

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

Editorial Advisory Board Meeting, *Pure and Applied Chemistry*

IUPAC General Assembly

09h00 19 August 2005

Beijing, China

Present:	D. StC. Black	<i>Secretary-General (Chair)</i>
	M. Isobe	<i>Div. III – Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry</i>
	R. F. T. Stepto	<i>Div. IV – Polymer</i>
	H. K. J. Powell	<i>Div. V- Analytical Chemistry</i>
	P. T. Holland	<i>Div. VI – Chemistry and the Environment</i>
	P. W. Erhardt	<i>Div. VII- Chemistry and Human Health</i>
	A D. McNaught	<i>Div. VIII- Chem. Nomencl. & Structural Rep.</i>
	J. R. Bull	<i>Scientific Editor, Pure Appl. Chem.</i>
	L. Glasser	<i>CPEP</i>
	J. W. Lorimer	<i>ICTNS</i>
	L. K. Sydnes	<i>Invited member</i>
In attendance:	J. W. Jost	<i>Secretariat</i>
	E. Carter	<i>Secretariat (Minute Secretary)</i>

1. Introduction and Finalization of the Agenda

Prof. Black welcomed those present, and it was noted that Divisions I and II were not represented. He announced that this meeting had been called to inaugurate the reconstituted Editorial Advisory Board (EAB), following suspension of activities after the 1999 General Assembly. Since that occasion, changes in publication policy and practice and the attendant appointment of a Scientific Editor have revived the need for such a body. The EAB will contribute toward monitoring the content and scientific standards of *Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC)* papers arising from conference proceedings and special topics, whilst the Interdivisional Committee on Terminology, Nomenclature, and Symbols (ICTNS) will retain its responsibility for overseeing the passage of IUPAC Technical Reports and Recommendations to publication.

2. Membership

The *ex officio* membership of the Board, as specified in the Standing Rules, is intended to ensure that all IUPAC interests and constituencies are represented, and are able to contribute to planning and quality assessment. Prof. Black emphasized that it would be highly desirable to retain *ex officio* members representing Divisions, for the duration of their relevant terms of office, in order to optimize continuity in communications.

The invited membership category of EAB is a new departure that aspires to broaden the consultancy base through regional and disciplinary representation. It was noted that the outgoing President of IUPAC will usually be invited to serve as an invited member, for the duration of his/her term as Immediate Past President. As outgoing President, Prof. Sydnes has agreed to serve on the EAB for the forthcoming biennium. Profs B M Deb (India) and H Hopf (Germany) have also accepted invitations to serve for four-year

terms, following nomination by their respective National Adhering Organizations. Up to three further invited members may be sought in response to specific needs.

3. Standing Rules and Terms of Reference

It is recorded that the draft Standing Rules and Terms of Reference were approved at a meeting of the Bureau on 18 August 2005, and may be consulted at <http://www.iupac.org/standing/pac-eab.html>. The business of the EAB will be conducted largely through correspondence, and the Scientific Editor will distribute relevant reports, and will consult with and coordinate feedback from EAB members.

4. Report of the Scientific Editor

4.1 Background

Prof. Bull introduced his report with a brief account of events leading up to appointment of a Scientific Editor, which in turn has prompted revival of an EAB, and necessitated introduction of an online system to manage the workload associated with peer review of all manuscripts. He outlined the ideal timetable for project planning and execution, and identified manuscript throughput as one of the most important current challenges.

4.2 Progress Report 2004-2005

The contents of the latest Annual Report were taken as read, and the following matters were highlighted for ongoing attention:

4.2.1 Divisions are requested to scrutinize publication proposals by applicants for IUPAC sponsorship, when completed AIS forms are being evaluated. Timely identification of problems or opportunities is essential for planning of PAC projects.

4.2.2 Multidisciplinary events are inherently less appealing as publication projects than those that focus on specialized themes, and multidisciplinary events having a regional bias are generally not ideal candidates for publication coverage. However, publication of selected proceedings arising from the biennial IUPAC Congress will continue to be promoted.

4.2.3 It is noted that comprehensive publication coverage of plenary outputs has become the exception in numerous IUPAC sponsored events, and increasing attention is being given to selected coverage of non-plenary outputs. Prof. Black referred specifically to the attendant opportunity to encourage authorship by younger scientists.

4.2.4 Planning for a publication project ideally commences at least six months prior to an event, with agreement on the preferred scope and procedure. The importance of timely

publication of collections was emphasized, and Prof. Bull proposed that a target window for appearance of proceedings five to nine months after the event was highly desirable and often attainable, and that periods in excess of nine months would be deemed to have fallen short of expectations.

4.2.5 Attention was drawn to events that are sponsored by IUPAC but have an erratic record of *PAC* publication coverage. In some instances, this has lapsed in favour of publication in alternative media (for example, *Carbohydrates*, *Coordination Chemistry*, *Organometallic Chemistry*, *High Temperature Materials Chemistry*). Relevant Divisions are invited to assist, by encouraging organizers of such events to reconsider future publication plans and, in general, to seek continuity of support by those regularly sponsored events that stand to benefit *PAC*. A possible approach is to invite active representatives of such disciplinary areas to serve on Divisional subcommittees.

4.2.6 Publishable outputs arising from events under the primary purview of Division IV are usually available as a first option to publishers of *Macromolecular Symposia (MS)*, a practice on which Prof. Black invited reconsideration, since certain aspects of polymer sciences generate publishable outputs that may be desirable candidates for *PAC* coverage. In the ensuing discussion, Prof. Stepto offered assurances that Division IV would be amenable to considering exceptions to the practice, whilst Prof. Bull indicated that such exceptions were likely to be restricted to those featuring multidisciplinary topics outside the mainstream of specialized polymer sciences. It was agreed that publication plans for candidate events would be negotiated on an *ad hoc* basis, preferably at the time of sponsorship application.

4.2.7 Two forthcoming events for which *MS* has declined to exercise a publication option, namely the 15th *Fine Chemistry and Functional Polymers* jointly with the 1st *Novel Materials and their Synthesis* (FCFP-15/NMS-1), and the 12th *Polymers and Organic Chemistry* (POC'06) will be followed up for *PAC* coverage.

4.3 Citation Analysis 2005

The contents of the report, outlining citation performance of *PAC* from 1998 through 2004, were taken as read, and attention was drawn to those features of the record that offer future planning guidelines, by way of events that have contributed positively or negatively to citation performance.

An in-depth analysis of citation trends was published during 2005

http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2005/2702/3_bull.html, which reveals a pattern of publication coverage and citation performance over the period 1998—2003 that is now being used as an instrument for shaping future publication policy.

4.4 Work in Progress and Planning

4.4.1 Recent experience and the foregoing citation records furnish the basis of current publication strategy, which recognizes the claims of regular, highly cited conferences as candidates for expedited publication and extended coverage as special topic issues.

The following event titles have featured regularly during recent years, and are shortlisted for priority treatment in conformity with this strategy:

- *Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis* (OMCOS)
- *Organic Synthesis* (ICOS)
- *Natural Products jointly with Biodiversity* (ISCNP/ICOB)
- *Physical Organic Chemistry* (ICPOC)
- *Photochemistry*

Other events with high citation records but less regular or lapsed coverage are earmarked for continuing attention and persuasion, and include:

- *Heteroatom Chemistry* (ICHAC)
- *Advanced Materials* (WAM)
- *Novel Aromatic Compounds* (ISNA)
- *Coordination Chemistry* (ICCC)
- *Organometallic Chemistry* (ICOMC)
- *Biomolecular Chemistry* (ISBOC)

The following topics are characterized by variable or modest levels of citation and/or irregular coverage, and will be carefully evaluated in pursuit of regularization and improvement:

- *High Temperature Materials Chemistry* (HTMC)
- *Carbohydrates*
- *Chemical Thermodynamics* (ICCT)
- *Plasma Chemistry* (ISPC)
- *Solubility Phenomena* (ISSP)
- *Solution Chemistry* (ICSC)
- *Carotenoids*
- *Boron Chemistry* (IMEBORON)

5. Other Business

5.1 Prof. Lorimer mentioned that ICTNS is interested in disseminating more information about nomenclature, symbols, and terminology, and suggested that a more extensive style guide could be offered to conference editors. Dr. McNaught noted that the Royal Society of Chemistry has a similar guide located on the web, which IUPAC could consult as a reference: <http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/ReSource/AuthorGuidelines/AuthoringTools/NomenclatureAndSymbolism/index.asp>, and link to the IUPAC web site if desired. Prof. Lorimer stated that ICTNS would undertake a project in consultation with Prof. Bull.

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5.2 Prof. Bull summarized his perception of some subject areas that could profitably be explored for new, improved or more regularized coverage in *PAC*.

- *Materials science*: nanostructured systems – molecular devices – solid state chemistry – supramolecular chemistry
- *Metals*: coordination chemistry – organometallic chemistry – transition metal chemistry – rare elements
- *Biology*: biotechnology – medicinal chemistry – bioinorganic chemistry – bioorganic chemistry – biopolymers
- *Heterocyclic chemistry*

Some of these topics have featured successfully in the past, occasionally as outputs of one-off events or arising from joint IUPAC sponsorship of events initiated by other bodies, and offer opportunities for IUPAC initiatives to expand and strengthen topic coverage of *PAC*.

Dr. McNaught added that aspects of chemical information might also warrant consideration in view of the growing number of conferences dealing with this topic. Prof. Erhardt suggested that Divisions should be informed, and encouraged to consider new projects that could lead to publication of these areas.

5.3 Prof. Stepto recommended that the current practice of standardizing *PAC* spelling in accordance with American English conventions should be reconsidered, in favour of discretionary usage of British or American conventions in accordance with author preference. Dr. Jost argued in favour of internal consistency, and noted that the practice was not restricted to IUPAC publications, but reflected current practice for all formal Union documentation. Prof. Black recommended that the matter should be further considered, perhaps in discussions with CPEP.

Prof. Black thanked participants for their attendance and contributions, and the meeting concluded at 12h00.