

Proposal of a procedure to choose IUPAP Commission Members

Context

The composition of commissions is renovated at the in-person General Assemblies (GAs) which are held triennially. The Executive Council (EC) in accordance with the Chairs of all Commissions choose the names of the possible future chair of each Commission. These Designated Commission Chairs are announced at the GA that is held immediately before the in-person one. Designated commission chairs work alongside commission members for one year until the final decision by the in-person GA on the composition of commissions.

Title II of [IUPAP's Internal Regulations](#) contains the rules for commission members including their terms. According to these rules, chairs may not be re-elected to any position on the Commission beyond their term as Chair, and Vice Chairs/Secretaries may not be re-elected to the same positions nor be re-elected as an ordinary member - except in extraordinary circumstances, and, in such circumstances, special approval by the General Assembly is required. Ordinary members may be elected twice.

Commissions (through their chairs), Territorial Member liaison committees and IUPAP Corporate Associate Members nominate candidates for commission members. The Executive Council may itself suggest names. The nominations are subsequently analyzed by the Executive Council to produce a slate of nominees. The Executive Council most likely will appoint a nomination sub-committee to assist it in the process of determining a slate and may call a meeting with the Chairs of Commissions for further assistance. The slate is then presented to the GA where Liaison Committees may resubmit their nominations of persons not on the slate, but these renominations must be supported by at least one other Delegation. The Executive Council then will prepare a final ballot with its recommendations and any renominations for a position to be voted by the GA.

The slates that are presented to the GA must satisfy, as best as possible, balance of geographical distribution, adequate gender balance and coverage of sub-disciplines. Continuity of composition is an important factor as well. Furthermore, it is expected that at least one Commission member be involved in the applications of the relevant field of physics, for which the nominations of corporate members could be of help. Finally, overall, the commissions composition should be such that each territorial member has a total number of commissioners approximately equal to its number of units as member of the Union. Exceptions are granted for developing countries to guarantee diversity. A reasonable minimum expected number of territory-elected positions to Commissions and the Executive Council, as a function of the membership category, is equal to the number of units, limited to maximum 18 units, averaged over a period of 9 years.

The elaboration of the slate thus involves several constraints which are very hard to satisfy simultaneously. To facilitate the work of the EC and the nominations sub-committee keeping a friendly and collaborative atmosphere at the same time we have designed the following protocol. Please let us know what you think and/or send any suggestions for improvement within a month. Based on this discussion, we will finally implement the agreed protocol for our 33rd (in-person) GA to be held in 2024.

Procedure

- 1) Commission Chairs (CC) are given access to a form which contains the list of current Commission members, both regular and officers, indicating the terms they have served in the Commission. CCs are asked to indicate in one column of the form whether each of those members should continue as Commission member or not and in which capacity (regular member, chair, vice-chair, secretary). A brief explanation should be provided in the case of those members whose continuation in the commission is not recommended. For the officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary) it must be considered that normally at least one of them shall be a woman, and at least one shall be a man. In the case of the Chair, the name should correspond to the Designated Commission Chair, unless an unforeseen problem had occurred with the candidate previously selected. The form will have the option of adding new candidates for commission member. In this case, the contact details of the candidates together with a brief justification of the nomination should be provided. To satisfy the conditions on gender diversity and the expectation that at least one Commission member be involved in the applications of the relevant field of physics, consulting with the Working Group on Women in Physics (WG5) and the Working Group on Physics in Industry (WG16) is advisable. It must be noticed here that only people with affiliation in IUPAP's Territorial or Corporate Associate Members can be regular Commission members. The list of additional candidates submitted by CCs should mention the territory where the nominees are based and whether they are affiliated with some of IUPAP's Corporate Associate Members, indicating which one. The list could contain more names than available positions to help with the subsequent selection process. In all cases, it is important that the candidates be contacted to check their availability to serve on the Commission.
- 2) The EC shares with the Territorial and Corporate Associated Member Liaison Committees the list of people with affiliation in their territory or institution/company that were recommended by Commissions, distinguishing between those that are already commission members and those who are not. Liaison Committees (LCs) are then requested to submit their nominations through the nomination system (the one we have used for the 30th GA with improvements). The nominations must include current Commission members with affiliation in their territory or company/institution whose continuation as Commission member has been recommended by CCs. The additional names suggested by the Commissions may or may not be nominated by LCs. All the names nominated by LCs must be given a 4-category score. Current commission members with affiliation in the territory or institution/company of the LC whose continuation has been recommended by CCs must be given a high score. LCs must provide a good justification in case they do not comply with this condition. LCs are also requested to provide an explanation in case they choose not to nominate the additional names recommended by CCs. With the request to send their nominations, LCs are asked to consider the rules on gender diversity and the expectation that at least one Commission member be an expert in the application of the corresponding sub-field of physics when making their nominations. They are also informed that the total number of nominations (including Commission and EC members) that they submit should be at least as large as the smallest integer which exceeds 1.33 times their number of units. LCs are also requested to send the EC a separate file with a prioritized (ordered) list of all the names they have nominated, including the score given to each of them. This will serve

with the final elaboration of the slate. In all cases, it is important that the candidates be contacted to check their availability to serve on the Commission.

- 3) Each CC receives the nominations made by LCs for the corresponding Commission, including the scores given to the proposed names, and submits a recommendation of Commission members, both regular and officers, through the nomination system. The list of names recommended should exceed the total number of Commission members to help with the work of the nominations sub-committee. Again, in all cases, it is important that the candidates be contacted to check their availability to serve on the Commission.
- 4) After nominations and Commission recommendations are received, the nominations sub-committee convenes to produce the first draft of the slate. The committee may, on behalf of the Executive Council, make additional nominations to Commissions.
- 5) The draft slate is discussed by the nominations sub-committee, the EC and CCs at the meeting that will be held immediately before the in-person GA.
- 6) The slate is provided to the GA before its starting date.