



AAVMC and AVAP Collaboration MOU and Bylaw Change - FAQ

1. What's the history behind this decision?

The origins of the Association of Veterinary Advancement Professionals (AVAP) can be traced to an organization of veterinary college fundraisers who began meeting in the mid-1980s. Upon recognizing the importance of strategic communications on institutional advancement, the group expanded to include communications and alumni relations professionals. The group then voted to amend its by-laws and renamed itself as the AVAP.

Through the years, the AVAP has collaborated with the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) in a variety of ways including conferences, presentations and communications, including the AAVMC Excellence in Communications Award created in 2014.

More than five years ago, discussion began about the advantages AVAP might gain by becoming a 501(c)(3), so a small task force was formed to explore options and the required process. Last year, Jeffrey Douglas, AAVMC communications director, suggested collaboration between the two organizations, where AVAP could align itself under the auspices (and benefits) of AAVMC's 501(c)(3) status. In 2017, the AVAP executive committee decided to put its 501(c)(3) idea on hiatus to explore an MOU to define a formal partnership between AVAP and AAVMC.

2. What are the advantages of AVAP partnering with AAVMC?

501(c)(3) status: AVAP would enjoy the benefits of 501(c)(3) status without incurring the expenses or responsibilities associated with nonprofit organizations. Benefits would include:

- Eligibility for public and private grants and contributions
- Limited liability
- Minimal paperwork

Access to AAVMC's fiscal and organizational resources. Benefits would include:

- Permanent address in Washington DC
- Permanent financial accounts housed and managed at AAVMC but directed by AVAP treasurer
- Greater visibility through AAVMC website
- Conference planning resources

3. How will this be accomplished?

This can be accomplished through two major steps at the July 2018 AVAP business meeting, as endorsed by the AVAP Executive Committee:

1. Adopt the MOU between AAVMC and AVAP
2. Adopt AVAP bylaw changes to define the new relationship between AAVMC and AVAP