

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Council Meeting
Room 4, Hotel Monte Real
Águas de Lindóia, SP, Brazil

August 2-3, 2015

Present: D. Noble, J. Chan, P. Hansen, W. Boron, P. Wagner, B. Machado, P. Moody-Corbett, J. Rettig, T. Wang, P. Hunter, S. Webster

With Regrets: T. Brzozowski, C. McMillen, K. Mikoshiba, S. Semnanian, X. Wang

1. Approval of Minutes from 2013 Council Meetings

The minutes for the 2013 IUPS Council Meetings were approved. The minutes are available online at <http://iups.org/reports/meeting-minutes>

2. Officer Reports

a. President

D. Noble reported that he is working to follow up the theme of the 2013 Congress, “Moving Physiology back into Center Stage”. This theme has been used in many lectures, debates and discussions around the world. A major part of this was increased outreach with physiological societies in Africa, especially francophone Africa. To this end, he sent a video greeting to the African Association of Physiological Sciences (AAPS) Congress in Ismailia in September 2012, and a video lecture in French to the Congress of the Société Africaine de Physiologie et Physiopathologie in Senegal in December 2013.

A second mission of the president’s office was to strengthen relations between IUPS and its member societies. For this purpose, he has been making contact with society presidents or secretaries and having telephone conversations, or face-to-face meetings when feasible. He spoke to the presidents about the work of the IUPS, and of the new dues calculation system. He reported that the society presidents were very pleased with his call, and asked why it had not been done before. He suggested that yearly phone calls with society presidents become a regular occurrence.

He reported that this contact has also helped to firm up relations with IUPS, The Physiological Society (PhysSoc) and the American Physiological Society (APS). He was pleased to announce that PhysSoc had

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agreed to hold their 2017 Congress integrated with the IUSP Congress in Rio de Janeiro. This will be the first time the PhysSoc Annual Congress has been held outside the United Kingdom in almost 140 years.

The floor was opened up for questions. J. Rettig asked for details of IUPS outreach efforts in Africa. D. Noble reported that he was in contact with representatives of francophone Africa, and the Education Committee was working with the rest of Africa. He hoped to convince the francophone regional society to join IUPS as a regional member, as doing so would open them up to the world wide community of physiologists at no cost to them.

D. Noble said that IUPS would like to have a bigger presence at regional meetings, but to remember that IUPS is an organization of volunteers, with only one full time staff member and a very small budget. He stated that if regional meetings wanted participation of IUPS officers, it would usually need at least a year's notice to arrange. For the francophone congress, he was only given 8 weeks' notice, which is why a video lecture had been sent in place of attending the Congress in person.

J. Rettig also asked about the status of countries who had attended the IUPS Congress for the first time in 2013, such as Myanmar. D. Noble reported that Malta, Bangladesh, and Nepal were all inducted into the IUPS at that congress. He stated that his impression of Myanmar was that they had no proper society to join. He speculated that working through Thailand could be the key to contact with them. He also reported that he had officially asked the North Korean Academy if they were interested in IUPS membership. The problem with them is communication. He reported that it takes at least three months for a response to an email.

J. Rettig asked for a report on the proposed IUPS Trading Post. W. Boron reported that it had been discussed with the IUPS's web developer, but no work had been completed yet. S. Webster stated that security was a major concern, and Case Western Reserve University, where the IUPS website is hosted, is sensitive to illegal transactions. W. Boron proposed creating a task force charged with outlining guidelines for the trading post website. It was agreed that the task force would be comprised of W. Boron, J. Chan, P. Hansen, J. Rettig, P. Moody-Corbett, and P. Wagner.

P. Wagner reported on his efforts to create a needs assessment survey to assist with outreach efforts. He has reached out to APS for guidance and support, but has not yet received an answer.

The President's Report was accepted.

b. Secretary-General

W. Boron gave the Secretary-General's report. He stated that the 2013 Annual Report was posted publicly on the IUPS website, and the 2014 report would be posted soon.

He reported the retirement of IUPS Manager Leslie Price last summer, and the hiring of Steven Webster. He stated the primary duty of the IUPS Manager is to facilitate communication within the union by arranging meetings of IUPS officers and members. He stated that ExCo used to meet just once a year in person, but now meets monthly via teleconference. He stated that this allows ExCo to get more work done faster. Monthly meeting minutes are posted to the IUSP website as they are approved. J. Rettig stated that he did not visit the IUSP website regularly, and would like more regular updates from ExCo. R. Bindels, Chair of Commission V, suggested a quarterly update for members of Council, which was agreed upon. D. Noble suggested tabling discussion on Council communication procedures to the end of the meeting.

W. Boron reported that as Secretary-General, he was appointed Co-Chair of the International Scientific Program Committee (ISPC) for the 2017 Congress. The IUPS contingent was comprised of chairs of the commissions and committees of IUPS in order to help strengthen their roll in IUPS. Several

members of Council were also members of the ISPC. W. Boron is also in charge of negotiating the contract with SBFis for the 2017 Congress. He reported the contract has not been signed yet, and negotiations were proceeding slowly. He expressed his hope that a contract would be agreed upon and signed soon.

W. Boron also reported on activities with other unions. He stated that IUPS is a member of the bio-unions, a group of similar organizations working within other disciplines. He cited the Multi-Scale Modeling meeting in 2013 as an example of Bio-Union activities. D. Noble said the meeting itself was better than the journal it produces, as it gave participants from differing areas a chance to discuss. During their meeting in Auckland, NZ, the Bio-Unions expressed interest in a similar meeting at IUPS-2017. W. Boron reported that the Multi-Scale Modeling meeting only cost IUPS \$5,000. He also pointed out that the meeting could be used to spotlight the new journal.

W. Boron also reported that IUPS, in conjunction with IUPAB and IUBMB, will be holding an Advanced School on signaling transduction and receptors in Spetes, Greece. The meeting will be held in the middle of May 2016. IUPS is contributing \$5,000 to the event.

W. Boron reported on IUPS's interactions with ICSU. During the 2014, Auckland meeting, ICSU passed a resolution stating that the impact factors of journals should not be used as a criterion for hiring or promotion.

The Secretary-General's report was accepted.

c. Treasurer

P. Wagner gave the Treasurer's Report. He presented the annual IUPS budget, including dues payments received and expenses. The single highest expense for IUPS was the Manager's salary. The other highest expenses were money to be paid to APS for the publication of *Physiology* and money for use in inter-union activities. J. Taylor asked about monies delegated to the Commissions. D. Noble stated that the idea was to use the money to help reinvigorate the Commissions, but that proved not to have worked. P. Hansen did state that the Education Committee, with its own budget line, did use its money to fund educational meetings around the world.

P. Wagner reported that as of July 31st, 13 societies have paid their IUPS dues. He did point out that those societies that had not, were not in default. He did say that the IUPS was not in a position to "bang on doors" to ask for dues payments. T. Wang pointed out that in Denmark, the Royal Academy was only able to pay for the dues of 8 of its 25 societies, the physiological society not being one of them. S. Webster was asked to compile a list of those societies that did not pay their dues in 2014.

P. Wagner also reported on the dues revision process. He met with M. Spyer, president of the Board of General Assembly (BGA), during the 2014 PhysSoc congress. They worked to produce a rational basis for dues revision. They came up with a basic model with two variables: members and national GDP. He and M. Spyer presented their idea to the BGA, and met with no negative feedback. BGA did ask if it would be possible to account for society budget, rather than GDP. P. Wagner said this information would be difficult, if not impossible to get. He said that using total societal budgets to compute dues, the APS contribution would have to reflect their budget of about \$18 million compared to the likely small budgets of many societies. Such that, if a small society had a \$1000 annual budget, APS would be billed 18,000 times more - that is, \$1.8million compared to perhaps \$100 for the small society, and that would be out of the question. Even if the small society ended up billed only \$10, APS would be billed \$180,000 on such a model.

P. Wagner asked for a resolution eliminating the \$2000 from the budget for each commission. He stated that each commission would still be able to apply for funding if they needed any. The resolution was motioned by J. Chan, and seconded by T. Wang. The resolution passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

3. Committee and Commission Reports

a. Education Committee

R. Carroll gave the Education Committee report. He stated the aim of the Education Committee is to support regional activities. To that end, they give out two \$2000 grants each year. He said the funds are often used as "starter funds" for meetings to apply for more grants. He said that in 2014, the Committee funded meetings in Bangladesh and Lagos, Nigeria. In 2015, it will be funding meetings at the FAOPS Congress, and an education meeting in Brazil.

P. Hansen asked about the Committee's work with ADI Instruments. R. Carroll stated they were given a grant to sponsor a lecture at the 2017 Congress, as well as a teaching workshop. He stated the committee was still working to secure a venue for the workshop. Ideally, it would be held at a university, to allow for co-sponsorship, and within a two to four hour bus ride of Rio de Janeiro.

D. Noble thanked R. Carroll and the Education Committee for their hard work in outreach to Africa.

b. Commissions

Y-S. Chun asked to change the name of her commission, stating that she did not know why it existed in the first place. D. Noble provided some history, stating the current system was the effort of winnowing down and consolidating over thirty commissions 20 years ago. P. Wagner said that ExCo had been working on the matter for some months, and that it is a complex problem. D. Noble suggested letting each commission chair select their own "dream team" to create the best input to the ISPC, then to decide on name. P. Hunter created a diagram detailing the relationship between the Commissions and Committees (Appendix 1).

J. Rettig stated that the commissions were divided up, largely, by organ systems, but included some that were not. He said the problem in selecting plenary and keynote speakers, is that each proposal was put into a "drawer" and a quota was assigned to each. He asked if it was really necessary to sort the proposals into such arbitrary groups. W. Boron stated that there wasn't any reason that sessions couldn't be sponsored by several committees or commissions.

D. Noble reiterated the need for creating a set strategy for dealing with the commissions and committees. W. Boron said that with the Congress coming up in 2017, there might not be enough time to fully reorganize everything, and that D. Noble's proposal would allow the commissions to still function at ISPC. J. Rettig stated that the commission and committee chairs felt overwhelmed at ISPC, and they will need functional commissions to evaluate symposia. P. Hansen pointed out the IUPS Constitution requires GA approval to establish, dissolve, or merge commissions.

J. Taylor reported that when she was asked to serve as a commission chair, she was surprised, but appreciated being asked. She attempted to contact the members of the committee, but only received three responses. She stated that she was not sure what her job was, or even who to ask. P. Hansen responded that as ExCo's liaison to the commissions and committees, she is the best person to ask. She also stated that she has been working on draft Terms of Reference for IUPS, which should help alleviate some confusion. J. Rettig expressed similar issues with his commission, and asked if it was possible for him to appoint members. P. Hansen stated that ExCo is to be informed of new commission and committee

appointments, but chairs are free to appoint as they see fit. P. Moody-Corbett stated that the bylaws call for Council approval of commission appointments. W. Boron stated that from now on, chairs are to send new appointments for members to S. Webster, who will forward them on to Council.

D. Noble asked the Committee and Commission chairs had any final questions or comments. L. Filaretova asked if she would be allowed to restructure her commission. She stated that she felt that three, rather than six, sub-commissions would work better for her. P. Hansen stated she was free to structure her commission as she saw fit. T. Wang reported that he was also reorganizing his commission, with membership being approximately 50% female, and all continents being represented. J. Taylor expressed the hope that future commission chairs be appointed from commission member rolls, so they are not just “thrown into the deep end”. P. Hansen suggested staggering membership terms so some institutional knowledge was retained.

4. 2017 Congress Planning/Contract

a. General Assembly approval of Brazil as the location of the 2017 IUPS Congress

W. Boron reported on the negotiation progress for the 2017 Congress contract. He stated that the contract negotiations have been protracted. The major point of contention still remaining was funds for use in Young Investigator (YI) travel grants to the congress. The current contract states that part of the \$60k raised for travel grants during the 2013 Congress would be used for Council travel, which D. Noble suggested violated a “sacred trust”. W. Boron stated that this was based on the 2013 contract except that PhysSoc promised matching funds to go to travel grants. Sociedade Brasileira de Fisiologia (SBFis) has refused to make such a promise. They have, however, agreed to a surcharge to be added to senior registration fees to go toward travel grants. The intent of the registration fee surcharge is that the amount so raised would be considered as offsetting, dollar for dollar, the IUPS contribution for the YI grants, thereby freeing up that amount from the IUPS \$60,000 fund to support Council travel.

V. Antunes and B. Machado came to the meeting to negotiate on behalf of SBFis. After some clarification, and adjustment of language, V. Antunes agreed to take the contract to the SBFis Council Meeting at the Congress. He also stated that the contract would have to be vetted and approved by SBFis’s lawyers before being signed. V. Antunes and W. Boron agree to work together that night to create a “clean” copy to submit to SBFis.

b. Soliciting member societies for symposia funding

D. Noble stated the task now was to solicit member societies for funding for symposia at the 2017 Congress. T. Wang stated that he felt that societies who contribute funding for symposia would probably like some control over who receives the funding. He speculated that they would rather sponsor their own members. W. Boron suggested a bidding system to help determine who sponsors symposia. T. Wang stated that as long as sponsoring societies were listed in the congress program as such, he did not foresee any problems.

c. Procedures for future Congress bidding

D. Noble stated that ExCo was committed to modifying the procedure for bidding for congresses in order to avoid protracted negotiations. In the future, bidders will have to agree to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), stating the main principles of the contract. This MoU will be signed before any bidders give their presentations. At the four year mark, a contract is to be signed. He stated that in order to do this, a MoU and contract for the 2021 Congress have to be created and approved in time for the

2017 Congress. W. Boron stated that future bids should provide more financial details in their presentations (i.e., 8 years before the IUPS Congress in question).

5. Journals

a. New journal proposal: *Physiome*

D. Noble and P. Hunter reported on the proposal to create a new Physiome journal. D. Noble stated that part of the purpose of the new journal was to raise funds for IUPS, but that the idea was also worth doing for its own sake. It was agreed that the Physiome would be the best topic for a new journal. P. Hunter stated the goal of the new journal was to make new mathematical models open to the public. The website CellML currently does so, but there is no incentive for scientists to give them. He stated that getting a journal citation would be that incentive.

P. Hunter reported that he had talked to potential publishers, and agreed that an open access journal was the only financial model that made sense. Revenue for the journal would come from an article processing charge, about 1000GBP. That money would be divided three ways, to IUPS, to the costs of curating the models, and to the publishers. P. Hunter reported that the proposal from BioMed Central (BMC) came back offering 10% royalties to IUPS for the first two years, and 20% for years 3-5. He stated that it is not typical for open access journals to generate revenue, and most journals make money via subscription. He also stated that since BMC already had the infrastructure in place, IUPS will not have to front any start-up costs.

W. Boron pointed out that other societies' journal contracts were typically five years, and had the option of moving publishers if a better deal was struck. He asked if that was part of BMC's proposal. P. Hunter said that it was. P. Wagner asked how many other journals the new journal could potentially be a companion to. P. Hunter said that no journals were currently publishing replicable models.

P. Hunter also reported on discussions with other publishers. He stated that Wiley suggested a joint venture with APS and PhysSoc, and PhysSoc seemed interested. He also reported that a submission had been transmitted to Elsevier, but with minimal feedback. D. Noble felt quite encouraged by BMC's proposal, but suggested keeping in contact with Wiley as a backup.

W. Boron motioned for Council to thank P. Hunter and D. Noble for their hard work, and to ask them to proceed. The motion passed unanimously.

b. *Physiology* journal with APS

T. Wang reported on IUPS's journal with APS, *Physiology*. He reported that the impact factor for the journal is dropping, but not sure why. He showed a letter from APS President D. Pollock with a proposal to cancel IUPS's \$260,000 debt to APS and asking for assistance in promoting the journal. T. Wang proposed making a subscription to the journal a part of IUPS membership. He stated that if it was done electronically, there would be no cost to IUPS. W. Boron stated that something given away freely has no value. He suggested offering \$15 a member for those societies who could afford it, and free to those who can't.

P. Wagner stated that a major issue is that IUPS does not know what financial model APS proposed using for global distribution of the journal. He reported he has asked M. Frank more than once for the information, but has received no answer. D. Noble suggested that a letter from the President might hold more sway, and offered to send it.

6. Other/New Business

a. Council communications

D. Noble stated that after the 2013 meeting, it was proposed that Council meet telephonically every six months. This has fallen by the wayside. He did say that the BGA was on its feet and meeting regularly. W. Boron suggested members of Council join in ExCo Skype calls, so that they can keep apprised of IUPS business. He suggested this happen quarterly. P. Hansen also suggested that S. Webster send Council ExCo agendas and meeting minutes as they are approved. She noted that ExCo had previously agreed that within one week after meetings, minutes would be sent to ExCo for corrections and subsequent approval, and agendas would be circulated at least one week before meetings. D. Noble asked if Skype was the best option for teleconferences. S. Webster said that for small teleconferences, Skype was perfectly fine. But for larger groups, such as BGA, it wasn't as stable. He would research other methods of teleconference.

b. IUPS Terms of Reference

P. Hansen reported that she was working on draft Terms of Reference for all the positions in IUPS. She stated there is not much guidance from the IUPS Constitution or Bylaws. She stated that when she is done with her draft, she will submit them to Council. W. Boron suggested the Terms of Reference be the exclusive topic of the first ExCo/Council call.

c. Membership Committee

D. Noble stated that Membership Committee chair S. Semnanian would be happy to remain chair of the membership committee. His work was evident at the 2013 Congress, where several societies who had never before participated were able to do so. He said that S. Semnanian would need some support from the Cleveland office to be able to do his job. He was previously joined by D. Noble and S. Orsoni, the previous IUPS Executive Secretary. D. Noble suggested a member of Council might be ideal. P. Hansen asked which countries IUPS would attempt to recruit. D. Noble suggested that Africa and the Middle East were areas to focus on. S. Webster was requested to create a list of countries who are not members of IUPS and to forward it on to D. Noble. P. Hansen suggested two senior physiologists from Africa could be considered for the committee: Yasser El-Wazir from Egypt and Olusoga Sofola from Nigeria. She will provide contact information to S. Webster in case ExCo wishes to include them as members.

d. IBRO Council

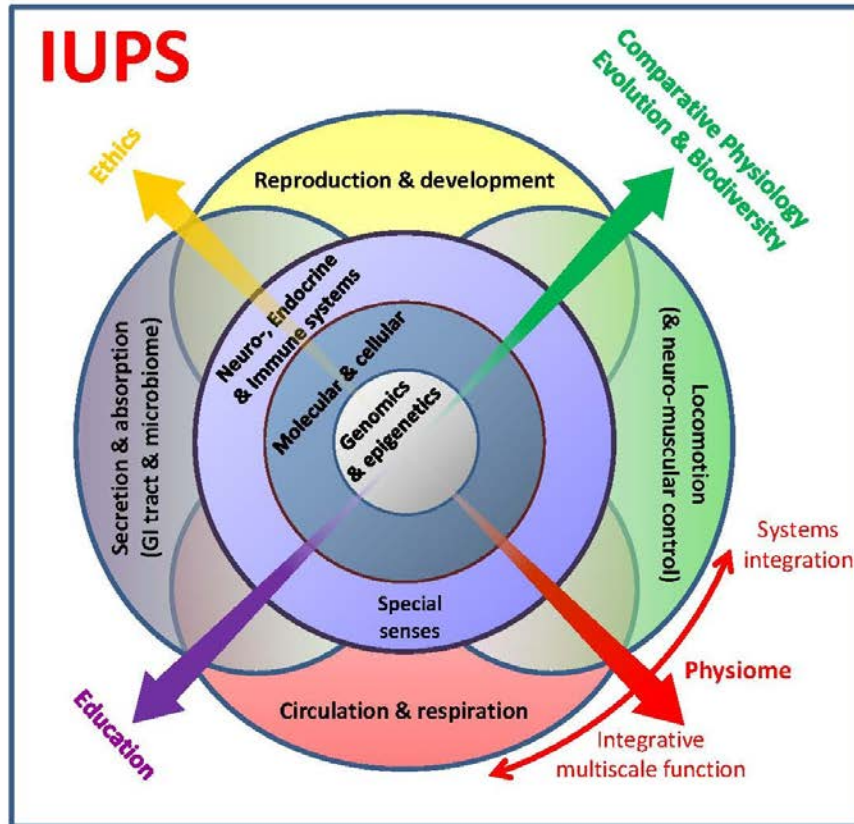
D. Noble reported that as IUPS's representative to the IBRO, he voted for their 2019 Congress to be held in South Korea, and it was the winning candidate.

e. Solicit member societies for IUPS-2017

B. Machado suggested a letter go out jointly from SBFis and IUPS to solicit donations for the 2017 Congress from member societies. W. Boron asked who would be in charge of writing and sending the letter. B. Machado suggested himself, W. Boron, V. Antunes, and D. Noble. He offered to write the letter for the others to revise. This was agreed to.

D. Noble thanked SBFis, specifically B. Machado and V. Antunes, for their generosity for hosting the IUPS Council meeting during the SBFis Congress. The meeting closed at 6:08 pm on August 3rd.

Appendix 1: IUPS structural chart proposed by Peter Hunter



Commissions

1. Locomotion
2. Circulation & respiration
3. Endocrine, reproduction & development
4. Neurobiology
5. Secretion & absorption
6. Molecular & cellular physiology
7. Comparative physiology: evolution, adaptation & environment
8. Genomics & Biodiversity

Committees

1. Education
2. Physiome & systems biology
3. Ethics

Organ systems

1. Cardiovascular
2. Respiratory
3. Musculo-skeletal
4. Digestive
5. Urinary
6. Endocrine
7. Immune
8. Nervous
9. Integumentary
10. Female reproductive
11. Male reproductive
12. Special senses