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IUPS Executive Committee

Laguna Room,
1st Level, South Tower
Marriott Marquis San Diego
Sand Diego, CA, USA

April 2, 2016

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

Agenda Items

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 8 meeting

The minutes for the March 8 meeting were approved. S. Webster was instructed to post them to the website, and distribute them to Council.

2. IUPS Constitution/Terms of Reference

P. Hansen presented ExCo with the revised Terms of Reference for the Nomination Committee (NomCom). She incorporated the BGA and Council nomination processes. She also included language extending the NomCom's term of service to extend past the quadrennial congress.

D. Noble stated that one ongoing issue was the matter of balance on the NomCom. He stated that in appointing members to the NomCom, experience was more important than balance. P. Wagner stated that BGA should come up with a NomCom slate with experience and breadth of knowledge while striving to achieve balance with regard to geography, sub-discipline, and sex. P. Hansen asked who BGA had appointed. S. Webster informed ExCo that BGA appointed J. Sengupta (India), L. Csernoch (Hungary), and P. Hunter (New Zealand). P. Hansen remarked that P. Hunter would be an excellent candidate for one of the ExCo vacancies. D. Noble stated that if any member of NomCom were to be nominated themselves, they would be allowed to recuse themselves from the discussion. P. Hansen stated that NomCom could be a good "test case" for regional balance, as there were already representatives from North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. P. Wagner asked what region should be fit to fill the final slot. D. Noble suggested tabling the discussion until later.

P. Wagner asked about the stipulation in the Terms of Reference that NomCom meet at least once in person. He stated that such a meeting would be very expensive, involving at least five intercontinental flights. W. Boron stated that he felt it was very important that NomCom meet in person to be able to discuss nominations at length. He stated that such in-depth conversations were impossible over teleconference.

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The proposed changes to the Council ToR were introduced. P. Hansen asked if the regional structure was connected to regional support of future congresses. J. Chan confirmed that this was part of the BGA's original proposal. Part of this involved a regional rotation of IUPS congresses. W. Boron asked if this should be incorporated into the official Call for Proposals for IUPS-2025. D. Noble pointed out that if ExCo specified which region was eligible to host a congress, the proposals would not be as competitive. He stated that China submitted several proposals to host a congress, and improved their proposal each time.

W. Boron offered to incorporate the Regional chair selection process to the ToR. The method decided was for each region to select two nominees, and for NomCom to select one from each to nominate. It would further nominate an "at large" member from the remaining three. P. Hansen also asked for the regular ExCo/Council meetings to be added.

W. Boron detailed his changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. S. Webster modified the Word document to an outline format, to allow for easier cross-referencing when converted to pdf for distribution. He proposed two rounds of constitutional changes. The first round would ratify the new structure for Council as soon as possible. The second would clean up minor inconsistencies and omissions in the Constitution.

One potential issue raised in his review of the Constitution was the issue of delegates to the General Assembly. He asked how the delegates would be apportioned in light of the dues revision proposal. P. Wagner proposed that he develop a model based on 2013 where the number of delegates were kept constant, and made proportional to membership numbers. He asked that S. Webster send him the delegate lists from 2013 for him to compare with the new dues.

3. Budgets

P. Wagner presented the latest budget for IUPS-2017 as submitted by SBFis. He reported that SBFis is forecasting a modest profit for the congress, even taking into account a reasonable fee for attendance and conservative attendance estimates. He stated that the budget estimates did not take into account the 10% registration fee to be paid to IUPS for the 2021 Congress. There was also a question of international support of the Congress. These questions would be answered at the meeting with SBFis that afternoon.

P. Wagner also presented a budget update for IUPS. He stated that overall, IUPS was doing all right. He stated that dues were coming in, and its conservative investment portfolio meant it did not take much of a hit from recent market fluctuations. S. Webster stated that he will be sending out reminder notices in the next month to societies who have not paid their dues yet.

4. Meeting with AD Instruments

D. Noble thanked ADI for meeting with ExCo, and for all of their support through the years. He stated the support has facilitated IUPS's outreach efforts in Africa, especially francophone Africa. P. Hansen added that with ADI's support IUPS has been able to contribute funds to two regional education workshops a year, plus the major workshop at IUPS-2017.

T. Macknight stated that his hope was to establish a "more formal" relationship between IUPS and ADI. He said that money for research was easy to come by, but less so for education. T. McIntyre added that education was a cornerstone of their business model.

P. Wagner briefed ADI on the IUPS Trading Post. T. McIntyre said the Trading Post was definitely something ADI was willing to support. In addition to technical expertise, he stated that ADI might be able to contribute old equipment, as well as their "catalogue" of retired people willing to teach.

P. Wagner also brought up the needs assessment survey. T. McIntyre offered the assistance of ADI's in-house marketing person in refining the survey. P. Wagner accepted the offer, and would forward the draft to her. T. Macknight said that IUPS was perfectly equipped to apply for funding from UNESCO or the Gates Foundation. He stated that ADI had an agreement to provide scientific equipment to all the medical schools in Nigeria, but did not have the funding. D. Noble remarked that IUPS being politically neutral would work in its favor. P. Wagner pointed out that IUPS needed a specific program before going out to major organizations.

T. Macknight presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding for ADI's participation at IUPS-2017, modeled after the 2013 agreement. P. Hansen stated that someone would have to negotiate with SBFis for the free convention booth T. Macknight reiterated that ADI wanted to deal with IUPS exclusively, not the LOC.

5. Meeting with SBFis

D. Noble thanked SBFis for meeting with ExCo while all were present at EB. He stated that ExCo had some questions regarding the report and budget presented to them by SBFis. He stated that it was not clear where some of SBFis's numbers were coming from. P. Wagner asked specifically where the funding for 265 free registrations for invited speakers was coming from. B. Machado stated that the LOC was applying for federal grants. D. Noble offered ExCo's help in writing supporting letters for any grant applications. He stated that all ExCo needed was who and how to ask in the letters.

P. Wagner also asked about breakdown of costs for the invited speakers. B. Machado stated it comprised of airfare, hotel, and registration for plenary and keynote speakers (business class for plenaries, economy for keynote), as well as \$1500 and free registration per symposia.

P. Wagner also pointed out that the contribution from IUPS-2013 was not included in the budget. B. Machado stated that this needed to be included, as well as the \$15 fee for senior registrants.

P. Wagner asked about contributions from other organizations. B. Machado stated that APS's contribution was not included, as it is not a direct to the congress.

6. Meeting with PhysSoc

V. Antunes and B. Machado thanked the representatives from PhysSoc for meeting with them. B. Machado informed PhysSoc that all of its prize lectures were accepted by the ISPC, and listed on the congress website as speakers. R. Vaughn-Jones repeated the thanks, stating that international physiology must be promoted, and PhysSoc believes that IUPS was the organization to do it.

P. Wagner asked if it was too early to gauge interest from PhysSoc's members' interest in attending the congress. R. Vaughn-Jones stated that in a survey, its members showed strong support for Rio, but did not have exact numbers. N. Boros-Toby stated that PhysSoc had budgeted some money for travel grants for members. R. Vaughn-Jones stated that PhysSoc was also considering sponsoring a number of symposia, in addition to its prize lectures.

D. Eisner stated that it was not a foregone conclusion that PhysSoc would hold future meetings at IUPS congresses. R. Vaughn-Jones called the venture "an experiment".

7. Meeting with APS

V. Antunes and B. Machado thanked APS for attending the meeting. B. Machado stated that APS President P. Molina has been added as a member of SBFis's ISPC contingent. M. Frank stated that APS will have a travel grant program available to APS members. P. Molina stated that applicants only need to be APS members to be eligible for a grant.

W. Boron asked about APS support for symposia. M. Frank reported that there had been no formal discussion with SBFis regarding any other support, and SBFis had not requested any support.

8. Nomination Committee

ExCo discussed the 6th person to sit on the NomCom. P. Hansen asked if they should nominate someone from China to serve. S. Webster stated that there were already two members of FAOPS on the NomCom, J. Sengupta and P. Hunter. D. Noble suggested S. Wray from PhysSoc. ExCo agreed she would be excellent on the committee, but felt it was already too “Anglo-centric”. P. Hansen suggested C. Hidalgo from Chile. S. Webster stated that she was already serving on SBFis’s contingent on the ISPC. He also suggested M.J. Campagnole-Santos, the president-elect of SBFis. ExCo voted unanimously to nominate C. Hidalgo to the NomCom, pending her acceptance. S. Webster was directed to draft a letter for W. Boron to send.

9. Any other business

W. Boron gave a report on IUPS’s inter-union activities. IUPS is supporting IUBMB’s Joint Advanced School in Spetses, Greece later that month. W. Boron is attending the ICSU meeting next month. He plans on discussing the possibility of holding another joint meeting at IUPS-2017 with the bio-unions present.

D. Noble reported that he is putting the finishing touches on the briefing document he is planning on distributing to the presidents of APS and PhysSoc in advance of his meetings with them. P. Hansen suggested that ExCo distribute the document to the member society presidents. S. Webster offered to update the list of society presidents.