

Affiliated Commissions

Analysis and suggestions by Silvina Ponce Dawson, President Designate, based on IUPAP's Articles and Regulations.

According to IUPAP's Articles (<https://iupap.org/documents/statutes-bylaws/articles/>):

- An **Affiliated Commission (AC)** is an international group of scientists, constituted as an independent body, whose field does not coincide with that of an IUPAP Commission.
- AC chairs are **Personal Members**, Ex-Officio, of IUPAP. As such, they have voting rights and are exempted from paying membership dues.

The description of ACs on the IUPAP website (<https://iupap.org/who-we-are/internal-organization/affiliated-commissions/>) reads:

It occasionally happens that an international committee or organisation of physicists decides to join with the Commissions of IUPAP. It may do so as a specialised Commission, in which case its organisation and administration follow the pattern of the others and it may receive sponsorship and grants for its international conferences. If its own administrative structure is well developed, it may become instead an Affiliated Commission. Such Commissions may have their own members and dues structures, statutes and assemblies. They endorse and assist in implementing IUPAP principles concerning, for example, the free circulation of scientists and participate in joint activities. IUPAP delegates members to the governing board or council, and approves the constitution or statutes. Affiliated Commissions report their activities to the IUPAP General Assemblies, and their financial statements to the Executive Council.

There is no rule, however, on IUPAP's Internal Regulations (<https://iupap.org/documents/statutes-bylaws/regulations/>) about the involvement of IUPAP on the structure of ACs, while the IUPAP GA approves the composition of all IUPAP Commissions and that composition is selected based on the number of units with which each IUPAP member contributes to IUPAP. ACs act pretty much independently from IUPAP. Some ACs are Category 1 members of the International Science Council on equal footing as IUPAP. Some ACs don't mention IUPAP on their websites. Despite that, ACs have been treated as regular IUPAP Commissions for many purposes:

1. The same amount of funds is allocated on the budget for Commissions and ACs.
2. All Commissions and ACs can give one Early Career Scientist Award (sponsored by IUPAP) per year.
3. The Chairs of ACs participate of EC&CC meetings on equal terms as the chairs of Commissions.
4. ACs analyze the submission for conference support in their fields of expertise as done by Commissions.
5. The flagship conferences of some ACs receive the same level of financial support as those of "regular" Commissions.
6. The chairs of ACs have the same voting rights on the IUPAP GA as Commission chairs.

This is clearly inconsistent. If we continue with the current balance between number of Commissions and of Affiliated Commissions, the suggestion is that we continue to proceed with the uses listed in items 2-4 above, but we stop allocating funds on the budget for ACs. Funds will still be allocated for Early Career Scientist Prizes awarded by ACs at the same level as those awarded by Commissions and their flagship conferences can receive the same level of support as those of Commissions. MOUs should be signed on a one-to-one basis to agree on the level of financial support that IUPAP can give for the participation of AC Chairs in EC&CC meetings and General Assemblies and for other AC related businesses. ACs should clearly state on their website and documents that they are Affiliated Commissions of IUPAP. We should think to what extent we will request that they abide by all the rules approved by IUPAP for the sponsorship and endorsement of activities.

In view of the External Evaluation report which recommends a reduction in the number of Commissions we will have to think of the level of balance that we would like to keep between Chairs of Commissions and of ACs as IUPAP personal members (with the right to one vote in the GA).