

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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## IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

*July 24, 2014*

**Present:** D. Noble, P. Hansen, W. Boron, P. Wagner

### 1. Review and Approval of 24 June Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

### 2. Update on 2017 Congress

B. Machado, V. Antunes were unable to attend the meeting, due to their participation with the upcoming PanAm Congress of Physiological Sciences in Brazil. However, they did send ExCo a more refined budget for the 2017 Congress. P. Wagner stated he did not have time to review, but was encouraged by their attention to detail and responsiveness.

### 3. Review and Revise 2017 Congress Contract

P. Wagner emphasized the need to get a contract to the Brazilians as soon as possible. He did have some “wordsmithing” suggestions, but requested no other changes. W. Boron offered to review and “clean up” the contract with D. Noble over Skype. He also asked P. Wagner to email his requested changes.

<p><b>Action:</b> W. Boron to finalize contract with D. Noble, and send to the Brazilians at their earliest convenience. S. Webster to assist.</p>
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### 4. Dues Revision Process Update

P. Wagner reported that he was able to meet with BGA President M. Spyer during his recent trip to London to discuss revising the dues structure. He explained that previous efforts were hindered by an effort to make it so that it was pleasing to all. He stated that in this case, “perfect is the enemy of good”. He stated that he and M. Spyer worked on a series of general principles: dues should be rational, we should not be using unrestricted reserves in the annual budget, and the dues will be

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proposed to be based on a product of a country's GDP and its physiological society's membership numbers. To illustrate the need to consider GDP and membership number separately, Taiwan has an extremely high GDP in relation to its number of members, while China has a high number of members in relation to its GDP.

P. Wagner presented a scattergram to show the relationship between the current dues structure and the proposed one. In the case of the two largest societies, the American Physiological Society (APS) and The Physiological Society (PhysSoc), the two corresponded almost exactly. Two notable outliers in the scattergram were Germany and Japan. Germany was paying much more in dues for its given size, and Japan was paying much less. P. Wagner proposed changing the dues amount for outlier countries gradually, IUPS does not lose out on revenue, but outlier countries do not get "sticker shock" from a dramatic increase in dues.

P. Wagner reported that there was some discussion of including a member society's budget into the calculation, but this was rejected for a number of reasons. For example, APS received approximately 80% of its budget from publishing journals, whereas most societies rely on membership dues. Membership numbers was decided to be the "most fair" gauge as to a society's size.

<p><b>Action:</b> <b>S. Webster</b> will solicit membership numbers from member societies. Once that is done, he and <b>P. Wagner</b> will predict idealized dues.</p>
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## 5. Face-to-Face Meeting in Oxford Logistics

D. Noble reported that the hotel previously used for ExCo visits, The Old Parsonage, has recently undergone renovations, and prices for rooms had skyrocketed to over £300/night. However, the Linton Lodge was available at the preferred rate, with all the requested amenities. Linton Lodge is a pleasant 12 minute walk through the most expensive part of Oxford. D. Noble will inquire about reserving a block of rooms for IUPS at a discounted rate. The Oxford University Club was discussed as a hotel, but it was found to offer no financial incentives for lesser facilities. D. Noble also offered to arrange for a meeting space for ExCo to meet.

ExCo, as well as the IUPS Manager, are expected to arrive in Oxford no later than October 7<sup>th</sup>, with the meeting being held on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Checkout from Linton Lodge will be on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Members will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements. D. Noble pointed out that there is a shuttle that runs from Terminal 5 of Heathrow Airport (airport code: LHR) to Oxford every half hour, and costs £29/person. D. Noble also offered to host a dinner at his house for members of ExCo.

<p><b>Action:</b> <b>D. Noble</b> will inquire with Linton Lodge regarding reserving a block of hotel rooms for ExCo. <b>D. Noble</b> will also arrange a meeting space for the meeting, either within the Physiology Department or a library.</p>
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Items for discussion were then solicited from ExCo members. P. Hansen requested a discussion of how to best nominate and appoint commission and committee chairs, as well as finalizing the

Terms of Reference for these positions. W. Boron suggested ExCo discuss how to encourage Council to meet, stating that it was to meet electronically every six months, but had not done so for quite some time. He also wished to discuss furthering IUPS's publishing ventures, perhaps a *Physiome* journal. P. Wagner wanted to discuss plans for IUPS to become more pro-active in educational outreach and educational program development. W. Boron pointed out that we have a commitment to work with IUBMB for a teaching workshop in Spring 2015. D. Noble emphasized that the October meeting was not to just be another monthly meeting, but a way for ExCo to develop a strategy for looking forward. He stated that IUPS has become more reactive than pro-active and the meeting was a good starting place to change that. P. Wagner also brought up discussing the idea of the Quadrennial Congress as a concept. He stated that it was difficult to find national societies willing to host such an event, and perhaps funds and energy might better be used elsewhere.

## 6. Financial Report

P. Wagner presented a new financial spreadsheet created by him and S. Webster. It will be filled out month to month to better show the IUPS's finances. It was suggested adding a line detailing the total account value of IUPS's account at UBS. W. Boron pointed out that it was essential that dues invoices were being sent to the right people. P. Wagner remarked that APS's 2013 dues were sent to the wrong person, and thus did not pay until it was pointed out.

<p><b>Action:</b> S. Webster will add "Total Account Value" line to IUPS budget spreadsheet, and update it month to month. He will also reach out to ensure we have correct billing information for each society.</p>
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## 7. Other Business

P. Wagner discussed a letter from David Pollock, President of APS, to Tobias Wang, cc'd to P. Wagner and D. Noble about the accumulated deficit for the journal *Physiology*. In it, D. Pollock expressed an APS offer to eliminate its \$260k cumulative deficit. The journal should be better promoted in order to provide some revenue for IUPS. This was seen as a major change in attitude by the administration of APS. D. Noble noted that we must make good on this new sense of good will between the organizations and act accordingly.

<p><b>Action:</b> D. Noble to consult with T. Wang in composing a formal response letter to D. Pollock.</p>
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<p><b>Action:</b> W. Boron to discuss <i>Physiology</i> economics with J. Sands.</p>
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<p><b>Action:</b> ExCo to further discuss <i>Physiology</i> promotion during October meeting.</p>
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P. Hansen will be attending the PanAm Congress in Brazil, and asked what she should do while there. W. Boron asked that she acknowledge the *Physiology* letter with the APS. D. Noble recommended observing how the Brazilians ran the meeting, so we have a good idea of how things will work going forward with them for the 2017 IUSP Congress.

Respectfully submitted, S. Webster, IUPS Manager (Interim)