

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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XIAN WANG, China, Second Vice President  
MALCOLM GORDON, USA, Treasurer  
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LESLIE PRICE, USA



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## IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

*August 12, 2010*

Present: Denis Noble, Malcolm Gordon, Walter Boron, Xian Wang, Saeed Semnanian, Sue Orsoni, Leslie Price

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10:45 a.m. EDT.

### **1. Approval of minutes of July 22, 2010 Executive Committee meeting**

The minutes were approved.

### **2 Response to the draft S. Orsoni prepared for the new membership category**

The Executive Committee agreed with the philosophy of the document and the suggestion of the Membership Committee to help form the organizations that would become new members. There was some discussion about what to call these groups. S. Orsoni pointed out that the constitution would allow them to name themselves as organizations. They would become either an adhering or associate member based on what dues they can pay. She also noted that the constitution says an organization seeking to be a member can represent “the physiological scientists of a country or territory” which might allow groups in a larger geographical area to apply for either adhering body or associate membership, thus overcoming the problem of national membership.

The Executive Committee agreed with this recommendation.

### **3. Finalizing the IUPS statement on utility and relevance**

D. Noble wants to include this in responses from IUPS to societies who have asked about it. The next stage would be for the Executive Committee to approve a final draft, send it out to Council for agreement and then use it in discussions with Phys Soc and APS.

Action: D. Noble will finalize the editing done by M. Gordon and W. Boron and submit through email for approval by ExCo.
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#### **4. Presenting information concerning the appropriate contact persons IUPS needs in the priority countries**

S. Orsoni reported that there have been few responses from members of council for names of contacts. She will start by searching online for medical and veterinary schools in the Middle East. It was suggested that she try approaching national ministries. L. Price will search the CD from the Kyoto 2009 Congress for the names of people who presented papers from target countries provided by S. Orsoni. [Completed by L. Price]

#### **5. Helping to update and finalize the information concerning the benefits of being an IUPS member**

Since this item is a rough draft, it was decided that the Executive and Membership Committees need more time to edit it. The Executive Committee will send ideas to the Membership Committee to incorporate. S. Orsoni reminded the group that in the past supporting bodies have been sent the same information as the adhering bodies. L. Price will make sure that this is done starting by sending a copy of the IUPS Outreach document to the supporting bodies for response.

Action: All Executive Committee members should read the benefits document and submit suggestions to S. Orsoni.
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Action: L. Price will send IUPS Outreach document to supporting bodies for comments.
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#### **6. Initiating the designing of a new method for calculating and paying the membership dues instead of the current categories**

The Executive Committee agreed there are inconsistencies in the current calculations of how dues are assessed and they need to be reviewed. M. Gordon, IUPS treasurer, will think about how this might be accomplished. The final formula for assessments will be deferred until after the U.S. dues situation has been revised by the National Science Foundation, a process which is occurring in the U.S. in order to reorganize funding of international unions. Each of the U.S. supporting societies of NAS should be given IUPS documents for information purposes.

While waiting for this outcome, the Membership Committee will continue to gather information about the numbers of dues paying members of societies.

Action: L. Price will send IUPS documents to NAS supporting bodies for information purposes.
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#### **7. Reviewing contract for 2013 Congress**

M. Gordon suggested that the wording of the letter responding to the Phys Soc letter and contract underline that IUPS is interested in the same thing as Phys Soc – the best possible congress. He felt it was important that we consider the interests and concerns of all parties in coming up with the wording of the contract and recognize some of the realities that exist.

After some discussion, it was decided that our opening position ought to be that Phys Soc should provide IUPS with space such as an office, conference room and exhibition

space for free. The Executive Committee agreed with the idea of IUPS receiving 10% of the registration fee plus 25% of the profits. It was also decided that under no circumstances should IUPS owe Phys Soc any money and that we should be part of the registration fee setting process and the decision making of who gets charged a fee. To broaden the base of IUPS sponsors, Phys Soc should include academic sponsorships. We need to make sure that all documents are clear.

Satellite meetings need to have an affiliation with the IUPS Congress. We need to explain to Phys Soc the financial aspects of satellite meetings in order to be an affiliate. W. Boron proposed that for fundraising Phys Soc would do theirs in the UK, but that IUPS and Phys Soc would cooperate elsewhere around the world. A portion of any such funds could offset the IUPS obligation for travel awards.

The next stage is send a formal reply to the contract written by Phys Soc. M. Gordon will complete the first draft using a pre-2005 formula and send it to ExCo members before the end of August.

Action: M. Gordon will write draft of letter to Phys Soc and email to ExCo members before the end of August.

Action: L. Price will send a copy of the responsibilities of the hosting country to ExCo.

#### **Additional items:**

##### **IUPS statement on utility and relevance**

Denis sees the document on utility and relevance as something that needs to be sent back to Phys Soc and APS. IUPS should include an interim reply because we are waiting until October for responses from other societies. It should be an acknowledgement of their response and be encouraging, but not substantive and include the relevance document. W. Boron will write the letter. The document (see action item for #3) will need to be completed before the letter and document are sent.

Action: W. Boron will draft a letter to Phys Soc and APS in acknowledgement of their response to the outreach document.

##### **ICSU grant proposal**

W. Boron reported that systems biology is gaining traction as a possible theme for a BioUnion grant proposal. It was agreed that Peter Hunter and Andrew McCulloch would be ideal to help write the grant proposal to ICSU with other biounions. D. Noble agreed to be the lead person.

Action: D. Noble will contact Peter Hunter and Andrew McCulloch about helping with the grant writing.

**Education committee**

M. Gordon reported that the Education Committee has about \$70,000 to use from fundraising. This committee and several others have asked to have more members than officially allowed. ExCo decided the committees may keep more members.

The meeting ended at 12:20 p.m. EDT.