

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
110th Bureau Meeting: Online
24 April 2023

Present: Bureau Members, except (with apologies) Michelle Rogers, Jürgen Stohner, Anna Makarova (for first part), Zoltán Mester, Richard Hartshorn (for part of the meeting)

Preamble:

The aim of this meeting was to report on progress in the preparations for the General Assembly and IUPAC|CHAINS, to be held in The Hague in August 2023. Most of the usual fixed topics on the Bureau Meeting agenda were covered as well, albeit with somewhat less emphasis on reporting than usual. These minutes summarise the discussion topics and decisions made.

Status of the candidates for officers and members of the Executive Board and the Science Board

After needing to extend the deadline for nominations a few times, there are now enough candidates to set up the ballots for the first round of elections, which will proceed in the next few weeks.

Status of the World Chemistry Congress, World Chemistry Leadership Meeting, General Assembly, and Council meeting

Those of us who had visited the World Forum in The Hague, the site of the 2023 GA/WCC, agree that the location is convenient, with good amenities. Preparations for the WCLM, GA and Council Meeting are on track as are the arrangements for the Congress. The Presidents' Forum will be held with about 30 participants. The two main topics of discussion will be the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Panel for Chemical Waste and Pollution.

The Council Meeting itself should devote less time to pure reporting, and therefore, The President requested that reporting by Division Presidents and Standing Committee Chairs rather be done via a poster format. This has the advantage that the posters can stay up for the duration of the GA, Congress and Council Meeting, and that more groups potentially can report – such as the Global Women's Breakfast and the WorldFAIR project group. This would also stimulate more cross-group discussion. It was agreed that this time, no template would be needed, and that this could be put into place in the future, if needed.

Motion: The Bureau agreed that poster presentations should replace the usual oral presentation.

Status of the Vice President's Critical Assessment

The Evaluation Committee is supporting the Vice President in preparing his Critical Assessment. The primary topics will be membership value proposition for National Adhering Organisations, Company Associates and Affiliate Members; and how to continue the Top 10 Technologies sustainably.

Status of the Number and Situation of NAOs

IUPAC seeks more participation from countries in Africa and in South and Latin America. Two countries are risking suspension due to arrears. Nigeria has in the meantime made their payment and Egypt had to be suspended. Applications to join have been received from Honduras (new) and Jordan (re-join).

Projects in Review

Three reports are under assessment, in various stages of the process. About ten projects have been approved so far in 2023.

Projects and Conference Endorsement Program– An Overview – New Chair of the Project Committee

The following should be noted:

- There are also not many projects with the Project Committee for review, either. A total of about 10 so far this year.
- The rules for conference support are quite strict. At the previous Bureau Meeting (109th, Frankfurt, November 2022) it was agreed that the requirements should be reviewed, and now it was agreed that this should be one of the first tasks of the Science Board.
- Jan will be retiring from his role as Project Committee Chair. **Any suggestions for a new Project Committee Chair should be passed on to Richard, Javier and Ehud.** Keep in mind that the Project Committee Chair may not have a role in any other IUPAC body – at most as observer (currently Bureau, future probably the Science Board).

International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development

The new closing date for the IYBSSD is 15 December, giving IUPAC initiatives more chance to take part. Thus far, the Global Women's Breakfast (GWB) has been a flagship event of the IYBSSD. A UN event to push for an extension to the end of the decade is scheduled in May. Honduras is quite closely involved in this project, something to keep in mind when evaluating their membership application. Note, however, that IUPAC cannot commit to funding of IYBSSD activities, especially not over 10 years.

Global Women's Breakfast

The 2023 GWB ran under the motto "Breaking Barriers in Science" and has been a success with many participants from many different countries. For 2024 onwards, the aim is to have the planning run on a three-year cycle to accommodate the growing size. It will also become increasingly important to protect the "GWB" branding. **Laura made a call for volunteers (men are welcome) and themes.**

ChemVoices

Two new webinars, for Division VI and WorldFAIR, are lined up. Please consider this as another channel to advertise results and to solicit project proposals.

Activities and Policies on Ethics, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

CEDEI has drafted a total of four policy documents, with the two newest being on Social Media and a general policy – both of which are pending Bureau approval before being brought to Council. CEDEI must be newly appointed at the end of this biennium.

Motion: Bureau approved the IUPAC Social Media Policy and the IUPAC Guidelines.

Digital IUPAC

New projects need to plan for digital output and FAIR data dissemination upfront. We need mechanisms put into place for this and infrastructure to support this.

WorldFAIR

Reporting is in progress.

Gold Book Update

The Gold Book serves as an example of what a FAIR dataset could look like and is being used as a model elsewhere as well. Work is ongoing together with Division V in the context of the Orange Book to develop a term review system.

Financial Report

Budget:

- A balanced budget will be essential, and inflation must be considered
- In the short term, this limits our ability to invest in new projects
- In the longer term, a careful analysis of our expenses would be needed, to lower expenses sustainably. This would require a review of our travel guidelines as well as a review on the necessity of renting an office in Research Triangle Park
- After approval of the proposal by the Finance Committee, the proposal will be brought to the Executive Committee ahead of presenting it at the Council Meeting.

National Subscriptions for the NAOs:

- All countries subject to the 3% rule, including the US\$1000 countries.
- Inflation of 7% is considered for the NSs, also to bring us closer to the calculated target subscriptions more quickly.

Endowment Fund

There is no progress on this. The Finance Committee agreed at their Annual Review Meeting that IUPAC should work on ways to make this a reality, but should not do any financial planning that relies on an endowment fund.

Any Other Business

- **International Younger Chemists' Network:** IYCN has applied to become incorporated in IUPAC. They are good at fund-raising and may also help with succession planning within IUPAC.
Motion: The Bureau supports the incorporation of IYCN into IUPAC under their own name and with their own, independent external communication. The Science Board will decide on the boundary conditions, especially around membership, of the IYCN within IUPAC.
- **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons:** OPCW and IUPAC wish to strengthen their ties and have closer collaboration. The possibility of an OPCW—IUPAC joint award has been discussed. [In the meantime, OPCW has declined to financially support such an award, due to potential competition with their The Hague Award, which is already well-established.]
- **Communications strategy:** The poll has been completed and the Task Group will have a poster at the General Assembly.