

Proposed Changes to Statutes and Bylaws

It is proposed that Bylaw 4.307 be amended as described below.

Current Text:

B4.307 Titular Members of Commissions have the right to receive contributions towards travel and subsistence expenses from funds of the Union as authorized by the Treasurer acting on behalf of the Union. Contributions may be made to Associate Members or members of subcommittees on recommendation of the Division or Section President and with the agreement of the Treasurer.

Proposed Text:

B4.307 Members of IUPAC bodies may receive contributions towards travel and subsistence expenses from funds of the Union, as authorized by the Treasurer. The Bureau shall establish procedures and guidelines for the approval of such expenses.

Discussion:

The meaning of this Bylaw has never been entirely clear. At one time it was interpreted to mean that *only* Titular Members could receive travel expenses, even if a Division or other IUPAC body wished to pay expenses from its budget allocation for participation of other scientists in certain meetings. A number of years ago the interpretation was broadened to indicate that the budget allocation itself implied approval by the Treasurer, and the current Treasurer has raised no objections to having Divisions and other bodies make decisions as to how to spend their budgeted funds.

However, the first sentence has continued to be interpreted as meaning that each Titular Member of a Commission must be offered travel expenses to attend the General Assembly from the central funds of the Union. With the new emphasis on tying funding to individual projects, money for travel expenses will be related to the need to travel in order to pursue the project. Approval of the revised wording will make it clear that in the future it is the intent of the Union to provide travel expenses as needed for carrying out its work, not as an entitlement of an appointment to a Commission.

The amended Bylaw, if approved, will be effective January 1, 2000. However, it does not in any way preclude payment of travel expenses to Titular Members of Commissions, and the budget for 2000-2001, as approved by the Council, contains funding for the General Assembly in 2001 that will continue to pay travel for all Titular Members of the current Commissions.