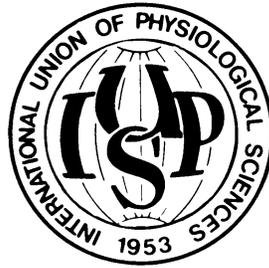


INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Council Meeting 19-20 July 2013 Room EX8 ICC, Birmingham, UK

Present: D. Noble, Y. Kurachi, W. Boron, M. Gordon, P. Hunter, Q. Pittman, C. McMillen, S. Semnanian, J. Rettig, T. Wang, P. Moody-Corbett
Absent: M. Slak Rupnik, A. de Carvalho

The President called the meeting to order on Friday, July 19, at 9:00am

1. Approval of minutes of July 2011 Council meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. Reports of the Officers

- *Report of the President:*

D. Noble reported that the role of the Executive Committee (ExCo) has been to implement items from the Long Range Planning report. Approximately three-quarters of these have been completed.

The ExCo has been having monthly teleconferences. These will be continued to insure that initiatives from members are discussed in a timely manner. Council still meets only once every two years, which is not adequate. That group also should teleconference in the years when there is no face-to-face meeting. Various ways of conducting a council meeting were considered. It would be possible to have a phone-in number handled by a professional company relatively cheaply. The Council approved twice yearly meetings by audio conference.

The image of IUPS is that it is not active and does not do very much. This is because long term negotiations are sometimes necessary, which takes time. IUPS needs to have a good sense of where physiology is going, address that issue and promote it to show the relevance of physiology to biological research. It is necessary to explain to the General Assembly what IUPS has been doing and that it still has a long way to go. In terms of resources, IUPS' budget is very minimal. The message to members needs to be that if they think the work that IUPS does is important, that work is going to need help with resources.

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The reorganization of IUPS in relation to input from member societies was successful. In order to assure that General Assembly delegates would exist in between Congresses, the Board of the General Assembly (BGA) was set up. The BGA nominated half of the people on the Nominating Committee. Over a two year period, there were discussions among APS, TPS and IUPS about a way to give power to societies. When the proposal for a BGA was put out to the members, it was strongly supported by more than 2 to 1. The initial BGA members were selected by the ExCo from nominations put forward by the member societies. This was done to insure neutrality and inclusion of both developing countries and those with resources. The BGA includes someone from APS and TPS.

D. Noble also reported on the Membership Committee which has met using Skype. The committee discussed new membership and contacted small countries who were not members before. Three societies have applied for membership: Bangladesh, Nepal and Malta. IUPS has reached out to the politically sensitive countries of Burma and North Korea since the Union is perceived as politically neutral. It was difficult to get through diplomatic channels and to have funds for attendees. However, the result is that representatives from each country will be attending the Congress. There is much more to do in increasing membership. Because this is a modest part of the Long Range Plan, it needs help from the large national societies.

Thirty countries were contacted about membership since the 2009 Congress. Three to four new countries are added per congress. It was suggested that the General Assembly be made aware of this and that developing countries be asked if they have a physiological society or not. The special meeting of African physiologists to be held during the Congress will hopefully help set up a regional organization on that continent. The least success for inclusion has been with Francophone Africa (ex. Algeria, Morocco). Although D. Noble offered to chair a session in French, no one from IUPS who speaks French went to the regional meeting in Egypt. At the 2009 Kyoto Congress, the IUPS Executive Committee met with strongly opposed groups from Africa. Since then, IUPS has been trying to reach out and make connections between them through the Board of the General Assembly (BGA). It was noted that students from African nations do go to yearly meetings in their field of interest (ex. Diabetes).

- Report of the Secretary General, W. Boron

It has become the job of IUPS to be part of the International Scientific Planning Committee (ISPC) of each Congress. The 2013 Congress was extremely well organized by TPS. Since IUPS is a member of the International Council of Unions (ICSU), the ICSU deputy director, Carthage Smith, will be addressing Council this afternoon. ICSU serves the nations and serves the unions with the largest cluster being the Bio-unions. Four of these bio-unions feel that the ICSU agenda does not reflect what needs to be discussed. They feel that the agenda should be generated from the bottom up by the unions. The ICSU Board meets every 18 months. All clusters of unions meet every three years at a Congress. The Bio-unions now meet before each Congress. The Bio-union cluster has proposed the ideas of attending each other's events, having joint meetings and inter-union teaching events. An ICSU grant was awarded to the Bio-unions symposium after the 2013 Congress.

- *Report of the Treasurer, M. Gordon*

The Treasurer reported as the Chair of the Nominating Committee that D. Noble was selected to continue as President to ensure institutional continuity. The finances of IUPS are stable. However, the low amount of funds limits what can be done. The dues structure has not been changed in 45 years. Some governments which were paying dues for their physiological societies' dues are no longer. The U.S. is one of these countries. The American Physiological Society now has to pay its own dues.

The first IRS audit was done in 2012 because IUPS is incorporated in the United States. IUPS passed and its nonprofit status was renewed. Peter Wagner was selected to run as Treasurer beginning in January 2014 because as an American he understands how the IRS works. A formal audit by the accountant is conducted every other year.

An account was opened at Le Credit Lyonnais, a bank in Paris, France. It currently totals about €30,000. The U.S. account was changed to UBS from Merrill Lynch because our financial advisor moved to UBS. The investments generate \$30,000-\$40,000 in income each year. The invested endowment comes from funds for five different named lectureships. There is a cash balance that is maintained for handling the costs of council meetings.

There are huge disparities among the dues for IUPS members. The Membership Committee and also the Treasurer have tried to find a feasible model for the dues structure, but were unable. The Board of the General Assembly will be asked for its advice about changing the structure. A plan for the process of changing the dues structure has been written by W. Boron, Secretary General of IUPS and approved by ExCo. It will now be sent to Council for their input.

Discussion:

Dues are necessary to support the outreach to countries which, for political or financial reasons, cannot participate in the IUPS Congress. D. Noble presented an illustration pertaining to the physiologists from Myanmar and N. Korea who attended the Congress. The reason IUPS was able to negotiate their participation is because we are considered neutral. Individual countries such as S. Korea, the UK and the US would not be. To get funding for travel expenses in terms of Myanmar, D. Noble approached a Thai businessman, who made a donation of \$3,000.

IUPS could do much more if it had the resources. He suggested that the dues structure have two components – a membership fee for joining IUPS and a fund for contributions for outreach. M. Gordon informed Council that even though the Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) indicated that the National Science Foundation is no longer paying the US dues, they would be willing to fund programs. This outreach program might qualify for grant money.

Currently the US dues are being paid by a consortium of societies (APS, Society of General Physiology, Biomedical Engineering Society and Microcirculatory Society) which pays about \$30,000. M. Gordon stated that he thinks NAS should continue as adhering body because of connections to other networks.

APS and TPS would like to see more of the budget spent on programs. D. Noble suggested that IUPS report to all the member societies that if there were more money, this is what could be done.

IUPS pays dues to ICLAS and ICSU. The dues to ICSU are approximately €4,000.

5. International Organizations [taken out of agenda order due to arrival of C. Smith]
ICSU, Carthage Smith, Deputy Executive Director, gave a presentation on the International Council for Science.

The mission is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. This statement was written just ten years ago. He reviewed the structure of ICSU. (See <http://www.icsu.org/about-icsu/structure>). Regional offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America are relatively new. The action of this structure is through the interdisciplinary bodies, the scientific committees and the member societies.

Vision: A world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policy making.

The Second Strategic Plan is a six-year plan that addresses research planning and coordination, science for policy and the universality of science. This is being applied through a new initiative called Future Earth which is directed towards research for global sustainability. It includes programs on climate, the biosphere, bio-diversity and union dimensions. An initiative on urban health and wellbeing is particularly relevant to IUPS. Energy has been a long term priority for ICSU. There is also a focus on identifying new areas of science where interdisciplinary, international collaboration is needed. Other areas are standards of nanotechnology and geoengineering. In terms of policy-making, ICSU interfaces with the UN system. A network for national science advisors is being developed.

The universality of science includes not only freedom of exchange of information, but also responsibility. The Committee on Freedom and Responsibility addresses freedom issues such as cases of individual scientists whose right to free movement, to freely associate and to communicate is infringed. They also provide advisory documents related to research integrity. ICSU is establishing a world data system and a policy on open access to data. Science education continues to be an interest to ICSU. The regional offices promote education activities within the initiatives.

C. Smith often hears from biological unions that all ICSU is interested in is environmental issues and that there is no biology included. Dov Jaron was nominated by the Biological Cluster and elected to the Board. In his capacity as a board member, he is able to give the perspective of biology. Also, one of the ICSU vice presidents is an immunologist. C. Smith argued that, depending on how you define biology, biology is everywhere within ICSU.

D. Noble noted that over the years that he has been involved in IUPS the interaction with ICSU has been quite minimal. Until the Secretary General took the initiative to be more involved, we weren't quite sure why IUPS was there. One of the areas that C. Smith highlighted was the universality question and the problem of free movement of scientists.

IUPS has been having difficulty with the issue of freedom of movement. IUPS thinks it is extremely important that the international organizations are aware of the current difficulties such as the ones experienced in relation to the IUPS Congress. Another area would be how ICSU views its mission. D. Noble noted that at some point in the past ICSU dropped “unions” from its name. There is some concern about what the intent was for doing that.

C. Smith noted that he was not part of ICSU when the name was changed, but it followed an external review in 1996. The recommendations were that ICSU become more strategic and represent all of science, not just unions. The national societies pay 90% or more of the dues. National academies started ICSU and its role was to establish scientific unions and support them. ICSU had funding from UNESCO to establish these global networks just after World War II so they had money to build unions. Sixty years later, the ICSU review noted that the unions were now set up and operating so that is not ICSU's role any more. The role changed to bringing those unions together around interdisciplinary topics. ICSU is about the global science community and not the disciplinary unions because they are strong enough themselves.

W. Boron brought up the fact that bio-unions do not have funds from dues that the national governments used to pay. He felt that ICSU could support bio-unions more in terms of advancing science. It has not been specific about biology. The bio-unions had not banded together as other clusters had. Now they have to defend why they need ICSU funds. The national societies combine biological groups. C. Smith suggested that ICSU would be open to external review by the bio-unions. C. McMillen proposed that the larger number of biologists may be due to the number of scientists that are in that area and perhaps that is why there are ten bio-unions. They are not able to coordinate because of the large global footprint of biology. C. Smith agreed there is a huge overlap of bio-unions.

D. Noble explained that there were between 3,000-5,000 scientists just for IUPS Congresses. Other bio-unions also have congresses and inter-union events are limited to what they can accomplish. There is no functionality to combine. ICSU is driving the interface rather than trying to join up something that does not seem to be functional. Money is flowing to ICSU from governments, but it is not going through the unions. ICSU should encourage combined events about science.

CIOMS - P. Moody-Corbett reported that the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences is looking at the transport of animals.

ICLAS – P. Moody-Corbett reported that the revised “International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals” has been issued.

IBRO - Q. Pittman reported there was an election of Stan Grillner as the new Secretary General. The organization is now focusing on global advocacy and raising its image by compiling a thesaurus of neuroscience. The *Journal of Neuroscience* contract was renewed with Elsevier.

SCOPE, IUPHAR – There were no representatives in attendance.

3. Regional Activity

- a. Africa – D. Noble gave a short history of the events in Africa. Many attempts have been made over a long period of time to resolve the tensions there. The outcome is that eventually AAPS held a Congress in Egypt which was fairly successful. He sent an audio and PowerPoint message to the Congress. The result is a meeting that will be held Wednesday evening at the Conference Center to which all the African physiologists have been invited. The meeting will be co-chaired by D. Noble and S. Makaula, who is a member of the Board of the General Assembly. The objective of the meeting is for the African physiologists to have a discussion to further organization and professional development of physiologists and physiology in Africa. IUPS will serve as a mediator. M. Gordon recommended that all Council members attend the meeting.
- b. FAOPS, FEPS, ALACF – There were no representatives to report.

4. *Physiology* (The Journal) –

T. Wang reported that he had a long conference with P. Hunter about the journal. He discussed the history of the journal in terms of IUPS participation. The number of articles in the initial issues included quite a few IUPS members, but that has gone down significantly. W. Boron, Secretary General, was editor of *Physiology* for nine years raising it from an impact factor of 2 to 8. Changes were made to the journal to improve the quality and it is now a huge success. Two years ago IUPS started to press the issue to become more scientifically involved and in getting part of the revenue. G. Sieck, the current editor, wants to make sure there is an international editorial board. There is a joint managing board which consists of two members from IUPS and two from APS. This board meets every year at the Experimental Biology meeting. There are no major issues on how to run the journal, but there are some issues about the finances which will be discussed in the future.

C. McMillen asked if there was a profit-making possibility of IUPS remaining co-owner of the journal, but starting a separate one that might cover interdisciplinary physiology or engagement with other physiological societies. W. Boron remarked that there is no physiome journal. He also knew that IUBMB has several journals licensed to commercial publishers with a licensing fee back to IUBMB guaranteeing a profit. C. McMillen commented that a commercial decision would help with the issue of financial sustainability. The publishers could give input to find a gap in the market with the maximum market share for IUPS. Even though there are email addresses for individual members are confidential, it was estimated, based on Congress registrations and some known society numbers, that there are 5,000-6,000 potential readers.