

Association of Schools of Public Health In Africa



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Minutes of ASPHA Second Annual General Meeting

Day One

Venue: Red Court Hotel, Nairobi

Date: 4th November 2011

Time: 4:00pm – 6.30pm

1.0 Opening

Most ASPHA members arrived by 4:00pm in Nairobi on 4th of November 2011.

Once settled in members met in the conference room of the Red Court Hotel.

A brief introduction was made by the ASPHA President (Professor Fred Binka) followed by self-introductions by all members present

2.0 Business of the Day

2.1 Formation of Committees

Working groups were set up with the three original committees of the association in order for the committees to discuss their goals and respective programs of activities for the following year.

The under-listed proposals were made by the various committees.

Advocacy Committee

- Identification of core competencies for Schools of Public Health in Africa
- Accreditation of the institutions that are members of the association
- Enhancement of advocacy activities such as
 - Increasing membership; Public Health Schools in Africa that are not members of the Association need to be encouraged to join
 - Increasing linkages such as those already established with African Federation of Public Health Association and World Federation of Schools of Public Health

Technical Committee

- The committee discussed possible fund-raising techniques-(please refer to Appendices A1 and A2: Fundraising strategies presentation by Professor Mgutshini and funding possibilities)

- The committee reviewed and made changes to the already existing statutes (please refer to Appendix B)
- The committee also proposed to identify mechanisms to achieve the mission and vision of the association

Collaboration Committee

- Development of an active ASPHA database listing faculty members of member institutions, their qualifications, specialty areas, and ability to encourage
 - Co-supervision of theses/dissertations with other member schools
 - Mentorship of students from member institutions
- Update of the ASPHA website to include open education sites
- Possibilities and measures to facilitate student exchange among members
- Possibilities and measures to facilitate staff exchange among members
- Identification of core competencies required for public health schools in Africa

Closing

The meeting ended at 6.30pm and this was followed by a working dinner with almost all members who had arrived.

Day Two

Venue: Red Court Hotel, Nairobi

Date: 5th November 2011

Time: 8:45am – 6:00pm

1.0 Opening

14 participants from 11 member institutions attended the 2nd AGM of ASPHA on the 5th of November 2011 at the Red Court Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. (Please refer to Appendix B-Attendance List of Participants)

The meeting begun at 8:45 am with introductions by all participants. This was followed by a brief introduction and summary of ASPHA activities over the past year by Professor Binka.

He informed members that on September 27, 2011 national public health associations attended the inaugural meeting of the African Federation of Public Health Associations to develop a constitution and bye-laws for public health associations in Africa.

ASPHA had also been invited to sign a memorandum of understanding at the third global summit of Schools of Public Health hosted by ASPH in Washington DC. All 5 continents were represented by ASPH, APACPH, ASPHA, and ALASAG.

2.0 Business of the Day

2.1 Goals of ASPHA 2ND AGM

Professor Binka spoke about the goals of the second annual general meeting and funding opportunities. He informed members that SIDA-SAREC had agreed to give the equivalent of \$47,000 which would fund part of the 2nd and 3rd AGM.

Travel advisories had prevented the invited European, Asian and American collaborators from attending the meeting.

Professor Fonn also spoke about aims of the association and requirements for the association to be viable such as defining doable and measurable outcomes to enable ASPHA to raise funds and add value to Public Health schools in Africa. Some of these measurable outcomes were:

1. To define core competencies
2. Explore the possibilities of providing accreditation for member schools
3. To identify research that are relevant to Africans, by Africans and for Africa

She also made clear distinctions between aims for

1. The organization-Increasing membership and sense of ownership among members
2. Public Health in Africa –defining and ensuring production of quality public health professionals in Africa
3. Health-contributing towards improved health in Africa

This was then followed by presentations from the working groups on the issues discussed the previous day which have been outlined above.

By lunch time after intense discussions and debate, the members present had re-organized the initial three committees into four groups, each of which identified areas of importance to be developed by the members of that group.

The groups set up were:

1. The ASPHA Public Health Education group
2. The ASPHA Advocacy group
3. The ASPHA Research group
4. The ASPHA Development group

Please refer to the Appendices C1 to C4 for the details of the group discussions.

3.0 Election of Executive Board Members

The original agenda for the meeting indicated that there would be nominations for the next executive board but after a general discussion, it was agreed that due to the absence of the majority of members, the present executive would hold on to their positions until a truly representative vote could be obtained for proposed new members.

4.0 Closing

The meeting came to an end at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at Panari Restaurant.