

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

10:00 a.m. Thursday, 27 May 2010

**Cardiac Board Room, Physiology Department
Oxford University
Oxford, England**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m., Thursday, May 27, 2010.

1. Review of minutes of September 2009 Executive Committee meeting

The minutes of the September 2009 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

2. Reports of the Officers

Report of the President, D. Noble

D. Noble reported on the reaction by the Physiological Society to the member outreach document. President-elect Mike Spyer has sent its formal response raising a number of issues. They feel that IUPS has reacted favourably and quickly to reach out to the member societies, but would like to see a council that is nominated by the larger societies. The IUPS constitution only allows that as a proposal which would have to come to the General Assembly by 2013. The IUPS Nominating Committee would have already met before this. IUPS will be meeting with the Physiological Society representatives tomorrow presenting the theme of collaboration.

D. Noble agreed to meet the APS representatives at the July 2010 meeting of the Physiological Society. They asked if they could have a meeting with Denis as president of IUPS. M. Gordon will also meet with them.

There will be an August meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the local planning committee that D. Noble will attend.

b. Report of the Secretary-General, W. Boron

Andrew McCulloch will be the chair of the Physiome Committee.

W. Boron reported on the April 6, 2010 meeting of the biounions, which he and D. Noble attended along with D. Riquier. It became apparent that in order for IUPS proposals to be accepted by ICSU, it would be necessary to band together with other biounions.

At the ICSU meeting W. Boron and A. Azzi made statements saying that the biounions are being ignored, that there must be some interest shown in the hard sciences and that ICSU should be seeing that all groups are getting attention. ICSU is now aware that the biounions are upset and there is renewed enthusiasm for biounions to plan together. ICSU made clear that what money they have is limited.

W. Boron pointed out that 14 of the 33 organizations are biounions. He proposed that they work together on congresses and education. The biounions group plans to get together right before the next ICSU meeting. He suggested that the biounions meet twice a year, once before the ICSU meeting and once by teleconferencing.

D. Noble responded that developing parts of the world can be helped by the IUBMB societies. He also pointed out that one of the services IUPS performs for its members is to represent them to ICSU. He also believes that ICSU should be supporting the free movement of scientists among the world, as they are a subsidiary of the United Nations. He approved the initiative of linking biounions and proposed that IUPS lead the organizing along with IBRO and the biochemists. IUPS connections with Angelo Azzi (pres. of IUBMB) are good. It might be possible to do initiatives in education in collaboration with other biounions. He mentioned that ICSU has not given approval to IUPS proposals in the past because it was a single organization. If it had been collaborative, they would have approved them. In the future, that is the way proposals should be presented.

W. Boron agreed to liaison with A. Azzi to keep the biounion cooperation going. They will work on trying to get one representative on ICSU from the biological sciences. M. Gordon suggested using IBRO president, Pierre Magistretti as another person with whom to liaison. He wondered if IUPS needs more representation besides D. Riquier. He recommended council members Q. Pittman, T. Wang, X. Wang or Y. Kurachi. W. Boron felt it should be an executive committee member.

The Executive Committee agreed that there should be an IUPS coordinating committee to work with the other biounions. W. Boron agreed to be the chair of the committee. He thought that ICSU might be able to fund the biounions planning meetings.

X. Wang said that she knows Y. S. Chan, the IBRO leader and that she often collaborates with him. He will be the next vice president of the Chinese Association of Physiology. She will talk to him about IUPS collaboration.

Action: W. Boron will contact D. Riquier and ask if he would like to be replaced. He will then contact council members Q. Pittman, T. Wang, X. Wang and Y. Kurachi and ask them to be on the biounion coordinating committee.

Action: X. Wang will talk to Y.S. Chan about IUPS collaboration with biounions.

c. Report of the Treasurer, M. Gordon

Merrill Lynch has been taken over by Bank of America. L.Price met with the accountant and representative from Merrill Lynch. According to the annual report from Merrill Lynch, IUPS has a small endowment which includes named lectures of \$200,000 plus other unrestricted funds. The investment strategy is to keep a significant amount in certificates of deposit, which are secure, but low interest. With the treasurer's approval they are now also investing in corporate bonds and some AAA-rated common stocks. IUPS revenues from these investments are slightly ahead of inflation.

M. Gordon reported on the current situation with U.S. dues. The National Academy only acts as a pass through organization for funds from the National Science Foundation. He

has talked to Kathy Carter-Kimsey at NSF, on the staff of Peter Arzberger, division director of biological infrastructure. NSF is currently reassessing their policies in relation to international science organizations. Kathy has talked to NIH about broadening their base to include giving dues to organizations like IUPS. There are six biounions that the U.S. pays dues to. They are looking at the value to the U.S. of all the different societies and are wondering if it would be better to have an umbrella committee with one representative for each organization.

IUPS receives \$37,000 per year from NSF, which is 25% of the IUPS budget. Their payments are behind two years. The National Academy submits proposals for requesting dues to NSF one at a time. The first one was for IUBMB. It takes six months for NSF to make a decision. The IUPS proposal is next after IUBMB proposal and is for dues for 2009-2012. Since IUPS will not know until December if it has been approved, M. Gordon is concerned about cash flow.

M. Gordon explained there are two possibilities: The first is that IUPS works hard with the NA for NSF to come through with next round of funding. We would explain that IUPS could reorganize if necessary, but request that they not cut us off. The second would be that the NA would resign as the adhering body and APS would represent the U.S. In that case, two years of support are gone. APS would not be paying \$37,000 a year.

D. Noble was concerned about the domino effect. If one of the major members defaults, others may go too. What should IUPS do to support the US? If they don't pay, should they be cancelled as members?

M. Gordon thinks for IUBMB to get funded, it may include the first reorganization of international unions. If that happens, it will change the way IUPS is represented. IUPS will go in jointly on a proposal with IUMS. If NSF says, we are only continuing this arrangement if things are changed, the contingency plan for IUPS would be to say, give us time to work with the members, but give us funding for the next few years to do this. If NSF says there will be no money, then IUPS would talk to APS and the other six international organizations.

D. Noble thought if a letter from IUPS would help, then that can be used. IUPS needs to keep in mind that there are other members asking similar questions and they might need a letter also about what IUPS does. We have to answer that question.

M. Gordon will let everyone know what outcome was for IUBMB. He thought maybe IUPS should look at restructuring dues in terms of units. IUPS has not asked for membership details in many years. In preparing for money problems, IUPS should have a plan. D. Noble suggests IUPS strengthen the knowledge about membership and strengthen the knowledge about the financial aspects of member societies. The only two well-endowed members are the U.S. and Great Britain.

Restructuring of dues should be a combination of membership and budget and how they are financed. If we revise it to make it more transparent, on what basis do we try to reorganize or do we say, we are considering this question?

Action: ExCo needs to write a letter listing benefits of membership in IUPS for NSF & member countries.

3. Regular Business of the Executive Committee

a. Committees

1. Education

a. Chair – Xian & Penny Hansen (co-chairs)

b. Funds – Tony McKnight has been making a donation for each regional meeting.

There is currently \$26,520.06 in the committees budget with other funds being sent from Japan.

c. Outreach - will be contacting some regions for supporting their symposiums

b. Commissions

The deadline for names of commission members from chair: July 31, 2010

A letter from Denis needs to be sent out to Commission chairs telling them their responsibilities. It should say something about reaching out to people in areas of evolutionary, comparative, genomics and biodiversity. M. Gordon reminded that satellite symposiums of commissions have worked without connection to IUPS Congresses because we charged them part of registration fee. ExCo agreed that there will be no financial requirement.

1. Chairs

2. Members – will include information in Denis' letter

Action: D. Noble needs to send out letter to commission chairs telling them their responsibilities and deadline for getting members. Ask them to reach out to physiologists in areas of evolutionary, comparative, genomics and biodiversity.

c. Outreach to member societies

2 p.m. – Marjan on Skype

1. Response from societies to outreach document

X. Wang said China thought the document was good. After talking to the APS presidents, W. Boron thinks the U.S. likes the direction it takes. The UK is presenting a different type of model. The general reaction seems to be one of welcoming the approach. No member of council has raised any problem with the document.

d. Website and communication, M. Rupnik

Although M. Rupnik was not able to join the meeting, he is developing something about the website and communications that will be produced by Sept. 30, 2010.

e. Balkan countries (Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia), M. Rupnik

Save for discussion on membership

f. Africa, D. Noble

Save for discussion on membership

g. Council meeting in July 2011 in Oxford, England

It was decided that there would be no separate Executive Committee meeting in July 2011 since the ExCo is having monthly teleconference meetings. D. Noble will try to book rooms for the council meeting and the ISPC meeting at Oxford for next year.

Action: D. Noble will book two rooms at Oxford for council meeting, July 9 & 10, 2011 and ISPC meeting for July 10 & 11, 2011, one room for meetings and one for dinner.

h. Archiving documents

The archivist is retiring and needs to be replaced. There is plenty of space for archiving paper documents that have to do with policy matters. They are not interested in financial records. The ExCo decided to recycle the financial papers and not to archive them.

1. Paper

For the time being, it was agreed that paper documents need not be generated.

2. Digital

The ExCo agreed that this would be better than paper. L. Price was asked to check with the Library of Congress on how they digitally store their documents.

Action: L. Price will contact Library of Congress about digital storage of documents.

i. Gender report by Women in Physiology

The article was published in the Journal of Physiological Sciences. The report will be on the agenda for the Council meeting in 2011 for discussion.

Action: L. Price will place gender report on agenda for Council meeting.
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Additional items added to agenda:

1. Visa for Saeed Semnanian

D. Noble suggested that we find out whom at the British Embassy or consulate was responsible for denying the visa. We will courteously say that this was a mistake and explain that Saeed needs to be able to come to meetings. We will gladly supply the information they need from us for him to come as far in advance as they need the information. D. Noble will ask a local member of parliament for assistance on how to sort this out. He will be in touch with Saeed and explain that the membership project should be launched even though currently he does not have a visa. We would welcome his thoughts on how to improve contacts in the Middle East.

2. Fundraising

It was suggested that IUPS bring in key financiers and industrialists to be part of a committee to address this. We also need to check with companies to see if they would give money to finance travel to Congresses for physiologists in their country. The ExCo needs to decide where we want to attract people to come to Congress. W. Boron suggested that we raise money for travel or endowment while keeping the current \$100,000 for endowment. M. Gordon will ask S. Orsoni if she could raise money from corporations. X. Wang asked if each country's society could promote the Congress to get more physiologists to come to Congress. Societies would get a percentage of the registration fees from participants from their country. Each society would need to bring certain number of participants. The treasurer felt this would not work well that it would be better not to ask participants because of the current economic situation.

IUPS Executive Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. Friday, 28 May 2010

**Cardiac Board Room, Physiology Department
Oxford University
Oxford, England**

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Continuation of Executive Committee meeting

There was discussion of the next meeting with the Local Planning Committee and possible responses to ideas that might be brought up by LPC.

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Meeting with Local Planning Committee

David Eisner

Bridget Lumb

Nick Borross-Toby

Mike Spyer

David Bennett (guest)

D. Noble started the meeting by saying that IUPS was looking forward to strong group organizing the Congress. IUPS will work to get participation, especially from countries who have never sent representatives to Congress. The attitude of IUPS is to help in any way we can and make this a joint effort.

B. Lumb indicated that PhysSoc contacted European societies to encourage their participation. PhysSoc is looking forward to working together with IUPS to have a very successful Congress.

1.1 – Discuss particulars of IUPS contract with host nation

Phys Soc will draft a contract specifically looking at the area of funds in order to make it possible for both IUPS and Phys Soc to afford the travel grants.

1.2 – Confirmation of ISPC members

IUPS is fine with the number of representatives for them and PhysSoc. The group discussed the makeup of the ISPC in terms of having subject areas covered.

1.3 - Draft timelines/calendar of meetings of ISPC

May 1, 2011 will be the date asking for submission of ideas from societies. A short Executive Committee meeting will be before the PhysSoc meeting in July. [*Subsequently changed by IUPS so that there will be no ExCo meeting.*] The IUPS Council meeting will be Saturday, July 9 and up to 3 p.m. on Sunday in other rooms than Balliol. The ISPC meeting will start at 3 p.m. with an early working dinner July 10 and a full day meeting July 11 finishing with dinner with PhysSoc. The meeting would discuss general philosophy and choosing plenary lecturers. The Physiology Society meeting will be July 12, 13, 14, 2011.

There was discussion about satellite symposia being held outside of Congress. IUPS is fine with that. The Local Planning Committee is making sure that symposia registrants also register for Congress. The LPC won't ask for a percentage of the registration fee, but a flat fee for a listing for the symposia on the IUPS website and other publicity. The LPC could handle registration and advertising for satellite symposium in return for the fee.

It was decided that the designated geographical limits for the satellite symposia will be as they stand to encourage people to come to Birmingham.

Action: D. Noble will book rooms as mentioned in Action above listed under Council meeting in July 2011 in Oxford, England

1.4 - Prize/Plenary lectures – schedule & process for nomination and selection

It was noted that other countries may want to submit names for filling slots for the lectures. The most important lectures for IUPS and Phys Soc will fill many of the slots. IUPS may be able to help approach speakers for plenary lectures. Commission chairs will be asked to submit more than one name. The FEPS lecture will be one of the plenary lectures.

There will be an outreach program at the Congress for school-age children to come with their parents (either attendees or the public) called the Kid Zone. The education committee of Phys Soc will be working on teaching workshops. It was suggested that there be a crèche where parents who are registered to participate in the Congress can leave their children with adult caretakers. This will be looked into by Phys Soc.

Phys Soc has hired someone to handle marketing and media.

1.5 - Discuss scientific programme overview – updated timetable

The Phys Soc timetable for the dates of the Congress was acceptable to all the members.

1.6 IUPS meeting room requirements during Congress (Exec/Council/General Assembly etc)

IUPS will need rooms for the following groups:

Council Room

Smaller rooms for confidential discussion by commission members or individual organizations

General assembly

IUPS Secretariat

Action: N. Boross-Toby and L. Price will confer on number of seating and configuration.

1.7 IUPS assistance with sponsorship

Phys Soc would like IUPS to ensure that sponsorship packages are disseminated as widely as possible. The general contact for the sponsorships will be L. Price with finance handled by M. Gordon, IUPS Treasurer. Any IUPS Executive Committee member will be available for help in networking. Societies would be asked for ideas for named speakers and sponsorship. It was also suggested that corporations with interest in certain underrepresented countries be asked to pay airfare for physiologists coming to the Congress.

It would be advisable to have a reception for representatives from under-represent countries and countries with few representatives to make them feel more welcome.

Phys Soc will use 100,000 pounds for outreach activities to attract people from underdeveloped countries by offering travel grants and to pay the registration fee. IUPS will be giving \$100,000 for the same outreach activities. Phys Soc would do the selection of the grants. This will be identified as a joint project. Matching funds might be asked for from strong societies in developed countries. Phys Soc will work with Malcolm on the matching funds.

1.8 IUPS outreach proposal to member societies and restructuring

Phys Soc asked if IUPS can do more in terms of what services are offered and providing added value to the members. They would like to have a real discussion at the 2013 assembly. IUPS agrees this needs to be done.

The members of the Executive Committee gave their thoughts about the evolution of IUPS. The outreach document illustrates the next stage of that evolution. Phys Soc is all right with this being the start of a process and that there be a commitment to try to ensure that member societies have a direct feed into the Nominating Committee.

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Continuation of Executive Committee meeting

There was discussion about the Journal of Physiology. IUPS was thinking of marketing the journal in electronic version to society members. APS is already in negotiations with Phys Soc about this. We are joint publishers with APS, but we are not getting any part of the profits, if there are any. The solution could be for Denis to contact APS about journal. IUPS gives more international legitimacy to the journal in countries that do not view US well

W. Boron, the editor of JP, is working towards the journal being monthly and with original articles. M. Gordon suggested that new IUPS members be selected for a managing board of the journal which could meet regularly. He asked if there has ever been a financial statement from APS showing how the journal is doing. W. Boron has not seen one. The contract is on the APS website.

Action: D. Noble will write a letter to the president of APS, Peter Wagner with a cc to Marty Frank and Kim Barret before July 2010.
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It was decided that the contract must be signed at Congress as is by the host country. IUPS will hold firm on Phys Soc congress.