

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

MINUTES OF 53rd MEETING OF BUREAU

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, USA: 19th AUGUST 1987

Present: Prof. C. N. R. Rao (Chairman) - in part, Prof. A. J. Arvía, Prof. A. Björkman, Prof. A. D. Campbell, Dr. Mary L. Good, Prof. W.-Y. Huang, Prof. S. Itô, Prof. Y. P. Jeannin, Prof. V. A. Koptug, Dr. W. G. Schneider, Prof. D. B. Tonks, Prof. A. A. Vlček, Prof. I. Wadsö, Prof. T. S. West (Elected Members); Dr. S. S. Brown - in part, Prof. J. F. Bunnett, Dr. P. C. Kearney, Dr. D. R. Lide, Jr., Prof. G. H. Nancollas, Prof. T. Saegusa, Prof. Kazuo Saito (Division Presidents)

Absent: Prof. H. Gg. Wagner

In Attendance: Dr. M. Williams (Executive Secretary)

1/87 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

In welcoming the participants to the special meeting, the President noted that, for medical reasons, Prof. Wagner was unfortunately unable to attend. Prof. Rao had invited Prof. A. J. Bard (US National Committee for IUPAC) and Dr. D. Wyrsh (Chairman, Committee on Chemistry and Industry) to participate, but neither of them could be present.

2/87 OVERALL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF IUPAC COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES
(Minute 3.1.7/87, 109th Executive Committee - Veszprém)

The President mentioned his circular letter of 87.06.12, which raised the possibility of a combination of the present structure (core Commissions) and some new ideas ("Think Tanks"/short-term working groups to deal flexibly with new emerging areas). Precirculated documentation for the meeting consisted of the background discussion paper of the ad hoc Committee (87.03.31), and comments thereon by the Secretary General (April 1987) and Treasurer (June 1987), together with comments by Division Presidents Brown (87.06.30) and Bunnett (87.07.02). Comments by Division Presidents Nancollas (87.07.31) and Kearney (87.08.05) were tabled in Boston.

Prof. Rao said that nobody doubted the value of IUPAC. However, the Union needed to be more vibrant and to attract the best international expertise available for its work, either through dynamic reprogramming of the present structure or by drastic restructuring in depth. If statutory changes were to be proposed to Council at Lund, they must be finalized by the Bureau no later than Summer 1988.

Dr. Schneider opened the discussion within the Bureau, referring briefly to the paper by the ad hoc Committee. He was disappointed that no alternative model had been put forward, but mostly only comments on the present structure. Attempting to summarize the viewpoints of the Division Presidents, Dr. Lide tended to take a more cautious approach than the ad hoc Committee, though being receptive to some changes. Secretary General West was convinced that the existing Divisional structure was the strength of the Union. Vice-President Koptug advocated only a slow change, if any, to the existing structure.

All members of the Bureau spoke in the ensuing discussion. A wide diversity of points and suggestions were made, without any clear consensus being reached. However, Dr. Good and others stressed that, despite Statute 7.4, the Bureau tended to be preoccupied with matters of routine IUPAC business, leaving insufficient time for consideration of major policy issues, such as new areas, etc.

It was left for the President and his fellow Officers to decide how to proceed further, and to report back to the Bureau at Boston on 87.08.26-27.

* * * * *

CHAIRMAN: V. Kopylov

DATE: 18.09.88