

Minutes of IUSSI International Committee  
July 15, 2014

President Ben Oldroyd opened the meeting at 6:10. He gave an overview of the Congress, with emphasis on the budget. Due to difficulties finding corporate sponsors, he projected a very small loss. Therefore the 2018 Congress President will not be able to count on any rollover funds to initiate planning efforts.

Secretary-General Joan Herbers took a roll of delegates and then gave her report.

Editor-in-Chief Johan Billen gave his report detailing the history of his 24-year term in office.

Given that the Union's finances are critically dependent on the journal's health, Joan then asked delegates for comments on how to improve the quantity and quality of papers submitted to *Insectes Sociaux*. After some discussion, the suggestion was made that we could not adequately decide on anything without knowing who the next Editor-in-Chief would be. We therefore tabled this topic for future discussion.

We next focused on priorities set by the Financial Subcommittee. The sense of the group was the student travel to conferences, via grants to sections, remains our highest priority. A number of other suggestions were made and discussed; the one that gained general approval is that the Union expand its portfolio of prizes/awards given at the Congress to recognize best paper/ poster by a student and a mid-career award to a member. These would not be expensive for the Union, but we will have to develop processes for implementing new recognition programs. We asked the next Union President to develop a strategy for operationalizing the effort.

After a refreshment break, the delegates reconvened.

Dr. Barti explained how he has reconstituted the Indian section and with the new information the Indian Section was recognized as being in good standing.

The Brazilian section has re-started, and has asked for reinstatement as a section in good standing. They had previously submitted all the requisite paperwork, including membership rolls, legal registration, etc. (see documents online). The request for reinstatement was approved by acclamation.

Both the NAS and Brazilian sections presented their bids for the 2018 Congress. Questions were raised about total costs/ registration/ hotels, especially for students.. The NAS suggested that registration will be \$200-500, while Brazil suggested it will be about the same, although there are too many unsettled variables to project good estimates. Delegates also asked about the timeframe for these potential Congresses, since academic calendars in some areas conflict with the anticipated dates. After more discussion, a written vote was held, and Brazil emerged as the front-runner. Accordingly, we will ask the General Assembly to

approve holding the 2018 Congress in Brazil, with Klaus Hartfelder as the President of the Union.

We then turned to elections of Union officers and journal appointments.

- The NAS nominated Mike Breed for Editor-in-Chief, and there were no other nominations; Mike was elected by acclamation.
- There were three nominations for Secretary-General: Christian Peeters, Colin Brent, and Madeleine Beekman. After a slight bit of discussion, a written vote elected Beekman with a simple majority.
- Archivist Chris Starr and Webmaster David Nash were reappointed by acclamation.
- The Financial Subcommittee was appointed with Joan Herbers (North American), Heike Feldhaar (Central Europe), and Mark Brown (Northwest Europe) approved by acclamation.
- Voting for Associate Editors and Review Editor was deferred to allow the new Editor-in-Chief to make his own appointments.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.