

IUPAP Commission Chairs and Council Meeting November 2011 London

Secretary General's Report for 2011

Finance

The financial statement for last year (2010) is included alongside the performance against budget this year (2011) and the proposed budget for next year (2012), all of which will be covered in more detail under a separate agenda item.

Administration

You will recall that IUPAP UK was established last year as a British registered charity which gives us a legal identity in the UK, and enables us to avoid paying corporation tax on any investment income (this is similar to the US 501 c 3 organisation). We have included a formal report of the annual charitable company meeting for 2011; the matter of the women-in-physics group has actually been resolved since then by the account remaining in the USA with safeguards on procedures and signatories that have satisfied our auditors. The audited financial statements are also included for the 2010 (9+ month) financial period. In future we will provide statements on the same pattern for full financial years.

The transfer of the commission websites has proceeded over this last year and we now host 12 of them.

Membership

Iran has now joined IUPAP with the Iranian Physical Society acting as the liaison committee and contact organisation. Brazil has increased their shares from 4 to 6. Cuba has re-joined IUPAP through making a contribution effectively at the level of a category C member. We have agreed a special arrangement with Latvia, which has particular financial problems, to enable it to continue in membership for the next few years (maximum until next GA in 2014)

General Assembly

Preparing for the General Assembly formal meeting is a considerable task on top of the heavy administrative load involved in running normal IUPAP operations. The chief of secretariat has borne much of this workload and we have allocated more time from her assistant (who normally is assigned to IOP duties). Several others from IOP have been heavily involved with: the accommodation, travel, scientific programme, external visits and dinners/receptions, liaising with other bodies and securing funding.

Commission Membership

Developing the draft 'slates' for the membership of the 18 commissions has been a considerable task - both for the chairs and also for me and the president. We have tried to be guided wherever possible by the proposals from the chairs, but this has been quite problematic; in certain cases liaison committee proposals seemed not to take into account current continuing members, and there have been high levels of turnover amongst members and officers. Nevertheless we think that the proposed slates are a good compromise given the often conflicting constraints imposed upon the decision making process – it could be said to be an over-constrained problem!

Nominations

Professor Mark Lester has been nominated as as IUPAP's representative to SCOSTEP

IUPAC

Revisions to the membership of the joint IUPAP/IUPAC working group to validate claims for the discovery of new elements are just being concluded following significant work from several senior members of the executive council in liaison with our representatives and colleagues in IUPAC. I had constructive discussions with the secretary general and president of IUPAC during the ICSU GA.

ICSU

I attended the ICSU General Assembly in Rome on 27-30 September. The final statement on universality of science was considered at the meeting; this new statement extends the former version by emphasising the principles of freedom and responsibility in the conduct of science (rather than just an emphasis on freedom of science). There was substantial debate on this matter and it was agreed that a final version of the statement would be developed and agreed by the executive council after the GA. Alexandr Kaminski, who is our nominated representative on the relevant working group, should be able to provide greater details on this important Principle, which is a key statute underpinning the strategy and operations of ICSU and which also directly informs our own Statement. Much other business was covered concerning approval of ICSU's new strategy and significant initiatives it wishes to drive forward over the next 3 years. It should be noted that the next GA will take place in New Zealand (from 28 August to 3 September 2014).

We were very pleased that Kennedy Read was elected as a member of the ICSU executive council. It would be natural if he became our representative on ICSU- this is normally agreed by IUPAP council at our next meeting after the GA.

International Year of Light

The proposal from John Dudley, chair of the Optics Division of EPS, which has been approved by EPS, is presented for consideration by the General Assembly. We have clarified that the submission needs to go directly to UNESCO rather than being sent via ICSU. I attended a joint meeting of EPS and the Italian Physical Society in September entitled Passion for Light where some excellent scientific presentations were made by leading physicists across the fields of physics related to light; and I indicated that IUPAP was supporting the proposal – subject to the agreement of the General Assembly.

Dr Robert Kirby-Harris
Secretary General
October 2011

Minutes of IUPAP UK Board Meeting – 30 September 2010

Present:	Dr. Robert Kirby-Harris (Chair) Dr. Beth Taylor Mrs. Williamina Lazaro (Company Secretary)
In Attendance:	Mr. Sean Fox Ms. Mirela Holmes Ms. Natasha Plaister

001 **Finances & Audit**

Dr Kirby-Harris requested a report on finance from 22nd February 2010 until the end of September. This should be prepared in time to be taken to the November Council meeting in India.

The Board will formally appoint IUPAP UK auditors for the year end 2010 at the next meeting.

002 **Women in Physics**

The Women in Physics (WiP) bank account is currently one of IUPAP's own accounts, but it is administered in the US without direct control by the IUPAP UK directors.

It was decided that the IUPAP WiP account should be closed. Dr Kirby-Harris will formally ask the American Physical Society to take over administration of Women in Physics. If agreed, the balance (currently \$42,687) will be transferred to the APS and future IUPAP grants of approximately €20,000 will be paid directly to the APS.

003 **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be in November 2010.

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Dr Robert Kirby-Harris, Company Chairman

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Mrs Williamina Lazaro, Company Secretary