

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

February 18, 2010

Present: D. Noble, W. Boron, M. Gordon, L. Price.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10:30 a.m. EST.

Prior to discussing the agenda, D. Noble stated that he agreed with L. Price that the proceedings of the monthly teleconference meetings should be transparent. Regular minutes of the meeting will be written up by L. Price and distributed to all Executive Committee members. Y. Kurachi and X. Wang will be sent a copy of the minutes explaining why the meetings are being held, that their input is requested and that no binding decisions will be made without their vote.

1. Outreach document revisions

Discussion centered around how many representatives should be part of the new outreach group and which countries should have a vote. There was some concern that the size of the group not be too large, preferable ten to twelve people. It was suggested by M. Gordon that the group be called an advisory board. L. Price will submit a list of countries by category to the Executive Committee members. It was agreed that L. Price will send the outreach document to member societies this month for input by May. D. Noble will do one more round of revision before the document is emailed to the organizations.

2. Approval of Rene Bindels and Yang-Sook Chun as Commission Chairs before May meeting

L. Price will email Council members and ask them to approve the nominations of R. Bindels as Chair of Commission V – Secretion & Absorption and Yang-Sook Chun as Chair of Commission VIII – Genomics & Biodiversity. She will explain that there was only one nomination for each of these commissions.

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3. Contract for 2013 Birmingham Congress

L. Price will send a copy of the 2009 contract to David Eisner, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee and Bridget Lumb, Chair of the UK Congress Organising Committee, to look over. The contract has been used for the last 20 years and was drawn up in the UK by legal experts. W. Boron suggested that the amount to be reimbursed to IUPS by the local planning committee be increased for the 2017 Congress in Brazil to reflect the cost of inflation.

4. ICSU regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean survey

M. Gordon will look at the survey and send an email report to the Executive Committee members.

5. Draft document explaining roles and duties of Commission and Committee chairs

L. Price suggested that a document listing the roles and duties of chairs be written to be given to new appointees. M. Gordon believes that Sue Orsoni may have an email or document that addresses this and L. Price will contact her about it. There was discussion about whether the Committees should be considered Commissions. D. Noble explained that the Commissions are focused on specific areas of physiology while the Committees deal with administrative aspects across all areas of physiology. L. Price will ask the chairs to submit a list of their Committee and Commission members.

Since the Commission chairs are also members of the ISPC, the discussion shifted to the number of IUPS members vs. Local Planning Committee members in the ISPC. Strictly speaking, ISPC has 12 members from IUPS and six from the local country. However, David Eisner has recommended that there be 12 IUPS and 12 local with IUPS having veto power. W. Boron will discuss this with David over the phone and report back to the Executive Committee.

6. Archiving documents – paper and/or electronic

This item was tabled until the May Executive Committee meeting.

7. Africa – Education Committee sending books and journals to Africa

This item was tabled until the May Executive Committee meeting.

8. IUPS website

L. Price will be giving a presentation on website development at the May meeting. She will ask M. Rupnik to also present a report on the website at the May meeting.

9. Presentation to Sue

The idea to surprise Sue Orsoni with a cash gift was inadvertently revealed to her. Discussion followed about the tax implications of giving a gift versus giving compensation for assisting with the transfer of her position to the new manager. It was decided that a gift of 1,000 euros would be given to Sue at the dinner in her honor in Oxford in May.

New Business

A. Informal Treasurer's Report

L. Price went to L.A. and met with M. Gordon, Steve Ostiller (accountant) and Chad Cohen (financial advisor – Merrill Lynch). The data entry for the bookkeeping up through 2008 is completed and S. Ostiller will be finishing the audit for 2008. M. Gordon will present the formal audit at the May meeting. The information for sending out dues invoices is now being entered in QuickBooks by L. Price. Debit cards for the Merrill Lynch account will be given to M. Gordon and L. Price for the payment of travel expenses.

B. ICSU meeting in April

D. Noble and W. Boron will be present with D. Riquier for the Joint Biological Unions meeting on April 6. W. Boron and D. Riquier will remain for the ICSU main meeting. M. Gordon reminded everyone that IUPS commitment for airline tickets is a maximum of \$2,000, even if someone needs to travel Business Class for health reasons.

C. Review of NSF proposal

M. Gordon is concerned about 2013 dues and the nature of the relationship of the U.S. National Committee with IUPS. He thinks that the implications are that the U.S. National Committee could set a dangerous precedent of micromanaging IUPS and IUPS would have to comply in order to get funding. The dues ought to extend to 2013 in order to get the calendar adjusted to the IUPS Congress cycle. The net renewal should be after the 2013 Congress to reflect current reality. NSF is supposed to be prohibited from supporting biomedical research because that is the purview of NIH.