

Enhancing the work of Divisions and Standing Committees.

Funding opportunities and guidelines.

The core business of IUPAC includes the identification and support of good projects, the support of Conferences and the use of Conferences to raise awareness of IUPAC activities and goals.

It is important for Divisions/Committees to be aware of the funding opportunities that exist to facilitate these activities. It is also important to know how to expedite the processing of funding applications made to the Project Committee.

In addition to your Division/Committee biennial budget, IUPAC makes project funds available on a competitive basis for complementary support of 'large' projects and 'inter-Divisional' (or 'inter-disciplinary') projects. IUPAC tasks the Project Committee with the management and distribution of funds held for this purpose in the Project Reserve.

IUPAC also encourages Divisions/ Committees to be pro-active in identifying and supporting opportunities to assist chemists in scientifically emerging regions through its funding program for Conferences in *Scientifically Emerging Regions*. Another opportunity arises through the availability of funds to support Conferences or Symposia on *New Directions in Chemistry*. The Project Committee is responsible for reviewing applications and making awards for these two programs.

These notes are prepared for Divisions and Standing Committees to make them aware of these opportunities for expanding their programs beyond the financial limits imposed by their budgets, or for expanding their interests/activities into emerging regions or new directions in chemistry.

Funding of large projects

In a typical scenario a Division may commit around 10% of its biennial project grant to an approved project. However, to be viable, some projects require/request significantly higher funding than this. In such cases a Division/Standing Committee can make a case to the Project Committee to provide funding in addition to that which can be committed from the Division budget.

What is required?

A letter should be sent to the Project Committee through the secretariat (F. Meyers) presenting the case for the scientific value of the project and a justification for the requested additional funding. This letter must be accompanied by the internal and external reviews, an indication of the Division/Committee financial commitment to the Project, and include a recommendation from the DP/SCC. In this context, the DP/SCC is alerted to the fact that the Project Committee may not have expertise critical to the subject of the Project Proposal and therefore it is incumbent on the DP/SCC to provide adequate context for the project and an indication of its value and relevance to the wider scientific community. Because of IUPAC's limited resources, Divisions/Committees should, and the PC will, look for opportunities to economize on the cost of TG meetings, e.g. by using attendance of TG members at a Conference or at the IUPAC General Assembly as a basis for reducing costs.

To expedite the processing of applications it is important that before a case is made to the Project Committee:

- (a) the normal Division/Committee internal *and* external review processes have been completed; this should include at least two external reviews;
- (b) the Division/Committee is satisfied that the budget details are adequate, transparent and defensible;
- (c) the Division/Committee is satisfied that the dissemination plan is adequate and will meet the requirements of the project's stakeholders/intended audience;
- (d) when appropriate, the DP or SC chair has consulted with the TG chair about comments/criticisms of substance that are contained in the External and Division referee reports [which may lead to the submission of a revised Project Proposal];

- (e) the Division/Committee has decided to support the activity, and has identified the level of financial support that it can afford and that is commensurate with the Division/Committee assessment of the project's scientific value.

Funding of inter-Divisional and inter-disciplinary Projects

As an incentive to the initiation of inter-Divisional projects and inter-disciplinary projects the Project Committee is able to support these projects by complementing modest commitments from the respective Divisions/Committees.

In a typical scenario, one Division (the lead Division) evaluates a project and decides to support it, having completed steps (a) through (e) above. However, it may identify the need/opportunity/relevance of involving other Divisions (or another Union, e.g. IUPAP, or another NGO, e.g. UNIDO) in the evaluation of and/or participation in the project. Through the secretariat (F. Meyers) other Divisions etc. are invited to also evaluate the proposal and to determine whether they wish to be involved in the moderation of the project outputs, by participation in the TG and/or by making a financial commitment. The secretariat will coordinate and collate dialogue between the Divisions. Frequently the inter-Divisional or inter-disciplinary value of a project is identified by the secretariat at the outset and the above review processes would occur in parallel, rather than sequentially. This process should be completed before the Project is submitted to the Project Committee.

A typical outcome for an inter-Divisional project (dependent on the size of the Project funding request) might be that the lead Division commits 25-50% of the funding request, other Division(s) commit 10-20% of the funding request, with the additional funds being requested from the Project Committee.

Strategic Opportunities Fund

This fund, which is additional to the Project Reserve, is for the support of Projects that are of strategic importance to IUPAC as a whole (rather than to individual Divisions/Committees or sectional interests). Projects that may qualify for support from the SOF will move through the same steps as described above for "large projects". However, if the PC deems the proposed Project to be of strategic value to IUPAC as a whole then it will recommend to the SG that the SOF be used as the source of funds. Final approval rests with the Executive Committee. As an example, projects related to the International Year of Chemistry would likely qualify as being strategically important.

Conference Support

The program of financial Support for Conferences (FSC) is an opportunity for Divisions/Committees to raise their profile, either by initiation of, or partnership in, a Conference in a scientifically-emerging region, or by encouraging/organizing a Conference or Symposium on "new directions in chemistry". Either activity effectively expands the budget of a Division/Committee.

The Project Committee encourages Divisions/Committees to take a more proactive approach to these opportunities. Applications must come from, or be endorsed by, the Division President or Standing Committee Chair. In both cases, the completed Application Form, including the endorsement, should be submitted to the Secretariat for processing at least 12 months before the Conference.

Conferences in Scientifically Emerging Regions

The objective of this program (FSC-SER) is to impact on scientifically-emerging regions where IUPAC has currently few activities, through programs coordinated by IUPAC Divisions/Committees, or by support of local initiatives. It allows for modest financial support, typically of the order of USD 4 000, to Divisions/Committees that support or organize conferences located in *scientifically emerging regions*. The Project Committee is responsible for reviewing applications and making awards for this program.

This program operates in different ways:

- A Division or Standing Committee *proactively* organizes such a conference and applies for IUPAC's financial support.
- A Division or Standing Committee identifies a suitable conference, helps recruit scientists as *IUPAC Lecturers*, and recommends financial support.
- A conference organizer, with no IUPAC impetus, applies for financial support.

The Division or Standing Committee is responsible for justifying to the Project Committee the characteristics of the conference, the value to local chemists and the assessment that the region being served is indeed "scientifically emerging".

Criteria to assess the eligibility of a proposed scientifically emerging region include:

- availability of research, teaching and information resources within the region, and how these might be enhanced by the conference;
- opportunities for researchers, teachers and students in the region to interact with the international scientific community, and the possibility of using the conference as a catalyst to enhance this interaction through closer cooperation with IUPAC;
- exposure to modern areas of research of which the scientific community in the region may have limited awareness.

Financial support from IUPAC is to promote the participation of young scientists and advanced students from that region and/or for the participation of IUPAC Lecturers. It is not meant to cover expenses in the overall planning of the conference.

An IUPAC Lecturer should plan to speak at one or more scientific meetings and preferably also at local universities in addition to the specified conference, thus having greater impact. In conjunction with the host (usually the conference organizer), the Division/Committee may assist to identify IUPAC Lecturers and suitable lecture topic(s). The Lecturer's travel expenses will be covered by IUPAC, including modest funds to facilitate additional lectures at local universities.

Conferences on New Directions in Chemistry

This program provides modest financial support, typically of the order of USD 4 000, to Divisions/Committees that wish to support or organize conferences, symposia, or workshops on the "*frontiers of science*". Such meetings could

- (i) be in fields that are not well established,
- (ii) explore the contribution of chemistry into a new field,
- (iii) explore the contribution of an emerging field to the core topic of a conference, or
- (iv) consider new interdisciplinary aspects involving chemistry.

The meeting must be located in a country represented in IUPAC by an NAO. Conferences that are part of an IUPAC series may be considered under this program if they demonstrate significant focus on new ideas in chemistry or if they focus on a novel interaction of chemistry with a new domain.

Financial support should be used for the specific participation of international expert lecturers or young scientists. It is not meant to cover general expenses. Financial support can *only* be realized through applications accompanied by a Division/ Committee recommendation. The Division/ Committee is responsible for justifying to the Project Committee the characteristics of the meeting and demonstrating in what ways it is likely to promote novel advances.

Kip Powell, Chair, Project Committee

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