

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Report of the Secretary-General of IUPS to the General Assembly at IUPS2017 in Brazil

The IUPS Secretary-General (SG), the chief operating officer of the Union, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Union. The Secretariat employs one manager, who also provides administrative support for the IUPS Treasurer, Council, and Board of the General Assembly (BGA). The Secretariat organizes various meetings, including those of the Executive Committee (ExCo), which meets monthly via Skype, and once a year at the EB Meeting.

Congress Planning

The IUPS Secretariat was responsible for coordinating the Union's activities with SBFis to plan the quadrennial IUPS Congress. This included being the primary IUPS negotiator for the contract with SBFis to host the Congress. In addition, the Secretary-General served as the co-chair of the International Scientific Programming Committee (ISPC). In order to revitalize the role of the IUPS Commissions and Committees, the chairs of the eight commissions and three relevant committees (Education, Ethics, and Physiome) were invited to serve on the ISPC. The IUPS President served on the ISPC as well. The rest of the ExCo served in an *ex officio* fashion.

The Secretary-General also collaborated with the Treasurer to formally codify the process for submitting bids for future congresses. The revised procedure was posted on the IUPS website and transmitted to member societies. A template contract to facilitate future negotiations was also produced.

Interaction with the Board of the General Assembly

One of the tasks taken on by the BGA was to develop a framework for regionalization of the IUPS. The BGA produced a white paper proposing five regional representatives to serve on Council. After considerable discussion between the BGA and the SG, the SG suggested, and the BGA and ExCo adopted the idea that Council would include three representatives from designated regions (North/South America, Europe/Africa, and Asia/Oceania) plus a fourth "at large" representative. This proposal was included in the changes to the IUPS Constitution and Bylaws, below.

Constitution and Bylaws

Encouraged by the success of having the Commission and Committee chairs serve on the ISPC, Council proposed a revision to the IUPS Constitution and Bylaws to replace the current Council with the Chairs of the eight Commissions and the three Committees involved in programming (Education, Ethics, and Physiome). This proposal was combined with the BGA regionalism proposal (see above). The SG, with the help of the Manager, incorporated these changes into a draft version of the Constitution and Bylaws. After consultation with ExCo, BGA, and the full Council, the Secretariat put the proposed Constitution/Bylaws changes to the GA for a vote in the Fall of 2016. The proposed changes passed

unanimously. Thus, the new Council will comprise the ExCo (five members), the Chairs of the Commissions and selected Committees (eleven members), and the new regional representatives (four members), for a total of twenty members of Council. With the exception of the SG and Treasurer (who take office January 1, 2018), the new Council will take office at the end of the 2017 GA meeting.

ICSU and Bio-Unions

The Secretary-General is also the IUPS's representative to the International Council of Science (ICSU) and the Bio-Unions, a consortium of unions focused on the biological sciences. The SG represented the IUPS at the 2014 General Assembly of ICSU, as well as at the ICSU meeting of Unions, including meetings of the Bio-Unions. As part of its collaboration with the Bio-Unions, the IUPS helped to sponsor an Advanced School on Receptors and Signaling in Spetses, Greece in May 2015.

Nominations Committee

The SG served as Chair of the IUPS Nominations Committee, the first to incorporate members designated by the BGA, and the first to consider the new structure of Council. The Secretariat organized the meetings of the Nominations Committee, and the SG personally recruited each member of the new Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Walter F. Boron", written over a horizontal line.

Walter F. Boron

July 2017