

IUPAC - De Gruyter Meeting
Database Proposal – Next Steps
Teleconference
9:35am – 10:15am EDST
October 16, 2014

Draft Minutes

IUAPC Attendees: Colin Humphris, Bonnie Lawlor,

De Gruyter Attendees: Katharina Butsch, Karin Sora, Konrad Keiling

Objective: The objective of this meeting was to discuss the immediate next steps to be taken for the development of the IUPAC Database of Standards and Recommendations. IUPAC has given approval to move forward in principle, pending final approval of the business plan and contract terms. The goal at this time is to have the contract for review by April 2015.

Discussion

Karin Sora mentioned that De Gruyter had its first round of discussions on the database earlier today, although the final decision-makers were not present. They now need to develop a business plan and an estimated budget for 2015 since the work, if the database is approved, will begin next year with a proposed launch in 2016. The business plan will be presented internally for approval at De Gruyter on December 19, 2014.

In preparation for that plan, Katharina said that they will need from IUPAC the title of the database which should be as short as possible. For example, they recently did a database on Environmental Sciences and the name was Environmental Sciences Online. She thinks that *IUPAC Standards and Recommendations Online* is too long. It was agreed that *PAC online* would be misleading since not all of *PAC* will be included. It was also agreed that *IUPAC Online* is too general. Karin said that the title should reflect future enhancements. Bonnie Lawlor said that this database will focus on IUPAC Standards and Recommendations, so all future enhancements will be complimentary to the core content and will not need a “special” name. IUPAC will take this issue back to CPCDS. Also, IUPAC needs to decide if there will be a designated “editor” for the database.

Katharina said that they also need the long-term vision for the database for presentation to the sales and marketing team (e.g. will there be an enriched version? Does IUPAC have any idea what additional content they would like to see included? Etc.). Katharina asked what IUPAC unit will be responsible for the database. Bonnie said that the Committee on Publications and Cheminformatics Data Standards (CPCDS) will oversee the initiative and that Colin Humphris and Lynn Soby will be the major decision makers.

Colin asked about the Content Management System (CMS). Karin and Katharina said that they needed to know if IUPAC is considering its use so that they know how to build the database. It will not be used until such time that content is added and/or corrected within the database itself. Having it will make moving to the enriched version of the database - should that occur - much easier.

Bonnie said that she would like to have a schema as to how the production process will work between the two organizations as well as how the business side will work so that we all know up front who the key contacts are in each organization.

Katharina said that when they hand over the proposal internally, the e-publishing team at De Gruyter will then need to take a detailed look at what has to be done. They will look at what data entries are required, that capacity that is needed for production, whether or not it can be done in-house or if freelancers will be needed, etc. Ulrike Engel from that department will most likely attend all future meetings regarding the database. That group has already asked if InChI codes could be added from the beginning. Bonnie Lawlor said that the approval to go-ahead was based upon the basic database and InChI codes were viewed as a possibility for an enriched version, if indeed that version is ultimately developed. IUPAC would need to look at resources to see if adding additional information is feasible for the first iteration of the database. Karin said that if the codes could be generated by computer, De Gruyter might undertake that effort. She also asked that IUPAC give consideration to what they believe should be included in the first iteration of the database. Bonnie asked how often the database will be updated. Karin said most likely monthly, but that will depend on the sales and marketing team's requirements.

The goal at this time is for De Gruyter to have the contract ready for IUPAC approval by April 2015 (best guess at this time). Colin Humphris said that IUPAC would probably need one month for review as it will have to be done by teleconference and email. The next IUPAC Executive Committee is November 8-9, 2014 and they will not meet again in person until August 2015.

In the next ten days Katharina Butsch will send to Colin Humphris, Lynn Soby, and Bonnie Lawlor a list of questions that will need to be answered so that De Gruyter can get started. She will also include the necessary timeline. Colin noted that the agreement process will need to run in parallel with the technical development process as there are a number of issues that will need to be resolved. He also said that we need to share in the development of the business plan. Bonnie suggested that there be regular (every other week?) teleconferences once the process begins so that communication is clear. Colin noted that he is very interested in learning what tasks need to be done, how they will get done, and who is best positioned to do them, the costs, benefits, timelines etc.

Karin asked if Colin or Bonnie planned to attend the Materials Research Society (MRS) meeting in Boston this coming December as she will be there. Neither Colin nor Bonnie plan to attend, but they will let Lynn Soby know that Karin will be in Boston on December 1 and plans leaving on December 4th in case Lynn can get up there to meet with her.

There was also a brief conversation about the new hire at De Gruyter who will handle *Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC)* and *Chemistry International (CI)*. In Spencer's absence not much was resolved, but both Karin and Katharina said that they believed this will make the work process smoother since one person will replace three (Allie, Cheryl and Chris) and there will only be one point of contact at De Gruyter for both *PAC* and *CI*. It was also noted that Lynn Soby needs to get the cost per unit for *CI* as soon as possible. This is an open issue from prior meetings. Bonnie said that she saw an email late yesterday from Spencer that said Lynn would get it asap.

Colin closed the meeting by saying that he was very supportive of this initiative. He sees it as a natural outgrowth of the discussions that took place in Berlin and that it balances the need for *PAC* open access with the publisher need for back file revenue. Everyone agreed that they are looking forward to working on the project.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Lawlor, Chair CPCDS, October 23, 2014



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

**(CPCDS) Committee on Publications and
Cheminformatics Data Standards**