**Framework for future tropEd scientific sessions**

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1. **Purpose of scientific sessions:**

Scientific sessions have been a central part of the tropEd General Assemblies (GA) for many years.

According to its members, scientific sessions contribute to the advancement of the network and its individual members in terms of continuous professional development and mutual learning. They allow institutions and its members to present and share learnings and experiences related to didactics and pedagogics between institutions but also to acquire new pedagogical competences.

More content related inputs in the scientific sessions allow for learnings, for example about global health, which is a dynamic discipline. Scientific sessions are also used to solicit contributions from outside the network. Hence, scientific sessions allow to stay up to date about scientific knowledge and discussions within the discipline but also to align on definitions and discourses.

They also offer the opportunity for student and other participants to benefit from tropEd discussions.

1. **Problems related to the scientific sessions:**

The following issues were identified for scientific sessions:

* The selection of the topics was not well coordinated and sometimes ad hoc, hence not always covering the broader interest of the network
* The definition of the “scientific session” is not clear to everyone (content vs. pedagogical)
* For some scientific sessions there was a lack of interaction and time for discussion

A working group was therefore created to come up with proposals on the format and the organization of future scientific sessions as part of the tropEd General Assemblies.

1. **Format:**

In order to uphold the exchange and mutual learning within the network, the working group proposes to hold a scientific session at every GA. The duration can vary depending on the respective content. To allow for sufficient interaction and discussion, the focus should preferably be on one topic only (either scientific or pedagogical content).

1. **Organization:**

* To assure a coherent and sustainable planning of the scientific sessions in the future the working group suggests a continuous standing *scientific session committee* consisting of 3-5 permanent members. Members will be replaced when needed.
* Members from the whole network can send suggestions of content and speakers to the committee.
* The committee will be complemented by temporary members from those institutions organizing the scientific sessions.
* The committee meets at least 3 times a year, ad hoc meetings can be arranged if the situation requires.
* A rolling planning of the scientific sessions over the next 3 GAs as well as a more detailed outline of the planned scientific session (one-pager) will be presented to the EC for approval before each GA.
* To monitor, evaluate and adjust the planning of the scientific sessions the committee hands in a short report once per year to the EC with an analysis of the strengths and shortcomings/gaps of the past scientific sessions, including recommendations on how to improve for the future.
* The first *scientific session committee* consists of the members in the Framework WG.