

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
160th Executive Committee Meeting: Online
6 November 2021 12.00 UTC

Preamble:

The aim of this meeting was to report on the status of ongoing and new IUPAC initiatives. The usual fixed topics on the Executive Committee Meeting agenda were also covered. These minutes summarise the discussion topics and decisions made.

Action Items from Previous Meetings

All are completed, the exact composition of the Centenary Endowment Board is still under discussion.

Organizational Review: Statutes and Bylaws, Next Steps

A draft of the Statutes and Bylaws with relevant proposed changes was presented to the Executive Committee for review.

Motion: The Executive Committee approved the draft of the Statutes and Bylaws that was presented at this meeting, pending minor changes not affecting the factual content.

Action: The President, Chris Brett, with support from Fabienne Meyers and Lynn Soby, will draft the final version.

Strategic Priorities for the Next Biennium

The Vice President, Javier García Martínez, outlined a few themes that he regards as strategic for the next biennium. These include finding ways to increase the strategic impact of IUPAC's activities and to strengthen the cooperation between various IUPAC bodies. Seeing how and what IUPAC could do to optimise its work after the pandemic would contribute to this. Other initiatives include the Presidents' Forum, to be held in The Hague during the General Assembly. The development of the newly launched Committee on Ethics, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CEDEI) and the Centenary Endowment Board (CEB) will be key activities as well. In the longer term, IUPAC's digital future is an essential endeavour for the sustainability and relevance of the organisation.

Executive Director Appointment

The necessary steps of the recruitment process, the timeline and the composition of the search committee was discussed. No decisions were made at this point, and the need to start the process early enough to allow six months for recruitment and some overlap time was made clear.

Action: Lynn Soby will finish the document with the requirements for the position.

Finance and Budgets

The Treasurer, Colin Humphris, reported on the current financial situation, cashflow, provided an overview of the General Assembly, the performance of the investment portfolio and the establishment of the Centenary Endowment Board. Two NAOs are approaching 24 months in arrears and another 12 are close to the 12-months mark. The Treasurer also provided an update on the progress of the 2022/2023 budget.

IUPAC Digital Initiative

Digitalisation in general and placing IUPAC in the position as *the* international digital standards organisation for chemistry will be essential to IUPAC's future relevance. The Secretary General, Richard Hartshorn, discussed the possibility of a Centre of Excellence for Digital Standards in Chemistry, the WorldFAIR proposal, which, if granted, would provide about EUR120,000 over two

years for establishing the foundation of digital standards workflows for IUPAC, the work being done in the HELM project to provide machine-readable renditions of complicated biomolecules. He also discussed internal activities around the Gold Book and other digital representations.

Given the importance of these initiatives, he proposed the creation of a small working group within the EC that can liaise with CPCDS and others in IUPAC to ensure that they are abreast of new developments in this area. Another purpose would be to ensure succession planning, i.e. to make sure that enough people within IUPAC obtain the expertise needed to make informed decisions for IUPAC's digital strategy.

Motion: The Executive Committee endorses appointing a subset of the EC as responsible for IUPAC's digital strategy in liaison with CPCDS and others within IUPAC who are working on related projects. Richard Hartshorn, Wolfram Koch and a yet-to-be-determined third person will be the members of this group.

Action: Interested parties should write to Richard Hartshorn.

Publications

The Treasurer, Colin Humphris and the Executive Director, Lynn Soby, gave an update on the contract status with De Gruyter, and a status update on the three IUPAC publications and the database, as well as various (colour) book projects.

Status of the Solubility Data Series

The dispute with AIP (American Institute of Physics) regarding the intellectual property rights of the Solubility Data Series has been resolved, with copyright reverting back to IUPAC. No viable option exists at this time for commercialising the product.

Status of Company Associates Program

The new fee structure has now been fully implemented.

Status of Affiliate Membership Program

Some advantages of AMP membership have fallen away, so that the membership value proposal needs to be reviewed. The Sponsored AMP programme will be discontinued, as sponsored AMPs typically do not continue as regular (paid) AMPs.

Action: Colin Humphris will update the AMP membership value proposition to include that AMPs can become AMs on Divisions and Committees.

IUPAC 100 Legacy Activities

Some activities initiated in 2019 proved to be quite successful and could be continued to build out IUPAC's visibility. These would include the Global Women's Breakfast (GWB), the Periodic Table Challenge 2.0 (PTCh), the Top Ten Technologies 2020. Some of these activities could be tied into the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development and could be joint activities with the International Younger Chemists' Network.

Rosters for Divisions and Standing Committees

Rosters for those Division Committees, the approval of whose compositions were delegated to the Executive Committee, were presented for ratification, and the rosters of the Standing Committees were presented for discussion prior to approval by the President.

Motion: The Executive Committee approved the rosters for the Division Committees and Standing Committees. The roster for the Committee on Chemical Education, the Centenary Endowment Board and the Interdivisional Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols.

Rosters for Bureau Committees for 2022-2023

Status on membership of Bureau committees has been presented.

Motion: The Executive Committee approved the rosters for the Bureau Committees for 2022-2023.

Representatives "ON" Organizations

A listing of volunteers and staff members to serve as IUPAC representatives on organizations whose work complements IUPAC's activities was presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Motion: The Executive Committee approved the IUPAC representatives at other organisations.

2021 51st General Assembly/48th Congress, Virtual

The GA and congress were briefly reviewed – attendance was very good. Although this is a more financially viable way to conduct discussions in the GA, it could not fully replace personal meetings.

2023 General Assembly & Congress, The Hague, Netherlands

Organisation is progressing well, with good contact between the Secretariat and the local organisers. It will become increasingly important to establish a degree of continuity between the GA/WCCs.

Status Report on IUPAC Secretariat

The Executive Director, Lynn Soby, reported on the work of the Secretariat.

CIAAW and Division II

The Vice President, Javier García Martínez, provided an overview of recent activities, with a reminder that especially for new elements and isotopes, close communication with IUPAP, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, must be maintained.

IUPAC and ISC

The Past President, Qi-Feng Zhou, reported on recent activities of the International Science Council and congratulated Mei-Hung Chiu, IUPAC Executive Committee member, on her election to the Governing Board of ISC.

Membership Relations Committee Update

The Past President, Qi-Feng Zhou, reported on recent activities of the Membership Relations Committee.

Projects in Review

In mid-October 2021 there were six proposals in the review phase with one being an FSC.

Project and Financial Report

There is significant underspend on the projects, which does create the liability that all requests could be coming in simultaneously.

Evaluation Committee Update

There have been requests for a completely online project proposal submissions workflow. Effectively, there is a need for shared online working facilities for collaborative and iterative working, akin to Google Drive.

OPCW

The GA/WCC in The Hague in 2023 provides a good opportunity to strengthen our ties with OPCW, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Warfare, again after the pandemic caused a slow-down in our collaboration.

Conference Endorsement/sponsorship program

Motion: The requests for endorsement received up to the end of October 2021 were ratified by the Executive Committee (5/8 voting members present).

Next Bureau Meeting - 20 November 2021

The focus of the 107th Bureau meeting will be on ratifying the changes needed to the Statutes and Bylaws to accommodate the organisational review. After ratification by Bureau, the motion for ratification will be made at the Special Council Meeting called by the President, Chris Brett, to take place after the statutory waiting period of six months.

Dates and Place of 2022 EC Meeting

This will be decided after the Special Council Meeting referred to above.