

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

February 17, 2015

Present: J. Chan, P. Hansen, W. Boron, K. Spyer, S. Webster
With Regrets: D. Noble

1. Upcoming BGA Meeting

K. Spyer reported on the upcoming meeting of the BGA via Skype. The meeting will be held at noon GMT on February 25. He gave the tentative agenda for the meeting:

- Notes from previous meeting
- Dues revision process
- Summary of ExCo activities
- Progress in preparation for IUPS-2017 Congress
- Regional development of IUPS
- Any ongoing business

As an update, P. Wagner expressed ExCo's frustration with the lack of response from member societies regarding membership numbers. D. Noble has sent letters to society presidents, asking to set up phone conversations. The letters went out the morning of the meeting, and already were receiving a positive response.

J. Chan is to provide the BGA with a summary of ExCo's activities and an update on the progress with the 2017 Congress.

The main crux of the meeting will be a discussion of regional development in IUPS. P. Hansen remarked that while she visited Bahrain, the Middle Eastern societies did not feel welcome in either the Asian or African regional federations. K. Spyer noted that Saudi Arabian physiologists were unable to attend the Bahrain meeting, due to tensions between the two countries. P. Hansen was asked to send details of the Bahrain discussion to K. Spyer to facilitate the regionalism discussion with the BGA.

S. Webster was asked to draft an agenda for the BGA meeting, and send it to K. Spyer.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no further changes. S. Webster is to post them to the website and distribute them to appropriate parties.

3. W. Boron's conversation with M. Walsh and A. Azzi from IUBMB

W. Boron reported on his discussions with A. Azzi and M. Walsh from IUBMB. He stated that IUBMB has withdrawn from ICSU, although the new ICSU management was making overtures to bring it back. However, IUBMB is still participating in the Bio-Unions, which is holding a meeting at the IUPESM Congress in Toronto in June. W. Boron reported that he is trying to work with in the Bio-Unions to keep IUBMB.

W. Boron stated that IUBMB was taking the lead to set up an Advanced School in conjunction with IUPS and IUPESM in Greece. The original plan was for the school to take place, but has been moved back to 2016. The three unions are planning on applying for an ICSU grant to help fund the Advanced School.

J. Chan expressed it was important that IUPS maintain its relationship with IUBMB. W. Boron stated that he expects it to eventually rejoin ICSU, but on its own terms. J. Chan asked if there was a strategy to support IUBMB and the other Bio-Unions. W. Boron replied that one of the problems was the informality of the Bio-Unions, and the constant roll-over of members. He stated that there are a couple of large financially well-off unions, such as neuroscience and biochemistry, and cadre small, but active member union, like the food and water safety unions. W. Boron expressed his admiration of A. Azzi's ability to corral the various unions to a common purpose.

Regarding IUPS's plans to further outreach efforts in Africa, W. Boron pointed out that ICSU had regional offices across the world who might be willing to help. P. Wagner stated that it may be possible to use the ICSU office in Africa to connect with other unions. W. Boron stated that someone needs to take the lead for the outreach efforts. P. Hansen suggested R. Carrol and the Education Committee should do so, and suggested that she and W. Boron arrange a meeting with him to discuss it. S. Webster stated the ICSU office was located in South Africa. P. Hansen felt this might pose a problem.

P. Wagner expressed his hope that the collaboration would be a great opportunity for unions to share resources and make progress. W. Boron felt that the difficulty would be recruiting unions to participate and raising funds. He remarked that IUPS was unique in that it had monthly meetings, and a full-time staff member. P. Hansen remarked that if inter-union collaboration continues to go forward, hopefully innovative methods of fund-raising can be discusses. She reminded ExCo that R. Carroll asked for permission for the Education Committee to raise funds.

4. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

W. Boron reported that during his conversation with A. Azzi, he was provided with contact information and submission advice for Elsevier and Wiley.

P. Wagner admitted that he had not finished the 2015 IUPS budget. He asked for members of ExCo to send him an email with budget items he may have possibly overlooked.

S. Webster has been unable to secure a venue for an all-day meeting for ExCo. He currently has a room on Saturday from 7am to 1pm. It was suggested that ExCo could change rooms if one is available from 1pm to 5pm.

5. Other/New Business

The agenda for EB was discussed. W. Boron wanted to add a discussion of the named lectures for IUPS-2017. S. Webster stated that L. Price had been tracking fund amounts, but that information was lost. L. Price came in to the IUPS office several weeks ago to look for the information, but was unable to do so. S. Webster has the funding amounts from the 2012 audit, and will be attempt to reconstruct the information from banks statements. He hopes to have this project done in time to discuss at EB.

P. Wagner asked about the status of the 2017-IUPS Contract. W. Boron reported there had been no word from the Brazilians, but they were currently on their summer vacation, in addition to celebrating Carnival. S. Webster confirmed that they had acknowledged receipt of the contract. W. Boron offered to send them a polite note asking them about it.

Action Items

1. P. Hansen to send details of Bahrain meeting to K. Spyer
2. S. Webster to draft BGA agenda and send to K. Spyer. (complete)
3. S. Webster to post previous meeting minutes to IUSP website. (complete)
4. S. Webster to setup meeting between P. Hansen, W. Boron, and R. Carroll (having difficulty setting good time. P. Hansen suggested “coffee meeting” at EB)
5. ExCo to send P. Wagner budget items.
6. P. Hansen to create Constitution and By-laws “cheat sheet” for ExCo meeting in Boston

Proposed EB Meeting Discussion Items

1. Future names and roles of IUPS Commission and Committees
2. Discuss guidelines for use of IUPS logo for future meetings
3. Future financial situation
 - a. Individual Committees and Commissions fund raising
4. Council reinvigoration, including 2nd Vice President liaising with Council
5. Council meeting in Águas de Lindóia agenda
6. Terms of Reference approval
 - a. PH Outstanding questions, could require revision of constitution and bylaws
7. Lecture Funds