

Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*

Monday 10th August

Busan, Korea

The meeting purpose was to review the objectives, functions, *modus operandi* and make-up of the Board to ensure it can continue add value to *PAC* and IUPAC.

1. Present

Colin Humphris	- Acting Secretary General and Chair of EAB
Bonnie Lawlor	- Chair CPCDS
Hugh Burrows	- Scientific Editor, PAC
Ron Weir	- Chair ICTNS, PAC Editor
Jurgen Stohner	- ICTNS and Commission I.1
Roberto Marquardt	- Division I
Jan Reedijk	- Division II
Mary Garson	- Division III
Graeme Moad	- Division IV
Roger Hiorns	- Division IV
Thomas Perun	- Division VII
Alan Hutton	- Division VIII
Kazuyuki Tatsumi	- Past President IUPAC
Jung-II Jing	- Past President IUPAC
Leiv Sydnes	- Past President IUPAC

The Chairman thanked the attendees for coming and the level of interest in reactivating the Editorial Advisory Board of *PAC*. The interest from the Divisions was particularly gratifying.

2. Previous Meeting

The last published minutes of the EAB are from 2007, since when the Board has largely been in abeyance.

3. Current Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board (attached)

We agreed that the EAB continued to be relevant, especially given the new relationship with De Gruyter. The EAB should continue to focus on content and scientific standards, and in this regard the existing terms of reference, with some minor changes (see attached) remain appropriate. The EAB's role differs from that

of CPCDS who has an advisory role on all aspects of the design and implementation of publications and data-sharing. It therefore focuses on the more practical issues of publication and data delivery.

4. Discussions

Ron Weir emphasized the need for ICTNS to pay close attention to the publication of standards and recommendations given their legal implications. A current concern is that errors are being introduced when author manuscripts that are submitted in serif font are changed to the sans serif De Gruyter house style fonts. Bonnie Lawlor gave an update from the discussion with De Gruyter that was held on Saturday, and encouraged Ron to visit with Spencer McGrath at the De Gruyter booth. (*Note: Ron and Spencer did meet and an interim solution was agreed upon*).

Oversight of the proposed Standards Database was considered equally important and some concern was expressed about the potential accuracy of the metadata and the introduction of errors due to the aforementioned font issue. The Chairman was asked to forward information about the database to the EAB members: **Action CH**. The EAB agreed, however, that such databases were ultimately the way forward and felt that electronic formats would also be the future for the Colour Books and derivative products.

The EAB approved the proposal from Hugh Burrows (attached) for IUPAC to adopt an approach similar to the American Chemical Society (ACS) ethical guidelines for publications. Hugh will monitor publications for evidence of material plagiarism and his proposal to advise the Board with recommendations for action should plagiarism occur was agreed upon.

The EAB discussed options to broaden the appeal of *PAC* and agreed to an increased focus on special topic issues and the encouragement of special issue editors. An ongoing concern is the impact factor and the ability of *PAC* to attract papers in the conference series from top scientists to improve impact. We agreed that the Divisions would work with the Scientific Editor to encourage such papers. The EAB noted the Polymer Division's publishing agreement with Wiley for Macromolecular Symposia.

It was agreed that a suggestion to publish original research papers would be more challenging given the need to distinguish *PAC* from other journals and the current impact factor. IUPAC might consider inviting research papers from the Developing World given its international standing.

The discussion led to the question of the metrics that the EAB should use to monitor progress on scientific content. A quick analysis of over 500 recent *PAC* papers suggested that Technical papers and Recommendations were cited significantly more regularly than conference papers: **Action JR to provide his analysis to HB**. While citations and Impact factors remain important, the EAB will need to monitor them; however, there were broader concerns over reliance on such metrics. ICSU has, for instance, signed the San Francisco Declaration that calls on the world scientific community to eliminate the role of the journal impact factor (JIF) in evaluating research for funding, hiring, promotion, or institutional effectiveness. A motion was approved to recommend to the Bureau that IUPAC also sign the Declaration: **Action CH**. The EAB also agreed to invite Hugh Borrows to suggest other metrics for the Board's consideration. De Gruyter may also have views on this: **Action HB**.

A recommendation was agreed to ensure the availability of guidance in the form of templates for the drafting of recommendations and suitable molecular structure drawing software on the De Gruyter website: **Action BL, HB, RW**.

5. Composition of the Advisory Board

The current EAB composition was discussed and it was believed to be appropriate for *PAC*, especially the role of Past-Presidents as titular members. There was no support to invite other external scientists in their place. Leiv Sydnes comes to the end of his term on the EAB in 2015 and Mark Cesa should therefore be invited to join for the next biennium: **Action CH to recommend to incoming President**. The Divisions will revise their representation for the next biennium as well: **Action Divisions**.

De Gruyter is now our marketing production arm and should therefore be invited to participate in part of future EAB meetings to provide a market perspective and to enable the EAB to monitor business plans and pricing.

6. Frequency of Meetings

We agreed that the EAB should meet face-to-face at each General Assembly with a Go-To-Meeting session to be held in the off years.

C.J. Humphris

Acting Secretary General

30th September 2015

PAC Editorial Advisory Board

Current Terms of Reference

- (i) The EAB shall monitor scientific and editorial standards of *PAC* and its derivative products, and advise and assist on all aspects of planning, implementation, and evaluation of publication policy and practice.
- (ii) The EAB shall respond to requests for critical evaluation of *PAC*-related activities and initiatives.
- (iii) The *ex officio* members of the EAB shall be responsible for reporting back to their respective IUPAC constituencies on relevant *PAC* matters.

Current Composition and Terms of Office

- (i) There shall be an Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) for the IUPAC journal *Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC)*, comprising the Secretary General (*ex officio*), the President of each Division or his/her nominated representative (*ex officio*), the Chair of the Committee for Publications and Cheminformatics Data Standards or his/her nominated representative (*ex officio*), the Chair of the Interdivisional Committee for Terminology, Nomenclature and Symbols or his/her nominated representative (*ex officio*), the Scientific Editor (*ex officio*), and up to six invited members.
- (ii) The *ex officio* members shall serve for the duration of their IUPAC appointments, subject to confirmation at each General Assembly. Invited members shall be nominated by the President and appointed in consultation with the Executive Committee. Their period of service shall be four years, renewable for a further term of four years.
- (iii) The Secretary General shall chair any meetings of EAB members, and the Secretariat shall maintain records of such meetings.

Pure and Applied Chemistry policy on plagiarism and publication ethics

Hugh D. Burrows

Although I only have a couple of examples of these from my term as Scientific Editor of PAC, we know that, with the proliferation of open access and other journals, plagiarism, including self-plagiarism (i.e. copying large parts of text from one's own published work) is starting to be a real problem with many scientific journals. How should the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) treat possible cases of breaches of publication ethics?

Societies, such as the ACS and RSC, have well defined policies. The ACS Ethical Guidelines for Editors, Authors and Reviewers are particularly clear on these points

<http://pubs.acs.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1218054468605/ethics.pdf>

and provide a good basis for future PAC policy. The RSC policy is very similar.

There are, however, two points which need to be considered for the specific case of PAC:

1. If any case of plagiarism is brought to the attention of the Scientific Editor or any member of the EAB, what procedure should be adopted to deal with this? My suggestion is that the Scientific Editor should prepare a report, which is circulated among the members of the EAB, who then make appropriate recommendations. These may include retraction of the paper.
2. What policy should PAC adopt on self-plagiarism? Software, such as CrossCheck's iThenticate, is available to test this (at a price). Since many Conference papers published in the journal contain overviews of the author's previous work in the area, it is likely that some part of earlier publications may be included. How much is permissible before it becomes self-plagiarism? I feel that the ACS policy (given in the above document, and, adapted from the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) is reasonable:

“ACS applies a “reasonable person” standard when deciding whether a

submission constitutes self-plagiarism/duplicate publication. If one or two identical sentences previously published by an author appear in a subsequent work by the same author, this is unlikely to be regarded as duplicate publication. Material quoted verbatim from the author's previously published work must be placed in quotation marks. In contrast, it is unacceptable for an author to include significant verbatim or near-verbatim portions of his/her own work, or to depict his/her previously published results or methodology as new, without acknowledging the source.”