

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2011

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

The meeting started at 2 :00pm

1. Approval of minutes of September 21, 2011 Executive Committee meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. American Physiological Society (APS) and *Physiology*

a. Choosing an editor

M. Gordon suggested that the choice of editor be discussed after the October 17th video conference with the other members of the Joint Managing Board of *Physiology*. During this conference the three candidates will be interviewed by P. Hunter and T. Wang, the IUPS representatives of the joint board.

W. Boron said he had talked to one of the candidates for editor, Jeff Sands, who contacted him to find out more about the journal. He also learned that there is an external editorial committee which approves of the ideas he presented in his last editorial. They think it is good to include original articles in the journal.

b. Recent editorial

The editorial written by APS presidents, J. Granger, P. Wagner and S. Barman (present, past and future) was discussed. D. Noble noted that it was a pity that APS hadn't approached IUPS about cooperation earlier. He highly recommended that the invitation to form a partnership be accepted. W. Boron also felt that IUPS should work cooperatively with APS.

D. Noble, who will be writing the next editorial for *Physiology*, will respond positively to the current one by the APS presidents. S. Semnarian already has ideas of how an international program can be set up. IUPS needs to tell APS what we can do to help them reach more countries. It would be helpful if the Membership Committee could read the APS editorial. W. Boron will ask permission to release the editorial prior to publication.

D. Noble will do the first draft of the editorial by November 1. The deadline for the finished copy is December 15.

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| Action: D. Noble will write the editorial for <i>Physiology</i> and submit the finished copy by December 15, 2011. |
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| Action: W. Boron will ask <i>Physiology</i> editorial board permission to release the one written by the APS presidents. |
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3. Ratification of amendment to form Board of GA

L. Price reported that emails to GA representatives were sent October 6. They were informed that the deadline for receiving votes is December 15, 2011. Finland has already returned a vote of "yes." The Executive Committee requested that an email be sent mid-November to remind delegates that the binding votes are due by December 15, 2011.

M. Gordon pointed out that the US can't vote because they are not up to date with their dues. He asked W. Boron in his phone call to M. Frank to let him know we concur with the editorial but there needs to be a firm commitment to pay the 2011 dues.

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| Action: L. Price will send a reminder email to the delegates on November 14, 2011 to submit their binding votes before Dec. 15, 2011. |
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4. USNC and dues

W. Boron will call M. Frank on Wednesday, October 19 at 11am to discuss the US dues situation. A conference call date will be set for the USNC members, Kathie Bailey-Mathae, W. Boron and M. Gordon. This is being coordinated by K. Bailey-Mathae.

W. Boron reported that the reconstituted USNC would probably not include the Microcirculatory Society or the Society for Neurosciences. That would mean there would be a consortium of four members who would need to decide how the National Committee will be set up. As soon as possible, IUPS should ask for a written pledge to contribute to the US dues from each society. Once they can confirm the amount they'll contribute, they may pay in a lump sum or through a payment plan.

If a pledge is received from all USNC societies, then the US will be allowed to vote on the constitutional amendment concerning the Board of the General Assembly. APS offered to provide administrative support for the USNC.

The National Academy of Science, represented by Kathie Bailey-Mathae, will be asked to be the adhering body to IUPS. She will interact with the USNC to collect the dues and forward the funds to IUPS.

M. Gordon suggested that if the USNC becomes viable, the societies which make up the group could each send a delegate to the General Assembly.

He also reminded everyone that under the journal contract with APS, IUPS is supposed to pay them \$15,000 per year. The invoice for 2011 has been received but has deliberately not been paid. This may provide some leverage in receiving the dues from APS.

In discussing the dues structure, D. Noble, who belongs to the Membership Committee, cautioned that whatever new system is used, it has to produce the same amount of funds that IUPS is currently receiving. The committee is still looking at a revising the system so that it will be fair and clear. However, the present system is not going to be replaced any time soon. M. Gordon felt a discussion of the revised version should not be discussed publically until the General Assembly of the 2013 Congress.

D. Noble recommended that an interim message be sent to the adhering bodies that the Membership Committee is working on a new dues structure to present at the General Assembly. He suggested that the new Board of the General Assembly might want to address the dues structure. W. Boron thought that the reconfigured dues could be phased in. D. Noble agreed and cautioned that one aspect should be that no country is asked to pay a lower amount.

6. IBRO voting for Secretary General

The Executive Committee decided to approve whichever candidate D. Noble wishes to vote for since he is on the IBRO Council. L. Price will email the names of the candidates to the Executive Committee.

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| Action: L. Price will send an email to the ExCo containing the names of the candidates for Secretary General of IBRO. |
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7. Other business

D. Noble's trip to India

It was decided that D. Noble should go to India to give his talk. It will put IUPS out in front of the public. India is one of the largest adhering bodies and by giving the talk, it will show that they are valued. D. Noble will request that the Indian Physiological Society pay all expenses pertaining to his visit while IUPS will pay for roundtrip airfare.

Website proposal by M. Rupnik

M. Rupnik submitted a proposal for the redesign of the website. The Executive Committee would like to have him give a time line of how long each stage will take. They would also like to know the name of the company he will be working with and see a simple mockup of a home page. L. Price will draft an email to him and send it to ExCo for approval.

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| Action: L. Price will draft an email to M. Rupnik listing the items the ExCo needs to have addressed. It will be sent to ExCo for approval before being sent to M. Rupnik. |
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ICSU meeting report by W. Boron

Angelo Azzi was not elected vice president of ICSU which kept the Bio-unions from having a member on the Executive Committee. However, at the Biounions meeting, there was a consensus that there is an opportunity to cooperate as a group independent from ICSU. They will be organizing and electing a chair and perhaps writing a constitution for the group.

Angelo Azzi, president of IUBMB, told W. Boron that they publish three journals and because of that they do quite well financially. He has been pushing Walter to have IUPS publish a journal to help the budget. When IUBMB has a congress, they hire a corporation to run it. With 4,000 attendees there is a profit of \$250,000. IUBMB has a budget of \$650,000 a year. They would be willing to co-organize a conference. If IUPS did so, it would get public recognition and some share of the profits would probably be possible.

W. Boron talked about the teaching initiatives done by IUBMB each year. They send faculty to teach high level courses in biochemistry to Ph.D. students. The schools are held in various countries where these kinds of courses are not available. IUPS could participate by sending physiology faculty to these schools also. This would give IUPS recognition in countries which may not be familiar with it. M. Gordon thought the IUPS Commissions could use the yearly budgeted money for teaching.

D. Noble asked if these ideas shouldn't be used as initiatives when IUPS talks to APS about joining forces for programs in developing countries. W. Boron commented that coordinating teaching programs might be an interdisciplinary way to work with the biounions. M. Gordon volunteered that the commission he chaired, Comparative Physiology, used to do teaching.

There was much enthusiasm for the possibilities. More time is needed to discuss how to proceed. M. Gordon reminded everyone that the Education Committee has been doing teaching conferences for quite a while and it needs to be brought into the discussion. It was agreed that IUPS would act on the idea of teaching initiatives with other bio-unions.

W. Boron stated that A. Azzi will probably ask about IUPS participating in a yearly conference with IUBMB. Perhaps the international Bio-unions could share a venue. It would give IUPS a financial advantage. The Bio-unions might be willing to coordinate this.

The Bio-unions will submit an application for an ICSU grant to have interunion meetings at the IUPS Congress 2013. There was some discussion at the Bio-unions meeting that grants should be reviewed by representatives of the various ICSU clusters. The proposal needs to be announced to the Bio-unions so they have time to plan if the grant is selected. The funds have to be spent in 2013. The UK organizers should be informed about the grant proposal so they are aware of possible funding.

M. Frank has sent out an invitation to members of other countries in developing nations to the Experimental Biology conference. They will be given financial help to attend. The 25th anniversary of APS will be celebrated at the meeting.

P. Hunter was asked if the Physiome Project was something that could be shared. He cautioned that it should only be presented to the bio-unions at first.

The meeting ended at 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Price
IUPS Manager