

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DENIS NOBLE, UK, President,  
Y. KURACHI, Japan, First Vice President  
XIAN WANG, China, Second Vice President  
MALCOLM GORDON, USA, Treasurer  
WALTER BORON, USA, Secretary General

## MANAGER

LESLIE PRICE, USA



## COUNCIL

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## IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

*December 16, 2010*

Present: Denis Noble, Malcolm Gordon, Walter Boron, Xian Wang, Leslie Price

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10:35 a.m. EDT.

### **1. Approval of minutes of December 9, 2010 Executive Committee meeting**

The minutes were approved.

### **2. Discussion of APS-IUPS relations**

W. Boron spoke in person to Peter Wagner of the American Physiological Society (APS) in Washington, D.C. on November 9. At that time, P. Wagner indicated that APS would like to have a document summarizing the IUPS mission, governance and financing. The Executive Committee discussed these three subjects with the outcomes as follows:

#### Mission

The mission statement is on pages 4-5 of the Long Range Planning Committee report which is on the IUPS website under "Communications." This report is a formal set of statements adopted by the General Assembly at the Kyoto 2009 Congress. It reads:

"Physiology is the study of the functions and integrative processes of life at all levels of structural complexity between the molecular level and that of the whole organism. It includes all organisms, and frames function in evolutionary, environmental, ecological and behavioural contexts. It embraces a cross-disciplinary approach to modern science, through which physiologists aim to achieve translation of this knowledge into human health.

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This definition correctly places physiology as a key discipline among the biological sciences and provides a conceptual framework to visualize the **Mission of IUPS** as fostering its study worldwide.”

P. Wagner raised the question, “What can IUPS do that APS cannot?” This is addressed in the outreach document “Statement on utility and relevance,” which is also on the website. It covers the unique role IUPS has as a neutral, impartial communicator and broker with democratic representation of many countries’ physiological societies and greater outreach than a national organization. APS does not have a board that is totally international. IUPS is a completely international body and the rest of the physiological world can exercise its influence and authority through IUPS. IUPS will seek ways to collaborate with APS. This could be done by having an IUPS ex-officio member of the APS Council.

Action: W. Boron will write an email to P. Wagner which will include the sentence, “Attached for your convenience are the documents which show the answers to your questions.” The two documents are the Long Range Plan and the Statement on Utility and Relevance. Also reassure P. Wagner that our intention is for the Board of the General Assembly to have power.

### Governance

The structure of IUPS governance has not been addressed for quite a while. The current Executive Committee realizes this and is committed to being forward-thinking and innovative. They are now reforming IUPS. The Executive Committee used to meet once a year, but the current Executive Committee has monthly teleconferences. This allows more work to be done on necessary changes to IUPS with the approval of Council. Using email, the Executive Committee regularly communicates with Council for suggestions and comments as new initiatives are recommended.

The current initiative is to have a Board of the General Assembly which can meet during the non-Congress years, either by email or teleconference. The board would consist of 15 voting members from 15 different countries. The following countries have designated their member of the board:

- |                   |            |                  |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. Australia      | 7. Finland | 13. Japan        |
| 2. Belgium        | 8. France  | 14. Korea        |
| 3. Brazil         | 9. Germany | 15. Mexico       |
| 4. Canada         | 10. India  | 16. Spain        |
| 5. China – CAPS   | 11. Iran   | 17. South Africa |
| 6. Czech Republic | 12. Italy  |                  |

The powers invested in this board would include:

1. The right to communicate to IUPS relevant decisions and proposals of the member societies, and to provide news items for the IUPS website. (all members)
2. The right to bring items to the Executive Committee and Council for consideration and possible implementation. (all members) [ALL OR VOTING - NOT SURE]
3. The right to appoint members of the Nominating Committee. (voting members) [WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER MAJORITY (3 out of 5) OR EQUAL (3 out of 6) NUMBER]
4. The right to make proposals to the Nominating Committee for possible Officers and Council members. (all members)
5. The right to be the first point of call for reactions to proposals by IUPS and to communicate relevant items to their society councils. (all members)
6. The right to be listed on the IUPS website, in addition to the relevant administrative information on the member societies. (all members) [I THINK THIS SHOULD BE ALL MEMBERS]
7. The right to play a role in promoting the IUPS Congress and regional meetings within their own societies. (all members)
8. The right to be the leading delegate to the General Assembly. (all members)
9. The right to meet independently on a regular basis via teleconference. (voting members)

WE ALL NEED TO THINK THIS LIST THROUGH CAREFULLY - Denis

### Financing

Our goal for the restructuring of the dues system is to be transparent, rational and fair. The Membership Committee, including the Treasurer, is meeting to discuss dues. Through the Membership Committee, research on size, influence and power is being accumulated for the Treasurer to use. Taking time to do this research allows us to develop a fairer and more transparent system. There is a process and timeline with respect to changes in the dues. The Membership Committee, using its data, will suggest modifications to the current assignment of dues. They will then give this to the Treasurer who may make other changes. It will then go to the Executive Committee to discuss. That proposal will be sent to

Council members for their input. There will be a final proposal on the dues structure for Council to vote on during the meeting in July 2011.

The IUPS Executive Committee would be delighted to meet with APS and Phys Soc at the July meeting in Oxford. We would like a two hour discussion with APS, Phys Soc and any other reps who wish to participate. W. Boron suggested inviting the 15 people on the Board of the General Assembly to have a meeting in Oxford. M. Gordon believes that they should have their first meeting before July.

**3. Date of next meeting – Thursday, January 27, 2011**