

# International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

142<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Executive Committee

Sofia, Bulgaria, 18 April 2010

MINUTES

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Attendees: Prof. N. J. Moreau, Chair, Prof. D. StC. Black, Prof. J. Corish, Prof. J-I. Jin, Dr. A. Kallner, Prof. N. P. Tarasova, Prof. K. Tatsumi

Absentees: Prof. E. Reichmanis

Guests: Dr. F. Meyers

Secretary: Dr. T. A. Renner, Executive Director

## 1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

Prof. Moreau welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the meeting and thanked the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for their hospitality in hosting the IUPAC meetings. There was no formal agenda for the meeting and items that had arisen during the course of the Bureau meeting were discussed.

## 2. ISSUES FROM THE DIVISIONS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Prof. Jin noted that some Divisions have not been as active as expected in generating new projects. Division Presidents and Standing Committee Chairs need to be cognizant of this issue and implement plans to improve the situation. Better communication between the Divisions/Standing Committees and the Secretariat will also play a role in the effort toward improvement of the project process.

Prof. Corish indicated that he had asked the Divisions to develop new projects and activities related to the International Year of Chemistry 2011 (IYC2011) and to record them on the IYC 2011 web site. Initial response has been poor. He asked how we can expect people outside of IUPAC to use the web site enthusiastically if we don't use it effectively ourselves.

## 3. MATTERS PERTAINING TO ICSU

The responsibility to apply for ICSU grants should rest with the Divisions. Division Presidents should understand better what ICSU is and how it functions and should initiate some new collaborations with other Unions. Prof. Black mentioned that communications with ICSU are sometimes difficult due to slow response and bureaucratic procedures.

The EC formally agreed to nominate Prof. Moreau to the Executive Committee of ICSU. IUPAC can nominate only one representative.

## 4. MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CHEMRAWN COMMITTEE

Prof. Black stated that the CHEMRAWN Committee should be requested to provide the Executive Committee (EC) with minutes of all of their meetings. The

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rules of membership for CHEMRAWN should be reviewed, in light of the discussions and actions taken at the Bureau Meeting regarding this committee and its constitution. Issues such as two-year plus two-year term eligibility and ability to replace a member after two years (no automatic renewal of term) must be addressed. Prof. Black and Dr. Renner will review the rules and develop an agenda item for the next EC meeting in Taipei, October 2010.

**5. MODIFICATION OF IUPAC ELECTION PROCESS**

Prof. Jin suggested that IUPAC should change the election process for the Divisions and Standing Committees. The new process should be ready for debate and approval at the next General Assembly in Puerto Rico in 2011. Prof. Black indicated that new standing orders for such elections would be prepared for approval by the EC in October 2010.

**6. EXCESS FUNDS FROM PREVIOUS CHEMRAWN CONFERENCE**

Prof. Corish and Prof. Black raised the issue of excess funds from a previous CHEMRAWN Conference held at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. IUPAC had supported the conference through a loan and is now seeking return of those funds. Negotiations with Prof. Piet Steyn of the university have not produced an acceptable agreement to date for repayment. It was suggested that perhaps the funds sought could be used to fund an IYC 2011 activity in Africa.

**7. UPDATE OF IUPAC WEB SITE**

Problems regarding the IUPAC web site were discussed in detail. It was noted that Prof. Ober and Prof. Mahaffy had drafted a letter to Dr. David Martinsen, Chair of CPEP, expressing concerns about the process currently being used to update the IUPAC web site. The web site presently comprises two parts – the old web site that has useful, non-database information and the new part which is linked to databases, but is designed with insufficient input from the end users. It is especially vital that the IUPAC web site be fully updated and functional in order to support the upcoming IYC 2011. It will be important that the starting point to move toward a solution is a survey of users needs. One part of the solution is a better way of handling data. Currently, updates to the web site require at least one day, sometimes longer. Finally, the letter asked that CPEP propose a plan to rectify the web site issues. It was posted on both the Division and Standing Committee discussion boards for comment.

During the general discussion of this topic by the EC it was suggested that alternative mechanisms for fixing the web site problems be explored. One suggestion was to involve Prof. René Deplanque and his team at Fiz-Chemie for the development of an action plan. Possible solutions should be developed in time for discussion at the July 2010 meeting of CPEP at the Secretariat.

Prof. Jin recommended that a full-time web site manager be in residence at the Secretariat.

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**8. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHEMISTRY 2011**

The EC discussed preparations for the Launch Ceremony for IYC 2011, which will take place in Paris, 27-28 January 2011. At this early stage input regarding the invitation list for this event was solicited. This agenda item will recur at the EC meeting in Taipei, October 2010.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Prof. Moreau asked if there was any other business to be considered. When there were no responses, she adjourned the meeting at approximately noon.