

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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## IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

*March 12, 2015*

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

### 1. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

- a. P. Hansen to send details of Bahrain meeting to K. Spyer
- b. S. Webster to draft BGA agenda and send to K. Spyer. (complete)
- c. S. Webster to post previous meeting minutes to IUPS website. (complete)
- d. 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)
- e. ExCo to send P. Wagner budget items.
- f. P. Hansen to create Constitution and By-laws “cheat sheet” for ExCo meeting in Boston

Most of the Action Items from the previous meeting were complete. K. Spyer reported that P. Hansen had not contacted him with the contact information for Middle Eastern physiologists. S. Webster noted he had provided K. Spyer’s contact email to her. He offered to send her a short email to remind her.

S. Webster stated that he had attempted to arrange a Skype meeting between W. Boron, P. Hansen, and R. Carroll, but schedules were unable to line up. P. Hansen suggested a “coffee meeting” at EB, which all agreed to.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

### 3. BGA Report

K. Spyer reported on the BGA meeting held on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The primary purpose of the meeting was to update the BGA on IUPS activities since its last meeting. If completed, the dues revision process will also be discussed and voted upon. S. Webster stated that based on responses so far, the next meeting will likely be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. With regard to the dues revision process, D. Noble stated he was still talking to society presidents to obtain membership information.

P. Wagner remarked that as BGA meetings become more of a regular occurrence, they will have more participation. He asked K. Spyer about the letter ExCo sent to PhysSoc asking for collaboration in

creating a survey to assess outreach efforts. K. Spyer stated he was not in regular contact with PhysSoc, but he will ask P. Wright informally. P. Wagner then asked D. Noble if he had heard anything from R. Vaughn-Jones. D. Noble answered that R. Vaughn-Jones was waiting to hear from P. Wright as well.

#### **4. P. Moody-Corbett to ICLAS**

#### **5. Education Committee appointments**

P. Moody-Corbett was not available to answer questions about her proposed trip to the ICLAS meeting in Montreal. ExCo agreed to have a more comprehensive discussion about travel support at EB. P. Hansen was not on hand to discuss the Education Committee appointments, and the matter was tabled for EB as well.

#### **6. IUPS-2017 Contract Discussion**

Last week, SBFis sent ExCo the fourth version of the IUPS-2017 contract. On Wednesday, W. Boron sent ExCo a detailed analysis of the changes made by SBFis.

To start, SBFis added a paragraph to the introduction. W. Boron was worried that SBFis's language stating the LOC had "final decision" of IUPS-2017. He was worried the clause would give the LOC control over the scientific program of the Congress, rather than just the logistics. He suggested cleaning up the language of the clause, to ensure the scientific program remained in the hands of the ISPC. P. Wagner pointed out the implication that LOC would have final control over the science may be unintentional and the outcome of English not being the Brazilians' first language. He suggested W. Boron ask for clarification when they speak via Skype before EB.

The organization of the ISPC was discussed. W. Boron wanted to ensure an equal balance of participants on both sides. He remembered that during the ISPC meetings for Birmingham, there was no formal voting, and IUPS's voice was "drowned" out by PhysSoc. There was also some concern expressed at the specificity of the language. D. Noble suggested "softening" it in the next revision.

Also included in the contract was language specifying the members to be appointed to IUPS's half of the ISPC. The clause stated that the ISPC would be comprised of the chairs of IUPS's commissions and committees. W. Boron noted that two Commission chairs had already notified ExCo of their inability to participate in the ISPC, and replacements have been found. He stated that this needed to be reflected in the contract, to allow some flexibility in appointing the ISPC.

A major point of discussion involved the finances of the Congress. In the latest version, SBFis removed the phrase "full financial responsibility for the IUPS-2017 Congress". ExCo found this concerning, as it had been a part of contracts going back at least as far as the San Diego Congress. In addition, the clause stipulating cancellation insurance in the event of natural or man-made disaster was removed. In comments, SBFis stated insurance would be "too expensive and impossible to be paid by any Society in the world". K. Spyer remarked that such liability coverage came as part of PhysSoc's contract with the Birmingham conference center, and the price was quite reasonable. D. Noble also stated the Israeli physiological society was facing possible financial ruin due to such an event happening before their annual congress.

SBFis also eliminated Paragraph 23, where they are to pay for the travel expenses of the IUPS Council and Manager for the Congress. P. Wagner stated that if IUPS were to pick up the tab for those expenses, it cost tens of thousands of dollars, which IUPS does not have. W. Boron pointed out for Birmingham, PhysSoc paid for travel grants, and IUPS paid for Council. He said the money was about equal. As a way of getting around SBFis, P. Wagner suggested that any Council members not engaged as speakers at the Congress be enlisted to co-chair symposia with a SBFis co-chair. This way Council members will receive

at least partial support. He hopes that the great number of symposia at a typical congress will help offset any charges of favoritism.

For the preparatory meetings of the ISPC, SBFis eliminated phrasing that would allow them to provide reimbursements for travel expenses. W. Boron pointed out that many attendees, himself included, would prefer to make their own travel arrangements, as they likely have frequent flier miles or are willing to pay out of pocket for upgrades. Within the same paragraph, SBFis states that it will pay for the travel of the *ex officio* members of the ISPC. The phrasing also states that no reimbursements will be given.

The language stating that no reimbursements will be issued continued in paragraph 30, detailing travel arrangements for speakers. Sub-paragraph a stipulated the payments will be made in Brazilian Reals. It also eliminated the possibility of doing so via bank transfer, citing Brazilian financial regulations and high costs. W. Boron stated that Brazilian currency was not very stable, and suggested that SBFis pay IUPS one lump-sum, and IUPS could write checks in United States Dollars. That way, speakers aren't losing money, and SBFis is not paying exorbitant bank fees. P Wagner suggested the real intent may be simply to avoid SBFis reimbursing travelers, that this would in fact be good for travelers (not having to lose on exchange rates), and that the wording probably was not intended to remove the possibility of using traveler's miles or dollars to use specific airlines, upgrade etc. Thus, the intent needs clarification with the Brazilians, and the wording changed as needed.

At the end of the contract discussion, W. Boron offered to set up a Skype call with V. Antunes to discuss the contract informally before EB to obtain clarification on some things. S. Webster was instructed to set this up.

## **7. Boston Agenda/Meeting Plans**

The agenda for the EB Conference meeting was discussed. D. Noble asked to talk about his recent phone calls to society presidents. He also suggested speaking about the ongoing proposal for a Physiome journal. At the time, he will present a draft business plan for ExCo to review. J. Chan suggested further discussion regarding the Congress contract. P. Wagner remarked on the number of items on the agenda, and emphasized the need for a full day meeting. S. Webster answered that all of the conference rooms were booked, and it might be necessary to meet in one of the member's hotel rooms, or hotel lobby.

Regarding the schedule for EB, ExCo has a conference room booked on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am to 1pm. He reported that the doors will be unlocked and coffee available at 7:30. The meeting itself will start at 8am. ExCo has the room until 1pm. At 2pm, IUPS, B. Machado, and V. Antunes will meet with representatives of APS to discuss possible funding initiatives for the Congress. A second meeting with ExCo and the LOC will be held Sunday morning from 9am to 10am. S. Webster is working on extending the meeting an hour to allow a meeting with PhysSoc. (UPDATE: S. Webster has moved the start time to 8am so he can avoid a \$200 charge to move his flight home. The meeting will still be held until 10am).

## **8. Other/New Business**

P. Wagner stressed the importance of having all of the membership numbers from adhering societies. He felt that having only 2/3 of the data left gaps in the proposed structure. He stated that he had send a list of seven countries that still had not responded to D. Noble. D. Noble responded that his list was even longer, as he wished to speak to presidents of societies have not paid dues yet. He remarked that the situation with multiple physiological societies in India may cause some difficulties.

### **Action Items**

1. S. Webster to remind P. Hansen to send K. Spyer contact information for Middle Eastern physiologists. (complete)
2. S. Webster to post previous meeting minutes to IUSP website. (complete)
3. P. Hansen to create Constitution and By-laws “cheat sheet” for ExCo meeting in Boston
4. S. Webster to set up Skype call between W. Boron and V. Antunes to discuss contract changes.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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