

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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IUPS Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

August 25, 2015

Present: D. Noble, J. Chan, P. Hansen, W. Boron, S. Webster

With Regrets: P. Wagner

1. Review of Action Items from Previous Meetings
 - a. June 30 ExCo Meeting
 - b. August 2-3 Council Meeting

Following up from his President's Report from the IUPS Council meeting, D. Noble stated he was preparing for a second round of conversations with member society presidents. He asked S. Webster to compile a list of society presidents he had not yet spoken to. D. Noble also expressed his desire to reach out to the African Francophone societies, and extend an offer for them to join IUPS. As regional membership costs nothing, he expects them to accept.

P. Hansen asked for an update regarding the IUPS Trading Post. S. Webster stated that the IUPS web developer had started work on the site, and would have a more comprehensive update soon. W. Boron asked for clarification regarding the effort to better include Council in matters of ExCo. S. Webster stated that Council will receive ExCo meeting minutes once they have been reviewed by ExCo. This will give Council members an opportunity to suggest corrections. W. Boron suggested that ExCo meeting times be posted publicly to the IUPS website. P. Hansen suggested sending an e-mail to Council members with a link to the finalized minutes and agenda for the next meeting.

W. Boron reported on progress with the Spetes Advanced School. He reported that the website for the school was live (http://www.eie.gr/nhrf/institutes/ibrb/Biounions2016/welcome_message.html), but did not have any IUPS speakers listed. He asked S. Webster to reconnect with the organizers to suggest an IUPS speaker.

J. Chan asked about the status of the dues revision proposal. D. Noble reported that P. Wagner created a document prior to the Council meeting last month, detailing the current model for dues. Under the guidelines established, there was a reduction in dues for the majority of societies. Ultimately, dues for APS and PhysSoc would increase. W. Boron stated that he was not optimistic as to APS's reactions to having their dues increased further. D. Noble stated that it was APS and PhysSoc who asked for the dues to be evaluated in the first place. He equated the increase in dues to "a drop in the bucket" in their respective budgets. He also stated that the implied question of IUPS's "value" was not fair. He suggested

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ExCo create a document detailing exactly what IUPS brings to the international physiology table, for presentation at the next meeting of the General Assembly.

S. Webster was asked about the various “pots” of money in the IUPS account with UBS. These included specific funds for the education committee, and the named lectures for Congresses. P. Hansen reported that L. Price would send a monthly report to the Education Committee. S. Webster is to consult with the accountant to determine the exact amounts in these funds. P. Hansen suggested sending the Education Committee chairperson a quarterly report.

D. Noble spoke on the efforts to revive the IUPS Commissions and Committees. He stated that the diagram P. Hunter created in Brazil managed to “square a difficult circle” in demonstrating the interrelationships between the Commissions and Committees. At the Council meeting, Y-S Chun requested to change the name of Commission VIII to “Genomics and Epigenomics” to better reflect the current state of physiology. J. Taylor and L. Filaretova also requested name changes for their commissions (I and III). D. Noble asked P. Hansen to write a letter to them to ask about potential names for their commissions. It was reiterated that Committee and Commission chairs are allowed to appoint members as they see fit, subject to term limits.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

a. June 30 ExCo Meeting

The minutes were approved to be distributed to members of Council and posted on the website.

b. August 2-3 Council Meeting

The draft minutes were approved. S. Webster is to recirculate them to members of Council. Once he has majority approval, he is to distribute them publically. The first ExCo/Council meeting will be in November.

3. Council Wrap-Up

W. Boron asked what the final decision for council engagement. S. Webster stated that Council will join into the monthly ExCo skype meeting every four months. ExCo decided Council will join in the November Skype meeting. W. Boron also brought up the need for the Nominating Committee for the 2017 Congress to be up and running. D. Noble stated that two years of lead time may seem like a lot, but recruitment can take some time, as well as securing the nominee’s agreement. D. Noble, P. Hansen, and W. Boron will all be retiring after the 2017 Congress, as well as approximately half of Council. D. Noble stated the Nominating Committee will have to be approved by Council, and would ideally be made up of IUPS veterans and outsiders. He asked for some time to consider the makeup. J. Chan asked about the composition of the Nominating Committee. D. Noble answered that the Committee is composed of a chair, and four members. He stated that the chair of the nominating committee is the most important, as they will be the one to contact potential nominees. D. Noble asked S. Webster to send him a list of retiring Council members, as they are allowed to serve on the Nominating Committee.

W. Boron stated that any potential amendments to the IUPS Constitution need to be started to be drafted now. One potential amendment was for Commission chairs to serve as members of Council. An issue that would arise from that change would be the transition from one Council to the next. D. Noble pointed out that there was for the possibility for Council members who were not Commission chairs.

D. Noble updated ExCo on progress with the Physiome Journal. He stated that Elsevir and Wiley have pulled out, and negotiations with PubMedCentral will continue. ExCo wished P. Hunter good luck in his negotiations.

4. IUPS Congress Planning/Contract

W. Boron reported on the progress with the contract for the 2017 Congress. He said a final contract was agreed upon in Brazil, but he came down ill before he and V. Antunes could make a final version. S. Webster sent the marked up version to V. Antunes on 21 August. He has attempted to schedule another meeting with him to clean up the contract telephonically, but Vagner has not yet responded.

W. Boron and P. Hansen visited the RioCentro Conference Center after the SBFis Congress. P. Hansen said the venue looked more than adequate to the task of holding the Congress. She reported that most of the infrastructure for the area was in place, including a bus system with a dedicated lane to the conference center. W. Boron pointed out that RioCentro was rather far away from Rio de Janeiro proper. D. Noble asked about the state of the hotel. W. Boron stated the listed price for the hotel was \$275/night, but was told the price would be around \$100/night for the Congress. He stated that he would like that number officially on paper. P. Hansen stated that the Olympic Village would be converted to apartments following the 2016 Olympics, and would be available to rent via AirBnB.

W. Boron did have one concern. He proposed that the office for the IUPS Manager and Council be located off-site at the conference hotel. He stated the offices proposed by the LOC were on the ground floor of the congress centre, near the maintenance and medical offices. He asked for permission to write a letter to the LOC giving approval for RioCentro, as well as asking for better accommodations for IUPS staff. D. Noble gave approval to do so.

5. New and Other Business

J. Chan asked about a letter sent to the Virtual Physiological Human (VPH) Institute to invite them to become an affiliated member of IUPS. D. Noble stated that all that was required was for him to write a letter of acceptance to VPH. He also suggested inviting S. Omholt to serve as a member of the Physiome committee, to provide a direct link to VPH. W. Boron will ask A. McCulloch to invite him to the committee.

Action Items

1. S. Webster to compile list of society president contact information, and send to D. Noble.
2. D. Noble to extend offer of regional membership to Francophone Africa Society.
3. ExCo to create document detailing IUPS's worth, to present at Congress.
4. S. Webster to consult with accountant to determine named lecture and education funds.
5. P. Hansen to write to J. Taylor and L. Filaretova to discuss potential name changes.
6. S. Webster to forward IUPS letterhead to members of Council and Commission/Committee Chairs
7. S. Webster to post June 30 minutes to IUPS website.
8. S. Webster to send D. Noble list of retiring Council members.
9. W. Boron to write letter to SBFis giving approval for RioCentro.
10. S. Webster to add VPH as Affiliated Member to IUPS website
11. W. Boron to ask A. McCulloch to invite S. Omholt to serve on Physiome Committee