



IETS 2026
General Business Meeting
DRAFT Minutes
January 19
Gran Ancon Room

I. Call to Order: Marc-André Sirard

Sirard, IETS President, called the meeting to order at 11:02 am and provided an overview of the agenda. Sirard acknowledged the graduate student competition support from Cesare Galli and the Avantea Foundation.

II. IETS 2025 Business Meeting Draft Minutes: Marc-André Sirard

Sirard presented the 2025 minutes and welcomed comments, questions, and changes from the floor. There were none.

Motion. Sofia Ortega moved and Katrin Henrichs seconded the motion to approve the 2025 business meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved.

III. Report of the President: Marc-André Sirard

Sirard reported that 447 registrants attended the main conference program. The Bovine preconference had 239 registrants, and the CANDES preconference, had 42 registrants.

He then announced the FASS staffing change, introducing Christopher as the new IETS Executive Secretary, and recognized the 2027 program chairs, Valentina Lodde and Marcello Seneda.

Sirard reviewed the MOUs with ICAR and WOA. He reported that we will continue the ongoing MOU with ICAR to further collaborate on data retrieval and to promote the role of dairy/dairy bovine production in sustainable food systems. Sirard stated he will further explain the MOU with WOA during the HASAC Report.

Sirard announced the Foundation Fundraising Committee, noting that they are going to launch a campaign soon to raise funds to support Foundation programs.

He discussed webinars over the past year. They had over 100 participants and over 200 registrants in collaboration with partner societies. He announced the upcoming 3 webinars and that Alan Ealy will head that operation.

.He reported that over the 2026 IETS Annual Conference, 73 people used Wordly to translate sessions to 9 different languages. He requested further feedback to determine if the society should move forward with its services for future conferences.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Brad Lindsey

Lindsey provided an overview of the 2024-2025 IETS fiscal year, spanning July through June. He compared the IETS society assets, revenue, expenses, and the annual conference (including pre- and post-conference figures) profit and loss from 2024 year-end to 2025 year-end. Lindsey then reviewed the same for the Foundation. Lindsey discussed the change in strategy for the Society's investments and how the Foundation will be funded moving forward. He demonstrated how to read the over/under budget column to ensure all members understand this new change.

V. Foundation Report: Bradford Daigneault

Daigneault provided an overview of the Foundation Board, providing more information on the activities, goals, and awards they've been focused on over the last year. He then shared information on the awards statistics for the 2026 annual conference. Daigneault thanked the Aventure Foundation for their sponsorship of the Graduate Student Research Competition. He thanked the trustees rotating off the board and called for trustee nominations for the next year. He further called for help on the fundraising efforts to continue the sponsorship of the Foundation Awards.

VI. CANDES Report: Pierre Comizzoli on behalf of Dragos Scarlet

Comizzoli discussed the preconference symposium and the update with delegates. Thanked the Toronto Zoo for the sponsorship. Announced that Dragos Scarlet is rotating off of the CANDES Board. Elena Ruggeri from the San Diego Zoo and Andres Gambini from the University of Queensland will be co-chairing CANDES.

VII. Morulas Report: Alejandro de la Fuente

de la Fuente reported on the 2026-2028 election process, announcing that Hannah Braun from Colorado State University was elected as President.

VIII. HASAC Report: Marc-André Sirard on behalf of Ashley Swenson

Sirard reported that HASAC has a new handbook. He then went over the MOU with WOA, stating that it will be at any cost to IETS. IETS/HASAC and WOA have facilitated the establishment of guidelines for regulators worldwide, ensuring the safety of international trade with embryos while avoiding unjustified regulatory measures. He emphasized the HASAC suggestion window on the IETS website and encouraged members to submit their suggestions.

IX. 2026 Meeting Review: Alan Ealy and Joanna Souza-Fabjan

Sirard recognized and thanked Alan Ealy and Joanna Souza-Fabjan for their hard work putting together the 2026 annual conference program.

Ealy and Souza-Fabjan recognized the general sessions, concurrent sessions, and pre-/post-conference planning chairs, as well as the section editors and abstract reviewers.

Out of 244 submissions, 231 abstracts were accepted, and 11 of those were selected for oral presentations at the main conference.

X. In Memoria: Marc-André Sirard

Sirard honored the IETS members who have passed away since the last meeting by asking for a moment of silence for Dr. Julie Gard Schnuelle, Dr. Éric Palmer, and Dr. Maarten Drost

XI. Board Composition Update: Marc-André Sirard

Sirard reported that the following terms are ending as of the close of business at this meeting:

- Beatriz Fernandez-Fuentes as Governor
- Bianca Gasparrini as Governor

Sirard reported that the following terms are beginning as of the close of business at this meeting:

- Alan Ealy as Governor
- Jesús Manuel Palomino as Governor

Sirard then recognized the returning Board Members:

- Marc-André Sirard as President
- Ann Van Soom as Vice President
- Brad Lindsey as Treasurer
- Trudee Fair as Governor
- João Viana as Governor
- Satoko Matoba as Governor

XII. Other Business: Marc-André Sirard

João Viana reported on the data retrieval committee and where to locate it. He promoted the workshop in the spring, and the goal is to increase the participation of the IETS members across the world.

XIII. Closing: Marc-André Sirard

Motion. Rebecca Poole moved and Sofia Ortega seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.