

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

September 29, 2015

1. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

- a. S. Webster to compile list of society president contact information, and send to D. Noble.

S. Webster to resend contact info to D. Noble.

- b. D. Noble to extend offer of regional membership to Francophone Africa Society.

D. Noble reached out to the Francophone African Society. Per the IUPS Constitution, they are to submit their constitution and list of officers. They are working on doing so.

- c. ExCo to create document detailing IUPS's worth, to present at Congress.

D. Noble suggested creating the document over time to show all that IUPS does between Congresses. P. Wagner suggested that the Annual Reports could be combined into an appropriate document.

- d. S. Webster to consult with accountant to determine named lecture and education funds.

S. Webster reported that the accountant does not have the information. S. Webster will be reconstructing it based on the amounts given on the 2012 audit, and subsequent bank statements. P. Wagner suggested that the process would be easier once the records had been caught up. W. Boron suggested adding the task to the Manager's Terms of Reference.

- e. P. Hansen to write to J. Taylor and L. Filaretova to discuss potential name changes.

P. Hansen did write to the Commission chairs. She has not yet received any response, but did add that Y.S. Chun requested that Commission VIII be renamed "Genomics and Epigenomics".

- f. S. Webster to forward IUPS letterhead to members of Council and Commission/Committee Chairs

- g. S. Webster to post June 30 minutes to IUPS website.

- h. S. Webster to send D. Noble list of retiring Council members.

S. Webster completed all of these things. He also sent D. Noble the terms of office for the BGA, and the Commission and Committee Chairs.

- i. W. Boron to write letter to SBFis giving approval for RioCentro.

W. Boron did not want to do so before a contract had been at least agreed upon. D. Noble pointed out that for the 1997 St. Petersburg Congress, IUPS insisted on a change of venue. P. Wagner asked if this letter was approval for RioCentro, or for the congress as a whole. W. Boron stated that it was approval for the site. ExCo agreed that the contract needed to be completed before any approval letters could be sent out.

- j. S. Webster to add VPH as Affiliated Member to IUPS website

The VPH page on the IUPS website is: <http://www.iups.org/member-societies/affiliated-societies/virtual-physiological-human-institute/>

- k. W. Boron to ask A. McCulloch to invite S. Omholt to serve on Physiome Committee

W. Boron to do. S. Omholt will serve as a sort of “VPH Representative” on the Physiome Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. BGA Meeting

S. Webster gave the report from the minutes from the September 16th BGA meeting. J. Chan gave updates on ExCo, Council, and the Congress Contract negotiation. K. Spyer delivered a report on the dues revision process. One new development was a proposal to introduce a “base fee” of no more than \$1000 to dues. S. Webster reported that BGA members from smaller societies were very much not in favor of such a proposal, as their annual budgets are not much more than \$1000.

P. Wagner suggested a dedicated ExCo meeting with K. Spyer to discuss the dues revision. He stated that the new dues structure would need to be “pitched” correctly to the societies that would have their dues increased. He suggested the October 20th ExCo meeting be dedicated to the purpose.

4. Scandinavia Possibly Holding 2017 Congress at IUPS-2017

D. Noble received an email from X. Wang on behalf of the Scandinavian Physiological Society. In it, he proposed that SPS hold their annual meeting for 2017 at the 2017 IUPS Congress. He suggested that a letter from IUPS and the Congress organizers would go a long way toward making this happen.

D. Noble felt this was a great opportunity for the IUPS Congress, as well as a potential logistical nightmare. W. Boron stated that the number of plenary spots was fixed, but he felt the congress venue was flexible enough to accommodate more keynote lectures. P. Wagner stated that hopefully, SPS will not keep to themselves, and participate in the larger congress.

D. Noble proposed that he draft a letter to SPS, to be co-signed by V. Antunes (as President of SBFis), W. Boron, and B. Machado (as co-chairs of the ISPC).

5. Continuing Contract Negotiations

W. Boron reported on the ongoing contract negotiations. The latest version, v 11, contained several changes. A major change was the inclusion of the word “first” into the clause detailing SBFis’s obligation to pay for meetings of the ISPC. In a Skype call with W. Boron, V. Antunes assured him that the word was placed there accidentally. The word was removed, and the clause remains unaltered.

The other major change in the contract concerned the dispute resolution section. SBFis changed the final measure from litigation to arbitration. Upon consulting with a lawyer, W. Boron accepted this change.

W. Boron did bring up the potential issue of paying taxes on the money transferred to IUPS after the congress. He reported that IUPS could face taxes in excess of 35%, as reported by an accountant who does extensive business in Brazil. During the discussion, V. Antunes sent Version 13 of the contract, saying that SBFis will pay IUPS 10% of the *net* (after tax) for use in travel awards. S. Webster forwarded the contract to ExCo and promised to have a comparison document within the day.

D. Noble stated the next step was to seek approval from the BGA for him to sign the contract. W. Boron and S. Webster were detailed to compose a letter to send to the BGA providing details on the contract. BGA members will have one week to vote to give their approval.

6. Nomination Committee

D. Noble started the discussion on setting a Nominating Committee for the 2017 Congress. He stated that in the past, the committee was made up of five members, to avoid ties. He stated the committee was usually comprised of 2-3 who were active within IUPS, but not eligible for reelection (ExCo members, Council, etc), and 2-3 members who were no longer active. This was to ensure some measure of “institutional memory” and to avoid any appearance of the same group of people getting elected to positions.

As ExCo had become much more active in recent years, D. Noble suggested W. Boron and P. Hansen to serve as the “active” members on the Nominating Committee. He excluded himself from serving as he felt he would be seen as populating IUPS with members with his own mindset. Another issue to consider when appointing committee members is the proposal to have Council be comprised of the chairs of the Committees and Commissions.

S. Webster pointed out that the former Nominating Committee was listed on the IUPS website. It was comprised of a chair (M. Gordon) and five members. The other “active” was O. Peterson, the former Secretary-General. He has created a list of previous members of ExCo and Council for D. Noble’s review. He will forward them to ExCo as well. W. Boron pointed out that someone who would make an excellent member of ExCo should be excluded from the Nominating Committee, so they can be nominated themselves.

D. Noble stated that in the past, the Nominating Committee, as well as the manager, met in person over a weekend to make nominations. Last time, M. Gordon hosted the committee in Los Angeles. P. Hansen asked if the meeting needed to be held in person. W. Boron pointed out that a great deal of work was accomplished in Aguas de Lindoia when everyone was together. D. Noble also mentioned that the committee would have to do a certain measure of “headhunting” in order to fill all the vacancies. He said it is useful for the chair to be able to call up potential nominees and “sound out” their level of interest.

P. Hansen asked if multiple people would be nominated for positions. D. Noble answered that once the slate of nominees is announced, national societies will have the opportunity to nominate other members, and be voted on by the GA. This has not happened in recent memory.

ExCo was asked to consider inactive members of IUPS for consideration for serving on the Nominating Committee.

7. Trading Post Updates

S. Webster reported that the IUPS web developer was currently upgrading the servers to accommodate the Trading Post. He did not provide a timeline. S. Webster assured ExCo he would have a more thorough report next month.

8. Other/New Business

There was no other new business. The meeting was adjourned.

Action Items

1. S. Webster to resend society president contact information to D. Noble.
2. S. Webster to invite K. Spyer to October 20 ExCo Meeting (complete, he will attend)
3. D. Noble to draft letter inviting SPS to hold their annual meeting at IUPS-2017.
4. S. Webster to create and distribute document comparing v11 and v13 of the contract (complete)
5. W. Boron and S. Webster to compose letter detailing IUPS-2017 Contract for D. Noble to send. (complete)
6. S. Webster to send previous ExCo and Council member lists. (complete)
7. ExCo to consider “inactive” members of IUPS to serve on Nominating Committee.