

Meeting of the IUPAP Executive Council and Commission Chairs and Associated Meetings

DAY 1

Tuesday, 13th October 2020, 12am
Meeting organised in remote by ZOOM

In attendance:

1. Michel Spiro, President
2. Silvina Ponce Dawson, President designate (acting)
3. Rudzani Nematudi, Associate Secretary General
4. Kwek Leong Chuan, Deputy Secretary General
5. Monica Pepe-Altarelli, Vice-President at Large (Centenary)
6. Gillian Butcher, Vice-President at Large (Gender Champion)(Acting)
7. Nithaya Chetty, Vice-President at Large (New Members)
8. Vitaly Kveder, Vice-President at Large (Outreach)
9. Rahul Pandit, Vice-President from Commission Chairs
10. Rolf Haug, Vice-President from Commission Chairs
11. Laura Greene, Vice-President from Commission Chairs
12. Claes Fahlander, Vice-President from Commission Chairs
13. Roberto Nardi, Vice-President from Commission Chairs
14. Peter Mohr (C2)
15. Sunil Gupta (C4)
16. Rolf Haug (C8)
17. Burkard Hillebrands (C9)
18. Heidi Shellman (C11)
19. Claes Fahlander (C12)
20. Sekazi K. Mtingwa (C13)
21. Roberto Rivarola (C15)
22. Minh Quang Tran (C16)
23. Tsuneyuki (John) Ozaki (C17)
24. Bruno Nachtergaele (C18)
25. Gerard Gilmore (C19)
26. David P. Landau (C20)
27. Roberta Ramponi (AC1)
28. Nils Andersson (AC2)
29. Mark Hamilton (AC3)
30. John Damilakis (AC4)

Observers:

1. Lucilla de Arcangelis, C3 Secretary
2. Jens Vigen, WG2 Chair
3. Jun'ichi Yokoyama, AAPPS Representative
4. Ahmadou Wague, AfPS Representative

5. Yunkyu BANG, APCTP Representative
6. Luc Bergé, EPS Representative
7. Stuart Palmer, EPS Representative
8. Duarte João da Costa Graça, IAPS Representative
9. Dominic Hurley, IOP Representative
10. Anne Thieme, ISC Representative

IUPAP Secretariat:

- Sun Han, Assistant Director, World Scientific Publishing Company
- Maitri Bobba, Senior Assistant Manager, NTU Institute of Science & Technology for Humanity (NISTH)

1. Welcome and introduction of all members

1.1 Introduction. The President Michel Spiro explains the special procedures for the present digital meeting. Maitri Boba (IUPAP Secretariat) is appointed as a moderator to check the respect of the schedule and control the chat to register the votes, to point out when participants request to talk, and to check any other possible chat message. A Google drive address is shared in the chat, where all documents related to the meeting have been uploaded. After explaining the procedures, the President starts with the issues the Agenda, introducing the various items.

1.2 Presentation of all members. A Power Point presentation of all members is shown with details of their affiliation, areas of study/research/expertise and their last physics paper written. The absent members are listed in 3. Some of them are expected to join next day.

2. Agenda and matters arising from previous meeting**2.1 Approval of the meeting Agenda**

The present C&CC members approve the Agenda of the meeting.

2.2 Apologies:

Bruce H. McKellar, Kok Khoo Phua, Enge Wang, Ramin Golestanian, Michael Taroudakis (represented by Mark Hamilton), Dominique Vernhet, K.S. Narayan, Mathieu Denis.

2.3 Ratification of items approved by email since last meeting

Kwek Leong Chuan (Deputy General Secretary) shows the list of items, and participants are given time to read and comment, if it is the case. (see [Annex 1 matters approved post ga 2017](#)) There are no comments or objections and all items are ratified.

2.4 Approval of the draft minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes have been shared by mail before the meeting. There are no objections or comments, and the draft minutes are also approved.

2.5 Matters arising from the previous minutes

The President explains that in the previous council meeting a to-do list was prepared, and now he reports what was completed, how and by who. (See [Annex 2 To Do List from C and CC 2019](#)) The President shares and read the file. There are no objections and the file is approved.

3. Reports

3.1 Report of the President

The President explains that the presentation he is going to illustrate the actions in which himself, Silvina Ponce Dawson (President-Designate) or Bruce McKellar (Past President) were involved, but points out that many other activities were carried out by Silvina and Bruce and other IUPAP EC members.

Members.

Many activities were carried out to promote and manage membership:

Visit to Bulgaria and signature of the MoA between IUPAP and Bulgaria (new member)

Visit to Egypt and signature of the MoA between IUPAP and Egypt (resume membership)

Follow membership of Jordan

Request from Guinea (but there is a need to find support for the fee, for example by the French Physical Society)

Interview members: Germany, UK, EPS, France, Switzerland, Australia

Will serve on the International Advisory Committee for the African Strategy of Fundamental and Applied Physics (hopefully can attract members)

Events.

Michel, Bruce and Silvina attended various face to face events:

- World Science Forum Budapest, November 2019: organized a session on Basic Sciences Infrastructures for Ethical and Responsible Collaborative Development. Got the formal support of WSF for IYBSSD 2022
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science, New-York January 2020, with Silvina: advertised Gender Gap in Science project and IYBSSD
- Contacts with ISC, with IUPAC (Bruce IYPT), ICO, ICA (International Year of Sound)
- The President was at the closing ceremony of IYPT in Tokyo → Signature of an IUPAP IUPAC MoU

Other remote events:

- IAPS General Assembly: gave a talk on collaborative physics and pleaded for IAPS becoming an affiliated commission → letter received
- Quantum Centenary initiative
- IoP discussions on lessons from Covid-19
- Establishment of SCGES (Steering Committee on Gender Equality in Sciences)

Various positions statements were prepared on free circulation of data, Covid-19, CO2 and racism. A letter was written to the Brazilian authorities.

Work was done for the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD):

- Establishment of the steering committee with 30 Unions/Organizations (MoU)
- Letter of support of about 40 academies
- Support of 25 Nobel laureates
- Lobbying at the UN, UNESCO, Jordan, Vietnam, Russia, Montenegro, Dominican Republic, Argentina (with Silvina).

There are other important matters in which the President, Silvina and Bruce were involved, and that will be discussed in other points of the agenda, among which the strategic plan, the necessity to move the headquarters from Singapore, the designation of Acting Officers, and the General Assemblies for 2021 and 2023.

After his presentation the President opens the discussion.

Luc Bergé, new President of the European Physical Society, asks if the President received the MoU for the IYBSSD. He underlines how the MoU includes an article for the joint preparation of an event. Michel Spiro answers that he has received the MoU, and the idea is to organise an event in Brussels on teaching Physics in Africa. Heidi Shellman, Chair of C11, suggests to prepare a glossary of all organizations and programmes IUPAP is in touch with, because it can become difficult to follow a presentation with all these acronyms and abbreviations. proposes also a list, or maybe a map, of all countries that are members of IUPAP so to have a quick view of the ones that are still missing. The President says that such a map exists, with present members, coming members, past members, and Nithaya Chetty (Vice President at Large for New Members) will show it in time; in fact it was also included in one issue of the IUPAP newsletter but it could be published also in the new website. Nithaya says that he will present the state of the art regarding new members on Thursday, but he takes the opportunity to thank Michel Spiro for the energetic action to gain new members. He also appreciates the content of new resolutions, but asks for a more consultative process for their preparation. That would make the texts stronger and more effective, given that different members with different cultures and insights can help to edit them. The President agrees; if the matter is not particularly urgent, position statements should be prepared with a more shared work, taking all the time that is needed. That for example is the case of the position statements on Covid, CO2 footprint and discriminations, that are at the moment in progress. The draft should be sent to all Council members as first thing, then the comments should be incorporated, and finally the draft sent out again for approval. The President concludes that this is one of the actions to be listed in the final to-do list, with regard to the three mentioned position statements.

3.2 Report of the Secretary General.

Kwek starts communicating that NTU decided not to renew the agreement to host the Secretariat. IUPAP is investigating the possibility to move the Secretariat to the University in Geneva, but in the meanwhile a temporary solution can be taken with another organization in Singapore, such as the University or the World Scientific Publishing Company. Four issues of newsletter have been published; he thanks all Commission Chairs who participated. The list of all Young Scientist Awards is showed:

IUPAP Young Scientist Prize (2020):

- International Commission on Low Temperature Physics (C5): Samuli Autti and Ke Wang
- International Commission on General Relativity and Gravitation (AC2): Davide Gerosa

IUPAP Young Scientist Prize (2019):

- International Commission on Structure and Dynamics of Condensed Matter (C10): Andrea Young
- International Commission on Astrophysics (C19): Vincent Bourrier
- International Commission for Optics (AC1): Chao-Yang Lu
- International Organisation on Medical Physics (AC4): Mitsuhiro Nakamura

IUPAP Young Scientist Prize (2018) :

- International Commission on Astrophysics (C19): Elisabeth Krause

2020 IUPAP Medal for Outstanding Contributions to the Enhancement of Physics in Developing Countries: Paul Wofo

Kwek asks if some of the awards is missing, to prepare a final list for the General Assembly.

4. Strategic plan.

The President shows the draft strategic plan, to be approved by the General Assembly. Michel thanks all members who already sent their comments before the meeting. All comments are now in the Google drive file, and can be easily seen in the “comments” side of the document. Among the comments: there is a wish that IUPAP insists in physics and sustainability, to better highlight physics teaching, to work more on inclusiveness and against racism, that IUPAP establishes relationships with other unions and national societies, for more interdisciplinarity, for the promotion of careers in STEM not only in the academy, for fighting again fake news and for a better communication.

The President, past President (Bruce McKellar) and Designate President (Silvina Ponce Dawson) propose to gather more comments and then to establish a small working group (Monica, Silvina and Michel) to prepare a new text before the end of this year, to circulate again. Everybody approves the procedure.

5. Revision of Statute and By Laws

The Statute on the Google drive, the President explains, is not so different from the previous one, but if IUPAP moves the headquarters, probably it will become necessary to change more substantially both Statute and By Laws. As the process is in progress, we need to come back to the Council when changes will be proposed in regards to the new situation. For the moment the matter is skipped.

6. Financial matters (see Annex 3 Financial Position and Annex 4 IUPAP Secretariat Report)

1. Financial statements for 2019 & 2020
2. Report on financial position in 2020
3. Proposed budget for 2021
4. Forward planning budget 2022-2023

The Expenses in the spreadsheet “Budget, actuals and estimates 2018 2020” was present. The effect of the pandemic on our activities and thus our expenses is dramatic. We expected to spend 616574 EUR and we in fact spent 243307 EUR. Clearly many activities have been postponed. Most of the expenditure has been on conferences, including the 2020 Women in Physics Conference, and developing country workshops and we have asked that it be retained by the organisers to apply to the postponed conferences in 2021 and 2022.

Our reserve funds are 1448015 EUR, which is 2.4 times our invoiced annual income. We have been trying to maintain our reserve at a minimum of twice our annual income. Keeping it comfortably above our annual income allows us to meet our annual expenses without a loan from the bank, and some years ago we aimed to get to twice our annual income.

To highlight some of the important points of the 2021-2023 budget in the spreadsheet:

1. The carry forwards for Conferences and Developing countries workshop in red are already with the organisers

2. If all the carry forward amounts are spent in 2021 we will have an effective deficit for 2020 of 122 K
3. The budget for C&CC meetings allows for only an October C&CC in October 2022, the March 2022 C&CC will be by Zoom
4. Funding for Conferences and Developing Country Workshops in 2022 and 2023 has been reduced to 2017 levels
5. For 2021 there is no new money allocated for working groups and Commissions, but the funds allocated for 2022 and 2023 can be spent over the whole period
6. Secretariat expenses have been increased to allow for increased expenditure because of the move of the office away from NTU (including setting up the Swiss office)
7. An allocation has been provided for creating a new webpage and for hosting it in a neutral site where it could stay as the office moves around.
8. A significant allocation has been made for the IYBSSD and the Centenary
9. Note that there are GAs in 2021 and 2023 in these budget years, which makes them expensive
10. The deficit budgeted at the end of 2023 is 117K, which will reduce our reserves. It has been expected that about 100 K to 200 K may need to come from reserves because of the IYBSSD and the Centenary.
11. We should try to find sponsorship to allow us to spend even more on the IYBSSD and the Centenary and also to reduce the impact on our reserves

At the meeting, the following statements were approved and accepted:

Adopt the 2021 budget in the Draft budget 2021 2023 spreadsheet as the IUPAP budget for 2021

Accept the 2022 and 2023 budgets in the Draft budget 2021 2023 spreadsheet as indicative budgets for those years, to be modified if necessary and adopted as the budgets for those years at the C&CC meetings in October 2021 and 2022

The discussion follows. Sunil Gupta (Chair of C4) asks if it will be possible to move the resources not used by the Commissions in 2020 to 2021, in order to support conferences or awards or other activities. In particular C4 is expected to organize its major conference in 2021: shall they have a third of the previous allocated budget for a triennium plus the remain of 2020? Rudzani Nemutudi (Chair of C1) explains that the allocation of funds for conferences is always carried on by the Council, i.e. it is centralized. But of course this is done in consultation with the Commission Chairs. This process will be maintained also in this unusual period. However, the conferences that shifted from 2020 to 2021 or 2022 are guaranteed. Tomorrow the meeting will tackle better the topic, reviewing collectively all applications for 2021 as it was always done. Kwek points out that resources have been reduced, but in fact also the applications are less numerous. Bruno Nachtergaele (Chair of C18) thinks that as the conferences have a one year cycle, it should be easy to re arrange the resources; the problem becomes more complex for the postponement of the GA, what about the appointed members of the Commissions, will they operate for a two years or three years term? The President says that this topic will be tackled later in the meeting, especially discussing the GA 2021 e 2023. He anticipates that the idea is to keep the roles for 3 years, a part from the current Commissions that will have a four year term. Minh Quang Tran (Chair of C16) asks if and how the Young Scientist Prizes will be awarded for 2021, 2022 e 2023. The President says that if every Commission would find a company willing to sponsor the award it would be great, not only to spare resources, but also to connect the scientific community and the industry. Luc Bergé (EPS Representative) asks clarifications on the nature of the grants mentioned in the budget, and on the allocation for the Year of Physics for Sustainability. The President answers that the two grants are for project funded by the ISC

(International Science Council), which gather all international Unions and academies, and one from LAMP (Light Sources in Africa, America and Middle East) and the other is dedicated to the gender gap in science. For the IYBSSD IUPAP contribution is of 10.000 Euros; IUPAP will also collect the contributions of all other Unions. The question is also what happens to the resources attributed every year to the Commissions in a triennium, as now there will be a fourth year. Kwek explains that for the next triennium the resources are reduced, but Commissions can use what was spared in 2020 because of the reduced activity. The President concludes that the Secretariat is going to send precise details of the resources, calculated in the new way, to each Commission.

The participants are asked to approve the 2021 budget and the draft budget for the triennium, which will be revised in Autumn 2021 and 2022. All participants approve.

7. Move of the headquarters

The President communicates that the EC was expecting to prolong for three years more the MoU with NTU for the hosting of the Secretariat office in Singapore, but they were informed quite suddenly that NTU does not desire to prolong more the collaboration, that therefore ends in December 2020. The EC has then started to explore other solutions, in Singapore at first and later in Geneva. If IUPAP moves (physically and legally) to Geneva, in particular by the University of Geneva, it has to become an association under the Swiss law, and that implies also changes in the Statute. A MoU regarding the collaboration is under definition. Vantages would be the solidity of the institution, disadvantages would be the costs of the administration, very high. In any case the changes cannot be done so rapidly, and we need a period of transition, probably a whole year, remaining in Singapore. Another organization will give us spaces (such as Science World or the University of Singapore) and the company will remain active. As the Swiss solution is very expensive, we need also to ask for other countries to volunteer to host the Secretariat, and we ask the Council to help us in this search. Discussion. Sunil Gupti and Rahul Pundit ask what are the requirements for the host country. The President says that there is a need of a legal entity that is willing to administrate the resources and as for the activities, he can share a draft MoU in which the role and tasks of the Secretariat are made clear. A very important requirement is that IUPAP activity should be tax free. Yunkiu Bang (APCT representative) says that this is the second time attending the IUPAP GA; in the previous one he had a conversation about the opportunity to host the headquarters in Korea, in his center. However, that was expected to happen three years later. He confirms his serious interest in hosting the Union, but he needs to investigate the feasibility in this new situation and the reception in the local community. The President thanks for the offer, and restates that all details will be shared with the Council. Stuart Palmer (EPS representative) forewarns that a significant amount of time is needed for the transfer of headquarters, as he experienced when the Secretariat moved from London to Singapore, and a consistent help from Singapore is needed for the handing out of the activities. He also adds that possibly two half time won't be sufficient to carry on all Secretariat activities. The question was raised why IUPAP should become an association if based in Switzerland. In order to run IUPAP affairs (collecting fees, redistributing resources etc.) we need a legal entity, either a company or an association. Because a company would be subjected to the payment of taxes, the association is a better option. A foundation would also be out of our reach, because it requires a consistent capital to be founded. IUPAP in itself is not a legal entity, but a network. The President comments that this will be the fourth move in ten years, and wish that the next location would last for long, so to create a corporate memory and leave the President free to work for more important matters. Other participants agree. Monica Pepe-Altarelli (Vice-President at Large for Centenary) suggests to distribute as soon as possible all documentation about the headquarters (requirements, draft MoU etc.) so that possibly a first

feedback on countries interest could be raised before the end of the GA, which lasts two weeks, a considerable amount of time.

The President wraps up main points of the day. First of all the need of a stricter collaboration between the Presidents and the Council, especially in important matters such as resolutions and strategic plan. There is a general wish for regional common activities, as for example on teaching physics in Africa, in Latino America, in Asia. There is a need of a clear information about resources for Commissions for the next three years, in order to better plan activities. Last but not least the call for a future, more stable location for the IUPAP offices. The statute of IUPAP depends on which location will be chosen.

The Day 1 session is closed.