

Proposal to streamline IUPAP representation on other international bodies

From time-to-time the IUPAP Executive Council (EC) is called upon to nominate representatives to serve on various committees of different international bodies that are of interest to the physics community. Examples of such bodies include, (1) Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), (2) Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), (3) Scientific Committee of Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), (4) ISC Committee on Data (CODATA), (5) Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM), (6) Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES), (7) Inter-Union Commission on the History and Philosophy of Physics (IUCHPP), (8) Gruber Cosmology Prize Selection Advisory Board (GCPSAB) and so on.

For identifying suitable candidates to serve on such committees, the EC relies on the expertise and advice of members of EC, Commissions / Working Groups. However, in most cases after a nominee is appointed there is no uniform guideline for providing periodic reports/updates by the nominee to the EC for the duration of an appointment. Some of the nominees stay on for decade or more and in some cases no reports have been provided by the nominees. In such cases there is complete disconnect between the EC and the IUPAP nominee. To remedy such unwelcome outcome it is proposed that,

(1) An IUPAP nominee should be appointed for a fixed term of three years in line with the tenure of the EC and the Commissions. Each nominee should be asked to provide an annual report on the activities of their committee to the EC and/or Chairs of the relevant Commissions.

(2) At the end of two-years the EC should discuss the cases of existing IUPAP nominees serving on different committees and finalize suitable replacements in consultation with the Chairs of relevant Commissions and/or Working Groups.

(3) At the end of three years, the new nominees should replace the existing ones. This would enable participation from a larger pool of physicists and provide better representation across regions, gender etc. It would be desirable to implement this changeover in synchronization with the next in-person GA in 2027.