

# OIE REGIONAL SEMINAR

2009 SEPTEMBER 2 – 4TH

## GLOBAL ACCREDITATION INITIATIVES ON VETERINARY EDUCATION

presentation by the Registrar of the

South African Veterinary Council

on 4 September 2009



1

## Introduction

- Background
- Melbourne meeting 2007
- Barriers and benefits to a global approach
- International Accreditation Working Group
- Joint visit to Murdoch University (Perth) September 2009
- Other initiatives

2

## Background

Meetings were held in 2002 (USA) and 2004 (UK) between:

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)
- Royal College for Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
- European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)

### Purpose

To understand and find **common ground** between the bodies responsible for accreditation of educational institutions.

In March 2007 a **joint visit** of the Massey University took place between the AVMA and the AVBC which provided a case study for further discussion.

3

## Melbourne 2007 May 18 & 19

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) – attended the third meeting following a request for inclusion and a visitation of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria by the SAVC with observers from the RCVS and the AVBC

### MEETING PURPOSE

- Provide an opportunity for organisations responsible for accreditation of veterinary schools to discuss developments in veterinary education and their implications for accreditation.
- Improve understanding and, where possible, reach agreement on opportunities to make accreditation procedures and standards more uniform
- Explore options for improving cooperation between organisations responsible for accreditation of veterinary schools

4

## Barriers to a global approach to accreditation

- Legislative barriers
- Country has its own needs and requirements, associated with reporting relationships
- Application of the standards have a tendency to differ (while we share the standard on paper) - need for harmonisation of requirements
- Barrier with licensing boards (impact of licensing boards in each state with foreign accreditation)
- Issue of legal liability
- Perception that there are a lack of consequences in relation to substandard programs.

5

## Benefits to a global approach

- **Economic benefit** bodies (money and time and resources)
- Increasing **mobility** of faculty and veterinarians - should an emergency arise that requires movement of large number of veterinarians (pandemic)
- Enhancement of **trade** – (perceived public health risks)
- **Harmonisation** of the profession - sharing of expertise
- Enhancement of overall professional **skills and aptitudes**
- Collective **outreach** to less fortunate parts of the world
- **Standards** are strengthened and enhanced
- Leverage with government bodies (**global standards**)
- Assist in delivering **leadership development** within profession

6

## Possible model for accreditation

*Mutual recognition on basis of "sharing" visitors (acceptance following involvement of own visitor on another body's visitation) with control of national decisions. (Note: only applies to re-visits not inaugural accreditation)*

- A visit would be managed by the home organisation with more than one independent (external to home) member per visit.
- The Chair of the site visit should be from the parent organization primarily responsible in the country concerned (to be made in consultation with the other organizations)
- The country being visited should supply the administrative support for the visit
- There needs to be collaboration in the selection of the team to ensure balance in the needs for major discipline areas (clinicians, basic scientists, food hygienist etc)
- Examination of documentation from the different jurisdictions to ensure there is agreement about what is to be accomplished (highlighting of individual country's specific needs)
- Production of a single and standardized self-study report (SSR) that incorporates the specific needs of each jurisdiction
- Single report produced but full authority of each jurisdiction to make a final decision.

7

## Resolutions

1. **International Accreditation Working Group** would be set up and their tasks were outlined
2. **Joint visit** would take place to Murdoch University (Perth) in 2009
3. The Melbourne group would **meet again** after the visit to Murdoch University to
  - assess the outcome of the visit;
  - discuss key issues such as outcomes assessment and the distributed model of clinical education; and
  - Provide an opportunity for a case study to evaluate the potential for a proposed model for visitations

8

## International Accreditation Working Group

Group included representatives of the AVMA, RCVS, AVBC, SAVC and the (EAEVE)

Met in Schaumburg, Illinois from October 29-31, 2007 and for the combined site visit to Murdoch University the following was agreed upon:

- The documentation for a **single self-study report** (based on the AVMA Council on Education (COE) *Standards of Accreditation* document, with material from the AVBC's *Policies, Procedures and Standards* document and from the RCVS criteria.)
- The composition, number, and conduct of a **site visit team** were. (A core group from the AVMA-COE, AVBC and RCVS with one observer from each of SAVC and EAEVE.)
- The visit would be jointly **chaired** by representatives from the AVMA and AVBC, with the AVBC taking the role of Executive Chair.
- 8 members (4 nominated by AVMA (including one local veterinary association representative, 2 by AVBC and 2 by RCVS)
- The site visit team Chairs will produce a **site visit assessment report** which will be forwarded to each participating organization in order to assess any further actions.

9

## Site visit University of Murdoch

Takes place from  
28 September to 2 October 2009

Prof G E Swan will be observer for the  
SAVC

10

## Other initiatives

The SAVC supports the ongoing collaboration between Deans of Faculties in Africa to harmonise the curricula efforts in the region, which should take cognisance of the global accreditation efforts

11

## Resolutions

- Harmonise accreditation in SADC
  - Quality assurance – Visitations and documentation used during visitations
- Once harmonised engage other regions

12