

## 161<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Note that this meeting was held in two sessions:**

**For Agenda Points 1-3:**

**Date & Time:** 16 February, 13h00 - ~15h00 CET

**Present:** Christopher Brett, Mei-Hung Chiu, Javier García Martínez, Richard Hartshorn, Greta Heydenrych (*e.o.*), Ehud Keinan, Wolfram Koch, Laura McConnell, Fabienne Meyers (guest), Zhigang Shuai

**For Agenda Points 4-11:**

**Date & Time:** 6 March, 09h00 - ~11h30 CET

**Present:** Christopher Brett, Mei-Hung Chiu (first ca 90 minutes), Javier García Martínez, Richard Hartshorn (first ca 90 minutes), Greta Heydenrych (*e.o.*), Ehud Keinan, Wolfram Koch (first ca 135 minutes), Fabienne Meyers (guest), Zhigang Shuai

**Apologies:** Laura McConnell

### 1) Proposals for changes to Statutes and Bylaws

Changing Changing “National Adhering Organisation” to “Council Member Organisation” throughout, and making wider use of “country/region” to allow more flexibility regarding the kinds of membership representation that may be possible (and are already in place).

Changing Statute 9.2. to make clear that the Union shall be under no obligation to financially support the activities of individuals whose NAO is in arrears

- This change will need to be communicated carefully. It should be emphasised that this is not a major change – the Union merely seeks to safeguard its income and to ensure that those NAOs that do pay their dues on time can be supported as agreed. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- This may affect the Task Groups and their project budgets. We did not reach a clear conclusion here (please correct me if I am wrong).
- One idea might be to have a payment scale based on the time of year that an NAO pays – this may encourage payment early on in the year.

Changing Bylaw 1 such that newly admitted countries may already vote at that Council meeting

- The rationale is that countries who have not yet paid their dues for that year have voting rights, so that should be the case for new countries too.

**It was agreed** to go ahead with this change and to present this and the rationale behind it to Council in August

### 2) Financial situation

**Budget is somewhat more complex than in past years** because:

- Working with similar assumptions before would put us deeper into deficit
- The new governance structure must be reflected in the budget, even if the decision about the exact distribution between various bodies is political rather than financial
- Prior commitments tend to get paid from the current budget, i.e. commitments are made before we know what the income will be. In a time of fluctuating income, this may cause us to overcommit – therefore accrued liabilities must be reflected in the new budget – “we can only spend what we have”.
- The Treasurer and the Executive Director agree that it is their duty to present a balanced budget to the Finance Committee and to Council.
- Further thoughts:
  - We should reconsider whether the General Assembly must include a prolonged stay in an expensive hotel The IUPAC policy is to adhere to the US Department of State per diem rates – this would give us an allowable per diem rate of [US\\$432 for The Hague](#). This was not discussed explicitly in the meeting, but may be something that we would need to revise.
  - The expectation is that the Science Board will simplify IUPAC’s structure, potentially leading to fewer Titular Members.

- We may need to rethink the concept of the General Assembly, in part because online technologies open up other possibilities and in part because certain groups within IUPAC might prefer to meet at more specialized conferences. It should not be forgotten that IUPAC is one organization, however.
- A thorough review of fixed costs is planned.
- Future budgets would need to account for digital dissemination and investments in IUPAC's infrastructure for this would be needed.

**To do:** Greta will provide a breakdown of the GA expenses. **Due date:** I can do this after the Finance Committee AGM in March.

### **National Subscription calculation**

- There is not a clear mechanism for new countries to be allowed to pay the current minimum subscription of US\$1000 per year. The lowest calculated rate would be US\$3615 and would require zero chemistry output of any kind for that country. For poorer countries, the contribution typically falls between US\$3800 and US\$5000.
- Even though adjusting our rules may mean less income from certain countries, and more low-income countries overall, IUPAC should still strive to find a way to include as many countries as possible.
- We need a review ready for Council for the 2024 calculation

**To do:** Chris, Wolfram and Greta will conduct a review for the 2024 calculation and will include guidelines for dealing with new countries with a similar economic profile to existing minimal-rate countries. The 3% rule will also be revisited. **Due date:** Before the end of June, to be in time for the Council Meeting agenda. It can already be listed as an agenda point for the Council Meeting.

### **3) Individual NAOs**

**Egypt:** Despite many discussions and reminders, it seems the case that Egypt will default and will need to be suspended from the Union.

**To do:** Greta will send the letter to the Egyptian NAO, with Nadia and Ghada in copy, as well as the Officers. **Due date:** 16 February

**Update:** Egypt has confirmed that their payment should reach us by ca 20 March 2023.

**Nigeria:** Nigeria has agreed to pay the dues for 2021-2023 in a lump sum. Their banking rules has changed, but they have committed to making the payment by March 2023.

**Singapore:** Singapore has indicated that they intend to leave as there is not enough value to an IUPAC membership to stay, although they have been encouraged to nominate candidates for the election.

**To do:** Ehud and those involved in Singapore's recruitment will reach out. **Due date:** Not decided, but let's say end of February.

**Russia:** They are willing to pay, but cannot due to sanctions. Likewise, we can also not reimburse them for their work. We must be in a position at the Council Meeting to respond in a thoughtful way should a motion come up to exclude Russia from the Union.

**To do:** A few people (Javier, you and...?) should prepare a considered response to questions that may be raised at Council. It may be good to have a few prepared Q&As for each of us to have ready at the Council Meeting, also for informal conversations, to be sure that our message is consistent. **Due date:** Before 18 August!!

### **4) Elections**

#### **Nominations, EB and SB elections**

- Due date for nomination submissions for the general elections was extended, but the overall timetable is still fine.
- Not enough "internal" nominations for the Science Board yet. DPs/SCCs were reminded separately and given time until 15 March. Also here, the internal portion is quick, so timetable not affected.
- Everyone agreed that Fabienne is doing a sterling job and she was thanked for her efforts here.
- One caveat, especially for SB and EB, is that the nominee pool might not be as geographically and otherwise diverse as desired.

**To do:** Greta will send list of nominations for SB/EB/Officers to the Executive Committee (minus Richard and Meihung as they are on that list). EC members can then agree who else could be approached to add a nomination. Remember that this list is confidential until ballots have been prepared! Done.

#### **CEDEI**

- This Committee is not complete yet, there is a candidate from South Africa who could potentially fill that slot.
- CEDEI is active:
  - Project link
  - Session link
  - Policy documents link
- CEDEI should be placed on an equal footing as the others and receive some budget – at a minimum the US\$2000 operational costs that had been agreed upon earlier on for each body.

#### **ICGCS**

- Needs to think about succession planning
- Buxing will continue as Chair for one more term

### **5) World Chemistry Congress and General Assembly**

- The organisation is going well, apart from a few practical problems:
  - Too many meeting requests for the time and space currently allocated
  - Will need additional space in the hotel (extra costs)
  - Bureau members must be at the Council Meeting and the handover meeting on the final Friday, together with newly elected SB/EB/Officers – we do not know yet who the participants will be.
- The problem of creating continuity between the events persists, and Fabienne and Greta are discussing with the Canadian organisers to set up a framework for ensuring continuity between events.
- World Chemistry Leadership meeting has all its speakers confirmed.
- Four bids for 2029

**To do:** Richard, Javier, Fabienne and Greta will meet to set up a detailed plan for the Wednesday to Friday to account for the Council Agenda and the handover meeting.

**To do:** Greta will write to the bidding organisations to let them know there are four candidates, that the themes for 2025 and 2027 will be centred on the Human Development Goals and that it suffices that letters of support are presented in the bid book only. Done. [*For the record: It would be better governance to have such letters directly from the issuing agencies as well. -Greta*]

### **6) A more dynamic and efficient Council Meeting**

We must find ways to spend less time on reporting. One possibility, as done before in Beijing in 2005, could be to have the Divisions and Standing Committees present their work on posters:

- Available throughout the congress
- Serves as an advertisement for IUPAC's work

**To do:** Fabienne will contact Christine Luscombe and explore the idea. Due by: soon.

### **7) IUPAC and IYCN**

- There is a new MoU for 2022, same terms as before
- Advantages of integrating IYCN into IUPAC
  - IYCN has a larger international footprint if their (individual) membership is compared to IUPAC's NAO membership
  - Gives visibility to events like the Global Women's Breakfast
  - Support projects like the Gold Book
  - Can alleviate some of the succession planning problems within IUPAC

**It was agreed** that the IYCN should be integrated within IUPAC.

**To do:** Richard, Javier and Greta will prepare a proposal to be presented to the Council in cooperation with IYCN representatives. The exact terms of their membership (such as the size of their representative committee and who would qualify for titular members) will be left to the Executive Board and the Science Board to finalise. Due by: soon

## 8) Memoranda of Understanding

- The in-depth discussion of general criteria needed for considering a memorandum of understanding has been deferred to a meeting where Richard can also be present.
- The decision on the specific case of the Summer Schools of the Green Sciences for Sustainable Development Foundation was that this programme can continue via the projects system.

**To do:** Greta will inform Pietro Tundo of the Executive Committee's decision. Done.

## 9) Critical Assessment of the Evaluation Committee

- The Top 10 Emerging Technologies has not received enough submissions from individuals, so journal editors were also contacted. Their responses are due by the end of March. [*Not discussed explicitly, but were any industry representatives contacted? -Greta*]
- The yearly announcement of the Top 10 Emerging Technologies could be a major source of income, details not yet discussed.
- Over the years Javier has ensured publicity for this in several journals. Next up, the ACS and potentially the journals of the Chinese Chemical Society.

**To do:** Ehud to summarise the outcomes of the critical assessment in time for handover to the next President-Elect.

## 10) Utilising the opportunities offered by a fully open, fully online *Chemistry International*

- The known difficulties are:
  - No HTML version
  - No social-media/app-friendly means of sharing
  - No solution from De Gruyter in sight despite the expectations created earlier on
- There is urgency, as we must know whether the contract with De Gruyter will be renewed before the end of June. The *Chemistry International* Editorial Board has the mandate to decide what CI digital should look like, but there seems to be uncertainty regarding responsibilities nonetheless.

**To do:** Greta will forward Colin's message on the matter to Wolfram for follow-up. Done

**To do:** Wolfram, Colin and Bonnie will clarify the situation. Due by: As soon as possible.

**To do:** Meeting of Bonnie, Colin, Leah, Wolfram, Fabienne and Greta will be convened as soon as possible after Wolfram, Colin and Bonnie's meeting to determine exactly what IUPAC wants for CI, as well as more generally for the remaining journals portfolio (PAC and CTI)

## 11) Centenary Endowment Board

No clear conclusions here, except that there has not been progress. It seems increasingly unlikely that the CEB can be launched exactly in the format envisaged. Connected to this would be that a review of the Company Associate Programme would be timely – steps are underway.

Income is a problem. We must work on finding more ways to get industry to support our work. There are two potential routes:

- Sponsorship of specific activities (Laura)
- Finding a way to place value on the IP we generate (Ehud)

In either scenario, we must avoid looking like a front for industry.

**To do:** Laura (?) will ID a few companies that we potentially can retain to do our fundraising for us. Due date: None yet.

**To do:** Probably only after GA, Greta will get together members from COCI, the Membership Relations Committee and external participants from NAOs and companies to work out a roadmap to revitalise IUPAC's CA programme.

## 12) Stuart Chalk as IUPAC Representative for a CIPM Task Group

The International Committee for Weights and Measures is looking to create an interorganisational working group for digitalising the SI units. It was suggested that Stuart Chalk represents IUPAC there, even if this would involve costs, as this is a "golden" opportunity.

**It was decided** that the benefits are clear and that Stuart should be a part of this group, with costs carried by IUPAC. It was also noted that not all our expertise in this domain should be concentrated on one person.