

A proposal to organize the future selection of Commission members

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Silvina Ponce Dawson

University of Buenos Aires and CONICET, Argentina

President Designate, IUPAP





A possible way to organize the election of Commission members in the future

A little bit on the structure of commissions (C2-C20; there is no C7)

They have 3 officers (Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary; among whom at least one shall be a woman and at least one shall be a man), and 11 ordinary members.

From the Articles and Regulations:

- All elections are for a term of three years.
- Chairs may not be re-elected to any position on the Commission beyond their term as Chair.
- Vice Chairs/Secretaries may not be re-elected to the same positions nor be reelected as an ordinary member - except in extraordinary circumstances [...].
- Ordinary members may be elected twice
- Normally the Secretary, the Vice-Chair and the Chair are to be chosen from among those who have served at least one term on the Commission
- Service in all capacities shall not exceed three terms, whether or not those terms are consecutive.
- Normally, the members of a Commission will be from different Territorial Members
- 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.



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Thus, commission members should be selected in such a way so as to satisfy various constraints. Some of them are related to each commission separately:

- Their expertise should be varied enough so as to cover the diversity of themes embraced by the subfield represented by the commission
- They should be from different territorial members
- The 3 officers should include at least a woman and at least a man

Others are global constraints:

- 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.
- There should be a reasonable gender distribution over the members of all commissions

It is very hard to satisfy all these constraints simultaneously. The EC has to look into it.

Some years ago it was decided that Commission Chairs would be appointed as designated chairs one year before the GA at which they would actually be elected as chairs. This means that they should be appointed designated chairs in 2023 and elected by the GA in 2024 to start their terms in 2025.



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The latter is based on the following Resolution that was approved by the 30th GA of October 2021:

The terms of all officers and commission members elected at the 30th GA in October 2021 are for three years (till 2024). [...] the elections of officers and commission members will take place at the in-person GAs which will be held every three years. The GA in 2022 will be virtual without elections. The GA in 2023 will be held in hybrid mode [...] No election of commission chairs or members and no changes in the EC and Officers will occur at this GA. Only the names of the designated chairs of commissions to be elected in the GA 2024 will be shared.

The GA in 2024 will be held in person in line with the Articles of the new association structure of the IUPAP. Depending on the situation, it might be held in a hybrid format with the participation in person of Commission Chairs and EC members and the rest connected online.

I will not discuss here how to decide the names of the designated chairs. I will describe a possible way to proceed with the selection of the rest of the names (vice-chair, secretary and ordinary members) once we have the names of the designated chairs.



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- 1) Commission Chairs should inform the EC which role they think that current members/officers of the commission should occupy during the following 3 year term: those who should continue as regular members for one more term, those who should be secretary & vice chair and those who should not stay (this could include people who served for only one term without much participation or people who have been on the commission for 2 terms and would not be recommended as commission officer).
- 2) At the same time, commission chairs should list the names of new members they would like to "add" to the commission.
- 3) The above list produced by the CCs (with the names of previous and new members per country) should be sent to the territorial liaison committees.
- 4) After having received the lists produced by the CCs, territorial liaison committees should be asked to send the list of names that they propose to be part of the commissions with the suggestion that they keep the names of previous commission members that had been "claimed" by the commission chairs. If the liaison committee decides to change some of the names recommended by the commissions by others, they should give an explanation of why they are doing that. Liaison committees should rank the names that they suggest to be part of the commissions.
- 5) Each CC will receive the name of the candidates proposed by the liaison committees for their commissions with a tag indicating the rank that the liaison committee gave to that name, the total number of names suggested (for all commissions) by the territorial member and the total number of shares of the member.



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6) Given the input and feedback submitted by the liaison committees, commission chairs should choose the 14 names they like the best to be part of the commission. They should also pick additional names (with comments) for the nomination subcommittee to be able to know what to do when trying to balance the composition over all commissions in terms of country membership and shares.

7) With this info, then the nomination subcommittee is in a position to produce the list of members to be sent to country members and commissions for comments/complaints/etc.

Right now we are not setting a strict cap on the number of associate members that a commission can have. Thus, some of the persons that were not elected commission members could be elected associate members. This position should not be used for past members of the commission.

An interesting idea for associate members: to have representatives of other unions whose area of expertise overlaps with that of the commission. In this way future collaborations may be eventually established; e.g., C6 will have a representative of IUPAB as associate member. Each chair can think whether there is an international scientific union that would make sense to interact with in this way.