

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2011

Present : Denis Noble, Malcolm Gordon, Walter Boron, Xian Wang, Leslie Price

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

- 1. Approval of minutes of June 14, 2011 Executive Committee meeting,**
The minutes were approved.

- 2. ADInstruments**

The funds from ADI will be used to support the IUPS Education Committee's symposium during the congress. This will include two lecturers, a plenary speaker at the congress and one speaker at the symposium. N. Boross-Toby will be in touch with T. Grzelak from ADI and P. Hansen, co-chair of the Education Committee about specific arrangements.

- 3. Ratification of amendment to form Board of GA**

After reading the amendment, an adhering body may submit a proposal for a different form of governance. J. Ashmore, president of TPS, is largely positive about IUPS and what it is doing. However, he thought the bicameral system seemed too complicated. D. Noble explained why IUPS needs to have balance and how this kind of governance would help ensure that. It is possible that TPS and APS will submit a proposal.

W. Boron spoke with M. Frank, executive director of APS, and explained how council works. He did not understand how important it is to have balance in terms of country, gender and type of physiology. W. Boron also said that APS is willing to pay the 2012 US dues although an amount has not been established.

It was agreed that the ratification of the amendment needs to proceed. M. Gordon suggested two minor changes to the amendment. The word "elected" should be deleted from Item 3b. In item 3d. there needs to be a sentence about regional membership as

well as a fair balance between different parts of the world. The proposed amendment should be attached to the email sent to the GA delegates.

P. Wright, chief executive of TPS, may be going to draft a governance proposal and send it to APS. If they do present a proposal, IUPS will consider it. D. Noble will compose an email to be sent to J. Granger, M. Frank, J. Ashmore, M. Spyer and P. Wright. It will say that IUPS values what they have contributed to the discussion of governance. Denis will ask if they are going to write a proposal. If they are, IUPS needs to receive it by Monday, September 12. It was felt that IUPS needs to wait and see what their proposal is before taking any action about the joint managing board of *Physiology*. W. Boron thought it very important while APS and TPS are in a positive mood to call them and tell them what the subject of the email will be. L. Price will draft a message and send it to D. Noble for editing. L. Price will then send it to the five persons listed above.

L. Price will draft an email concerning submission of a governance proposal by APS and TPS which D. Noble will edit. L. Price will then send it to J. Granger and M. Frank of APS plus J. Ashmore, M. Spyer and P. Wright of TPS.

4. Final review of host expectations document

M. Gordon reported on additions to the Congress host guidelines and minimum requirements document. Under "Financial arrangements", item d, a sentence has been added. It reads "If there is a net loss, IUPS has no liability for compensating the host organization." TPS has been apprized of the problem at the St. Petersburg Congress in 1997 when IUPS paid for much of the Congress due to low registration and other problems.

Item g was also added to the document. It reads "Beginning five days before the Congress and for the duration of the Congress, provision by the host organization, at no cost to IUPS, of suitable and suitably furnished and equipped office and conference room space in the congress venue for use by the IUPS Manager and Council. Scheduling and use of the conference room will be at the discretion of IUPS." This was inserted because IUPS had to pay for rooms at the 2009 congress in Kyoto. IUPS cannot pay for rooms because there is no money in the budget for this expense.

A copy of the guidelines and requirements document will be sent to Benedito H. Machado, chair of the ISPC 2017, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "Hosting an International Congress of Physiological Sciences – Guidelines and Minimum Requirements" will be on the agenda for approval by the General Assembly in 2013.

L. Price will edit the answers in the Q&A list and submit to W. Boron for approval. The list will be emailed to ExCo members. She will email a copy of the hosting document to B. Machado.

5. Q&A list

D. Noble's talk with J. Ashmore of TPS generated a list of questions to which D. Noble gave answers in a Q&A format. It was decided that this would be an internal document to assist in developing talking points for ExCo members. No external document is needed. The answers will be edited to make them written in more formal language.

6. NAS/APS relationship

W. Boron and M. Gordon reported on this topic. NAS is not going to be able to pay IUPS dues. The major issue, ongoing for three years, is getting dues from NSF. NSF has been dragging its feet about sending money to NAS. M Gordon and W. Boron have been trying to get money from various places with no success. According to W. Boron in a phone conversation with M. Frank, executive director of APS, they are willing to be the US adhering body and pay the dues, probably at a reduced amount, starting in 2012. Their Council will discuss the idea in September at their next meeting.

The problem with this scenario is that it leaves out other US groups which were part of the USNC. Shu Chien, M. Gordon and W. Boron worked on writing a document that was sent to former USNC members, except APS, asking several questions: Does the society want to be part of a reconstituted USNC? If yes, how do they wish to participate? Would they be willing to make some financial contribution to the US dues? They were asked to submit their answers by September 30. W. Boron will tell M. Frank that IUPS is waiting for replies. If IUPS is going to ask APS for dues then it needs to know what the dues will be from the former USNC members. The bill for unpaid US dues from 2009 and 2010 is what needs to be addressed.

W. Boron will call M. Frank to tell him about letter to former USNC members and that IUPS is waiting for replies due Sept. 30.
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7. Africa

Council thought it best in addressing the question of physiological societies in Africa to ask for collaboration between IUPS and societies which have members in Africa (TPS, APS, SDP [France]). It was proposed that IUPS ask those societies to encourage their African members to come to the 2013 Congress. Council approved of the proposal to confer with all the African physiologists who attend the 2013 Congress.

D. Noble sent a message to TPS about collaboration on African physiologists. M. Frank in his conversations with W. Boron pointed out that AAPS (African Association of Physiological Sciences) was started with some help from APS and himself in 1989. He appreciated IUPS' insight into the nondemocratic structure of AAPS. Tobias Wang was informed by SEB (Society of Experimental Biology) that they have 49 members in Africa. It was suggested that IUPS get a list of African members from APS and TPS and ask the societies what they think about getting together at the 2013 Congress. The executive directors would need to be consulted.

There were some concerns expressed about the issue of confidentiality when requesting the emails of African members. L. Price suggested that the IUPS email be sent to APS

and TPS to distribute to their members, which would remove the problem of confidentiality. W. Boron will talk to M. Frank about APS sending out email to their African members. T. Wang will be requested to contact the Society of Experimental Biology concerning the same request. Some African physiologists would best be contacted through SDP (Société de Physiologie) because the members speak French.

M. Frank, APS executive director, is aware of the idea of collaboration about Africa and sent a memo to members to solicit donations for those traveling from developing countries. Collaboration was also discussed with UK congress organizers at the ISPC meeting. D. Noble would like P. Wright, M. Spyer and J. Ashmore of TPS to be kept up-to-date on this matter.

W. Boron will talk to M. Frank about APS sending their African members an IUPS email to encourage attendance at the 2013 Congress. L. Price will contact T. Wang asking that he talk to SEB concerning the same request. She will also contact P. Wright, M. Spyer and J. Ashmore of TPS to update them about African physiologists.

8. IUPS/APS relationship re *Physiology*

There is a joint management committee for the journal that is supposed to include members of IUPS and APS. M. Gordon is an ex officio member, but IUPS needs to appoint two Council members. P. Hunter and T. Wang volunteered to be on the committee. It was suggested that APS should be told that IUPS is sorry it has not been doing its part on the *Physiology* managing board. Because of this, it would like to introduce two new IUPS members for the board. The union could also offer to alternate journal meetings between IUPS and APS. Below is the draft letter to distribute as recommended by M. Gordon.

8/17/2011

Hi Walter and Leslie,

Here is a possible draft of the letter about the journal. Once we have come to agreement on wording I think we need to run it past ExComm, then fix it as needed.

The list of addressees I suggest should be: APS: Joey Granger, Hershel Raff, Kim Barrett, Marty Frank and Rita Scheman; IUPS: Everyone on ExComm plus Tobias Wang.

August 22, 2011

TO: Distribution list

FROM: Denis Noble on behalf of IUPS ExComm

RE: IUPS/APS Joint Managing Board for PHYSIOLOGY

Those of us who met with the APS group that attended last month's TPS meeting in Oxford were pleased with the way those discussions went. There were some substantive issues discussed and we came away from the meetings feeling that the APS and IUPS are working together collegially and effectively. With that as the foundation, we would like to further strengthen our relationship with APS.

One important area discussed by IUPS Council during its meeting prior to the TPS meeting was our joint journal, *PHYSIOLOGY*. In the last few years IUPS has not been properly active in carrying out our responsibilities on the Joint Managing Board for the journal. We apologize for that. We propose to remedy that situation in several ways:

1) Under the contract IUPS has with APS the Board includes two representatives each of IUPS and APS. Malcolm Gordon, IUPS Treasurer, has been a member. We propose that he (and, in future, other IUPS Treasurers) continue as an ex officio participant. We have appointed two IUPS Council members, Peter Hunter and Tobias Wang, as our two regular representatives.

2) The Chair of the Board has been an APS representative for some years. We propose establishing a policy of alternating the position of Chair between the two organizations at two year intervals. We propose that the reconstituted Board should be chaired by an IUPS person from now until the end of 2013.

3) We propose that we establish a policy of having formal, in person meetings of the Board annually, beginning in 2012. We propose that these meetings be held at EB meetings in years between the quadrennial IUPS Congresses. The meeting should occur at the Congress in the fourth year. This will ensure there will be more frequent, regular dialogue between the two owner groups, so the Board can decide general questions of policy for the journal as specified in the contract.

4) We are also looking forward, through the vehicle of the Joint Board and as specified in the contract, to selecting the next Chief Editor. The current editor is, as you know, also the Secretary General of IUPS. We wish to help select someone of similar caliber. We are presently canvassing the world - wide membership of IUPS asking for applications for the position. We have established a deadline for applications of September 30, 2011. After that date we propose merging the pool of possible candidates with the pool that APS has been gathering, then developing a mutually agreeable process for making the selection. Please let me know if there are questions.

With best regards.

The email above is to be sent out as soon as possible.

Another draft letter was generated to address the issues of the selection of editor for *Physiology*.

RE: Request for applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief of our journal, *PHYSIOLOGY*

Our Secretary-General, Walter Boron, as of the end of 2012, will have served for 9 years as Editor-in-Chief of the jointly published [by IUPS and the American Physiological Society (APS)] journal *PHYSIOLOGY*. By mutual agreement with both the IUPS Executive Committee and the Publications Committee of APS he has agreed to retire from that position. He will be leaving the journal as a highly successful, widely cited enterprise. He has earned the gratitude and respect of all interested parties.

This memorandum announces the opening of a world-wide search for a comparably qualified, experienced, competent and energetic replacement Editor-in-Chief. The initial

term of appointment will be for three years, normally renewable once. A formal announcement of the search, with a job description, will be posted on the IUPS website in the next few days. The open period for applications begins immediately and will close September 30, 2011. The appointment will be made by the Joint Management Committee of the journal under the terms of the contract for the journal between IUPS and APS. Inquiries and nominations, including self-nominations, should be directed to Leslie Price, Manager.

Per our discussion earlier today, this memo (revised as you think it should be) should be reviewed by both ExComm and APS.

The Editor's term ends June 20, 2012. He/she is not allowed more than three terms of three years, renewable no more than twice. W. Boron has suggested changing *Physiology* to a monthly journal and including original articles besides review articles. He would need six years to do this. There are differences of opinion between the editorial staff and W. Boron as editor. M. Gordon and W. Boron will rewrite the letter.

It was noted that the joint managing board discusses the future direction of the journal. There are policy issues that should be addressed. The letter to APS should include a need to reconstitute the joint managing board of the journal and to wait until the board is in place before asking for editorial candidates. M. Gordon will revise the letter as recommended by W. Boron. Then the letter will be signed by the treasurer, president and vice presidents. L. Price will send it to the journal's editorial board.

M. Gordon and W. Boron will revise the letter concerning the journal editor. It will be signed by the president, vice presidents and treasurer. L. Price will send it to the journal's editorial board plus the APS president and executive director. It is not to be sent until after a response from APS to the joint board letter.

9. Audit/yearly financial statement

The TPS annual financial report was presented by M. Gordon, treasurer. The ExCo thought it might be a good template for an annual report for IUPS. W. Boron commented that it is important to show publicly how IUPS is running on a limited budget. He also expressed the importance of explaining what IUPS accomplishes with this budget. He suggested using the list of expenditures shown by TPS as a starting point. L. Price and W. Boron will write an explanation of what IUPS does with its funds and how the organization is overstretched.

W. Boron and L. Price will write an explanation of what IUPS does based on the breakdown of expenses on the financial statement.

10. Replacement for Daniel Ricquier

Since Daniel Ricquier has resigned from the IUPS Council, a replacement needs to be appointed to his position. Below are the constitutional rules for doing so:

ARTICLE VI – Council

4. The Council shall fill any vacancies occurring on the Council between meetings of the General Assembly, and the individual so appointed by the Council shall serve for the unexpired term of the individual whose position he/she is filling. The individual filling the vacancy may be elected to one additional term on Council.

A request for suggestions from Council will be sent out. The replacement does not need to be French. The people nominated may be from any part of the world. The areas that IUPS needs to include on Council to add balance are South Asia and Africa. L. Price will compose an email to send to Council members.

L. Price will compose a request to Council for nominations to replace Daniel Ricquier who has resigned.

11. Other business

12. Date of next meeting

X. Wang and P. Hunter will decide together how they will alternate monthly ExCo meetings. The times of the next meeting will be determined by which of them is attending. X. Wang and P. Hunter are encouraged to submit items for the agenda, especially for the meetings they will be attending.