



MINUTES, IFCN EXCO MEETING: DECEMBER 2, 2014 0830-1700

PRESENT: Drs. Mark Hallett (MH), Reinhard Dengler (RD), Paolo Rossini (PR), David Burke (DB), Liying Cui (LC), Kaz Ugawa (KU), Renato Verdugo (RV) and Stephanie Stevenson (IFCN Secretariat) (SS)

Agenda (MH): No new items to add.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Two Meetings (KU): The minutes for the Berlin meeting (March 23, 2014) and the teleconference (July 15, 2014) were approved.

President's Report (MH): This is the first all day meeting of the ExCo in this term, so progress has been relatively slow so far; it may be that some more teleconferences will need to be added. In terms of accomplishments, the contract with Venue West has been finalized, the visiting professor program pilot has gone well, and the website has been updated. MH would like to have a Vision Statement for this ExCo term, focusing on educational needs of members.

Treasurer's Report (RD): RD presented the revenue and expenditures to date for 2015 (budget vs. actuals) and the 2015 draft budget. Revenue is higher than expected, due to favourable exchange rates, higher income from Elsevier, and a refund from the ICCN Final yearend figures will be audited. RD reviewed the expenses ExCo members agreed to come up with some plans to increase expenditures, particularly in the area of education. RD reviewed the Society Dues report for 2014, and the ExCo discussed those Societies that have not paid.

IFCN Archival Materials (RD): RD noted he has received some boxes of archival materials and will review next year. Then materials will be sent to the Secretariat office for storage.

Fundraising Committee (MH): The ExCo discussed whether to appoint a Fundraising Committee for the current ExCo term. PR noted the value of this Committee in raising funds from sources other than Elsevier. Suggestions from the last Committee included selling educational materials and using the website for sponsorship sales. Additionally, it has been suggested that the IFCN take on the organization of the ICCN, and therefore recognize the profit from it (and take the risk). If the ExCo decided on selling educational items, a check will be made with the ExCo lawyer as to the tax ramifications of such a move.

Secretary's Report (KU): New member applications have been received from South Africa and Azerbaijan, and their Constitutions have been reviewed by the Rules Committee and comments sent back. There has been no response from Morocco after their first request for information. Additionally, no response from Hong Kong, and MH advises they are still deciding what to do. RD discussed the (potential) two Society members from Egypt, and the hope that the IFCN could convince the Societies to join.

Journal Report (DB): CLINPH is running well with a number of new initiatives including early on line publication of author accepted manuscripts. The biggest issue now is that each paper is subject to a

routine plagiarism check and some papers have been rejected on that basis (or the authors have been asked to make substantial revisions). The associate editors are working harder and faster, and the drop rate for papers not sent out for review is increasing. The five year impact factor is better than the two year.

Print Copies of CLINPH (MH): MH recommends that the IFCN consider asking Elsevier to stop printing copies of CLINPH; by doing so there will be a major savings in printing and therefore additional income to the IFCN. There are very few print subscribers to CLINPH and most of the print copies are provided free of charge. The ExCo decided to hold on that decision and discuss it with Peter Bakker from Elsevier at the Cartagena meeting.

Website (LC): The hits to the website from China are increasing which LC thinks is correct, but there is a question about why the hits from the Ukraine are so high. The ExCo would like to increase the (free) basic educational content on the IFCN (public) webpage. MH suggested “how to” videos (posted with a clear statement in regard to liability). In order to access these materials, the user would be asked to fill out a form with their name and the name of the Society they belong to. There was a discussion of accepting advertising on the website (e.g. advertisements, instructions on particular instruments) and the costs for that.

Partnership with Other Societies (MH): Currently, OSET is the only Society listed on the website as a partner. Partner benefits could include reciprocal links on the websites, a common calendar re meetings, common promotion of each other’s meetings, and designation of CLINPH as the partner Society’s official journal. There is no mechanism in the Statutes/Bylaws to formally partner with other organizations.

New Editors for the Handbook Series (MH): MH and PR have volunteered to take on the responsibility of editing this series. If the financial analysis of the Hand book Series is reasonable, then PR and MH will identify additional volumes to be produced (MH says motor control needs updating).

Sponsored Journal Subscriptions (RD): The sponsored subscriptions are offered on line only. Once a year, users are asked how they share the Journal (as this is one of the requirements for receiving a sponsored subscription); this year, users will be directed not to share their access codes but to provide pdf copies of articles to colleagues. The ExCo agreed that these subscriptions will be offered on a four year basis, and access will be based on the HINARI list of developing countries. There will be a limit of 20 subscriptions.

Visiting Professor Program (MH): This program had a successful pilot (with RV going to Guatemala), so decision is to continue the program. A request for proposals will be sent out to all member Societies with a set of criteria: speakers other than ExCo members could be requested, the request should not be just for a single lecture or meeting, proposal should include what a visiting professor may do (e.g. specific topics), and potential number of participants. The proposals would come back to the ExCo for a vote. HINARI societies will get preference.

Supported Meetings (MH): The ExCo decided to continue funding meetings that are “cross Chapter”. PR suggested providing a slide deck promoting the IFCN to meetings that receive funding from the IFCN. These requests will be voted on by the ExCo.

Scholarship Program (KU): The ExCo decided to provide three scholarships to applicants from economically disadvantaged countries (HINARI list). There will be one additional scholarship provided (called an Advanced Scholarship) to an applicant from a developed country. The applications are voted on by the ExCo.

Report of the Rules Committee (PR): The new Rules Committee has been established, chaired by PR. Two requests for review of Constitutions were received (Azerbaijan and South Africa). They have been reviewed and comments sent back to the respective Societies.

European Chapter Liaison Report (PR): The Chapter is preparing for the Brno meeting, and developing some new core curriculum with a view to European accreditation. New elections for the European Chapter ExCo are being held.

Latin American Chapter Liaison Report (RV): RV reviewed the planning for the Cartagena meeting (March 11-14) and asked if abstracts could be published on line at no cost (DB advises that they can, but this would occur after the meeting, not as a substitute for the meeting handout).

Asia-Oceania Chapter Liaison Report (KU): The bylaws of the Asia-Oceania Chapter do not allow the Liaison to vote. Last year there was a Chapter meeting in Bali, with a meeting in 2016 planned for Bangalore, India.

North American Chapter Liaison Report (MH): Dr. Kristine Chapman is the Chair of the North American Chapter. She is from the CSCN; although the Canadian Society is not independent, but a subsection of another Society. The Societies are using the funds they receive from the IFCN for fellowships, except for the Canadian Society that has not spent their funds yet.

ICNS Report (RV): There are currently 48 members, with many applications being made after the ICNS meeting in Berlin in 2014. There are some memberships up for renewal at the end of 2014.

WFN Specialty Network (MH): MH has attended a meeting of this network, which is a network of a number of related Societies. The WFN wishes to help make appropriate liaisons among the societies in addition to liaison with the WFN itself. For example, mutual website links could be set up with the WFN.

Review of Washington 2018 Congress (MH): MH and RD have reviewed a preliminary draft of the contract for this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1800.



Dr. Mark Hallett, President, ExCo



Dr. Yoshikazu Ugawa, Secretary, ExCo