

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2015

Present: D. Noble, J. Chan, P. Hansen, W. Boron, P. Wagner, S. Webster

- 1. Review of Action Items from Nov 12 meeting**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from Nov 12 meeting**

The Minutes from the November 12th meeting were approved, with one edit. S. Webster is to post them to the website, and forward them to Council.

- 3. Review and Discussion of IUPS Finances**
 - a. 2015 dues collected and dues unpaid**

S. Webster reported on the dues collected in 2015. As of the day of the meeting, IUPS had collected \$71,570.46, with \$38,672 left unpaid. He reported that he had been contacted by the Belgian Royal Academy, and they will be paying within the week. D. Noble suggested that the societies who had not paid would be the focus of the next round of presidential phone calls. W. Boron suggested that some societies should be relatively easy to contact and receive dues from. D. Noble pointed out that the Israeli society was facing a major financial crisis from the cancellation of its meeting last year, and Germany was facing a financial shortfall from the cancellation of its journal.

P. Wagner suggested sending a formal letter to the delinquent societies, reminding them their dues are due on December 31st. He emphasized that the letter would not be a “bill collection” letter, but a reminder that IUPS would not be able to function without the support of its members. He offered to write the letter, and have the Cleveland office revise it at their earliest opportunity.

- b. 2016 budget proposal**

P. Wagner submitted his proposal for IUPS’s 2016 budget, which he worked on with S. Webster’s assistance. He stated that as a non-profit, it was essential that IUPS maintain a budget that is both realistic and flexible. A major item in the expense column, was “Uncollectible Dues” at \$40,000.

He stated that the Education Committee budget was not included, as it was a separate item within the budget. P. Hansen stated that in order for the Education Committee to create its own budget, it needed to know how much money it had to start. She stated that the last time she heard, it had around \$45,000. D. Noble stated that if the Education Committee is just an additional page to the budget, it

should be relatively easy to create. P. Wagner suggested the Education Committee create its own budget, and submit it to him and S. Webster. He suggested the budget have two lines of revenue, IUPS funds and raised funds. Even if the “raised funds” line was zero, it would be useful for future budgets. P. Hansen offered to get in touch with R. Carroll to request a budget from him.

W. Boron asked about the status of IUPS’s investment portfolio. P. Wagner reported that IUPS’s investments are in a variety of conservative funds, citing the volatile short-term market. He stated that the \$4,000 in projected revenue was a “very conservative” estimate.

W. Boron also asked that IUPS’s \$5,000 contribution to the Bio-Union Joint Advanced School be added to the budget. He suggested reducing the “Uncollectible Dues” amount to \$35,000 to keep the budget balanced. He stated that participating in inter-union activities would make it more likely that other unions, such as IUBMB and IUPAB, would participate in IUPS-2017. He also reiterated the need to assess the status of the IUPS endowed funds. He stated that if IUPS is to solicit for funds, potential donors would want to see how IUPS sent its money.

c. Dues revision: dues based on GDP x Membership versus dues based just on Membership

P. Wagner reported on the ongoing dues revision process. He provided ExCo with a spreadsheet with proposals for two potential models. The first was the model previously discussed, with dues based on membership totals and national GDP. The second was just based on membership numbers, scaled to IUPS’s projected revenues. He stated that under the second model, more societies would be paying more in dues. M. Spyer also proposed a “base fee plus member number” model. P. Wagner stated that any base fee would be “arbitrary”, and not objective, which was one of the goals of the dues revision process.

P. Wagner also reported that M. Spyer also proposed that any dues received from increases be put into a “development fund” specifically used for outreach. D. Noble suggested that this idea was a way of “sugaring the pill” for APS and PhysSoc to accept paying higher dues. He also stated that for societies facing a dues increase, they would need to convince them that the world wide community of physiology was important. He felt the editorial appearing in the upcoming issues of *Physiology* would help with that. He stated that some countries had faced a downturn in physiology.

D. Noble asked what the next step forward should be. W. Boron suggested ExCo officially support the “GDP and membership number” dues model. He stated that in convincing societies of the change, to emphasize that the plan would not increase the revenues of IUPS. P. Hansen pointed out that according to the IUPS Constitution, dues are recommended to the General Assembly by Council. She suggested that if APS and PhysSoc did not approve the changes, it could lobby other members to vote against it.

D. Noble proposed that the dues model be submitted to BGA for approval, and to speak with the presidents of APS and PhysSoc before the new dues are invoiced. P. Wagner suggested that ExCo speak to APS and PhysSoc first, as their feedback will shape how the discussion would go on. He suggested a four-way Skype or telephone call between APS, PhysSoc, P. Wagner, and himself. J. Chan suggested M. Spyer take part in the discussion as well, as he is one of the shapers of the model. ExCo unanimously agreed to the proposal.

4. Nominating Committee

S. Webster reported that under the IUPS Bylaws (Art I, Sec 1) the Nominating Committee “shall consist of no less than five members”, and the Constitution (Art V, Sec 8, Para c, Sub-para 1) gave the BGA the right to appoint half of the members of the Nominating Committee. If the committee is to be

comprised of five members and a chair, this would be three members. S. Webster reported that ExCo had already appointed P. Hansen and W. Boron to the committee. D. Noble suggested that ExCo wait for BGA make its appointments before filling in the last spot.

5. 2016 EB Meeting in San Diego

S. Webster reported that he had been asked by APS about reserving a room at the 2016 EB Meeting in San Diego. He stated it would take place from Saturday, April 2 through Wednesday, April 6. D. Noble asked who in ExCo would be attending. J. Chan, W. Boron, and P. Wagner stated that they were already registered to attend. P. Hansen stated she has a prior commitment as part of an accreditation team, but she will try to go. D. Noble stated that he can possibly be at the meeting. If he receives funding from outside IUPS, he will need a good reason to go. P. Wagner stated that he will have meetings to attend as editor of a journal, but they should not interfere much.

W. Boron suggested that EB would be an opportune time for ExCo to meet in person with SBFis and APS, as it had in Boston. D. Noble suggested that this would be an excellent time to discuss the dues revision with APS and PhysSoc. S. Webster was instructed to contact APS to arrange an appropriate room for ExCo to meet.

6. Any other new business

P. Wagner asked about BGA's regionalism "white paper". S. Webster stated that it was brought up by M. Spyer at the last ExCo meeting. D. Noble stated that if accepted, it would make five regional chairs members of Council, in addition to the commission and committee chairs.

Action Items

1. S. Webster to post November 12 minutes to IUPS website, and distribute to Council.
2. P. Wagner to draft letter to member societies who did not pay their 2015 dues to remind them of the December 31 due date.
3. P. Hansen to request R. Carrol to submit Education Committee budget to P. Wagner and S. Webster
4. S. Webster to contact IUPS's financial advisors to assess the status of the Endowed Funds.
5. D. Noble and P. Wagner to arrange discussion of the dues revision model with P. Molina from APS, R. Vaughan-Jones from PhysSoc, and M. Spyer.
6. S. Webster to arrange for ExCo to meet at EB 2016.
7. S. Webster to contact M. Spyer for BGA's appointments of the members of the Nominating Committee.