary / Treasurer