

Report of the Project Committee to IUPAC Council

Submitted by **Gus Somsen**, PC Chairman
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The Project Committee (PC) is tasked with two programs:

1. the project-driven system
The PC reviews and evaluates requests for interdivisional/interdisciplinary projects, for large proposals (meaning requesting approximately more than 10% of the Division/Standing Committee project budget), or for proposals supported by a Standing Committee that has no budget for projects.
2. the financial support for conferences
The PC assumes the responsibility for reviewing and recommending funding of proposals for Conferences in New Directions in Chemistry and Scientifically Emerging Regions. This program is essentially the merging of the 2 older programs, namely the earlier program developed after the 1999 Council to financially support conferences in developing and economically disadvantaged countries, and the 'New Directions conferences' which resulted in the financial support of the first 2 Workshops on Advanced Materials.

Project-Driven System

Since its establishment in April 1999, the PC has been involved in two kinds of activities:

1. Reviewing of proposals and making decisions on funding as defined in the terms of reference of the committee.
2. Taking part in the discussions on the development and the implementation of the project review process.

These activities have reached a steady state where by the review and funding decisions of proposals are performed routinely and on a timely basis. The overall review process continues to benefit from smooth interactions between the PC, and the Division Presidents and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees. The PC relies on the expert opinion of these bodies for making the final funding decision. Such essential communication has been facilitated by the usage of an explicit document suggesting questions to be addressed by Officers of Divisions and Standing Committees when recommending a proposal to the Project Committee.

Since the 2003 meeting, only minor adjustments have been introduced in the review procedure and corresponding documentations. One practical change has been to initiate a prompt outside review concurrent to the internal evaluation if it is perceived that the proposal does not present major concerns or deficiencies.

The projects that received financial support by the PC since the last report to Council dated 9 June 2003 and since the beginning of the current biennium are listed in the annex. As of today, and out of its 2004-2005 budget of USD 110 000, the PC made commitments for a total USD 106 300, covering 11 projects. Out of these 11 approved projects, 5 were interdivisional projects summing to USD 19 800, and 6 were for larger projects with a PC commitment summing to USD 86 500.

Comparison with previous biennia

	\$ PC budget	\$ PC spending
2000-01		152 500
2002-03	250 000	170 000
2004-05	110 000	106 300*

as of 21 May 2005

Financial Support for Conferences

As a result of a Bureau decision in 2002, the PC now also assumes responsibility for the review of, and recommending funding for, proposals for Conferences in New Directions in Chemistry and Conferences in Scientifically Emerging Regions.

In 2003, and to adjust to the transition, the application form and guidelines have been reconciled to support both programs. After a year, the PC at its meeting in Bled (Oct 2004) reviewed the documentation once again, putting at use the experience acquired during the evaluation of the most recently submitted applications. In some specific instances, the wording on the application form, the guidelines for completion, the policy guidelines, and the website, needed some tuning. In Bled, the Chairman also assembled with the Division Presidents and Standing Committee Chairmen to stress the role of their bodies in the reviewing process. At its meeting in Bled, the PC also considered the misunderstanding around 'sponsorship' and 'financial support'. Although it might appear that for many people outside IUPAC, 'sponsorship' implies financial support, this is not the case within the IUPAC organization. The traditional 'IUPAC sponsor' label should be preserved unchanged.

A review of the forms and guidelines was completed early Jan 2005, which led to a documentation that clearly reflects the policy guidelines. The documents - FSC New Directions in Chemistry and FSC Scientifically Emerging Regions are presented as two separate documents with the corresponding guidelines integrated in the forms.

Originally, the Conference Policy Development Committee proposed, and the Bureau approved, a program that stimulates Divisions and Operational Standing Committees through proactive efforts. This aspect was highlighted at the DP meeting in Bled.

For the 2004-2005 biennium, the funding available for this program is USD 65 000. The PC reached his commitments limit in April 2005. Yet, concurrently, as the program is becoming more widely known, it is expected that more applications will be submitted.

The PC plans to improve its evaluation procedure and to implement a review cycle to overcome the problem of having to turn down applications because of shortage of budget. The guidelines for applications shall be unchanged, but the PC will discuss in Beijing the evaluation procedure by considering the following points:

1. Applications should be submitted preferably one year prior to the start of the conference to allow for careful evaluation.
2. To reinforce/enforce the role and involvement of the Divisions and Committees, applicants should address themselves directly to the appropriate Division President or Committee Chairman as explained in the guidelines. Applications that do not follow this rule should be sent back to the submitter with an indication of how to handle them.
3. Conferences requesting funding under the program for Scientifically Emerging Regions should be held in these regions, or, exceptionally, in their direct vicinity.
4. Partial/incomplete applications (mostly missing budget information) will not be distributed to the PC for evaluation, with the intent of 'gaining' time. Only completed applications including a full review and recommendation from the supporting Division or Standing Committee will be considered.
5. A review cycle of 4 or 6 months will be considered instead of the current practice that is to review the applications when they are filed. For such a period a proportional part of the total budget will be available. In principle, this procedure opens the possibility to set up a ranking of the applications which makes the procedure more competitive.

Annex

Projects that received financial support by the PC between 9 June 2003 (date of the previous report to the Council) and 31 December 2003.

The dollars amount granted by the PC is highlighted as bold; for projects that are interdivisional, that amount is bold and underlined. In the period of 9 June – 31 Dec 2003, the total amount granted by the PC was USD 71500:

XML-based IUPAC standard for experimental and critically evaluated thermodynamic property data storage and capture

2002-055-3-024M. Frenkel	CPEP	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
6/19/2003	9/2/2003	10000 (10000)

Terminology, quantities and units concerning production and applications of radionuclides in radiopharmaceutical and radioanalytical chemistry

2003-015-2-500M.L. Bonardi	Div V	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
3/28/2003	9/5/2003	16000 (21000) + Div V: 5000

Selected free radicals and critical intermediates: Thermodynamic properties from theory and experiment

2003-024-1-100B. Ruscic	Div I	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
7/25/2003	10/16/2003	17000 (22000) + Div I: 5000

A critical compendium of pesticide physical chemistry data

2003-011-3-600D. Wauchope and D. Shaw	Div VI and V	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
10/8/2003	11/11/2003	7000 (15000) + Div VI: 4000 + Div V: 4000

Classification, terminology and nomenclature of borophosphates

2003-034-1-200M. Kizilyalli	Div II and VIII	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
8/19/2003	12/29/2003	16000 (22000)

Solving in the problem of arsenic contamination in water in Bangladesh

2003-050-1-021 S. Ahuja and J. Malin	CHEMRAWN	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
10/28/2003	12/30/2003	5500 (5000)

Projects that received financial support by the PC since 1 January 2004.

The total amount granted by the PC as of 21 May 2005 is USD 106300:

Graphical representation standards for chemical structure diagrams

2003-045-3-800B. Town	Div VIII	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
10/14/2003	3/18/2004	24000 + Div VIII: 11000 (35000)

Young ambassadors for chemistry

2003-055-1-050L. Schoen	CCE	
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
11/17/2003	5/25/2004	12000 + CCE: 4000 (16000)

Reference methods, standards and applications of photoluminescence

2004-021-1-300E. San Roman and F. Brouwer Div III, I and V

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
4/21/2004	7/30/2004	<u>4000</u> + Div III: 5000 + Div I: 2500 + Div V: 2500 (14000)

Standardization of analytical approaches and analytical capacity-building in Africa

2004-017-1-500W. R. Benson Div V and VI

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
3/19/2004	8/17/2004	<u>3000</u> + Div V: 5000 + Div VI: 2000 (10000)

Categorizing hydrogen bonding and other intermolecular interactions

2004-026-2-100E. Arunan Div I

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
8/13/2004	10/18/2004	<u>7000</u> + Div I: 7000 (17000)

Establishing recommended data on thermodynamic properties of hydration for selected organic solutes

2004-036-1-100V. Majer Div I

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
9/29/2004	12/29/2004	<u>13000</u> + Div I: 2000 (14000)

Comparable pH measurements by metrological traceability (revised title)

2004-005-2-500M.F. Camoes Div V

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
8/10/2004	1/4/2005	<u>2300</u> + Div V: 4000 + Div I: 1000 + Div VI: 1000 (8300)

IUPAC-NIST Chemical Identifier (INChI) promotion and extension

2004-039-1-800A. McNaught Div VIII

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
11/1/2004	1/19/2005	<u>10000</u> + Div VIII: 5000 (15000)

A database of water transitions from experiment and theory

2004-035-1-100J. Tennyson Div I

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
10/1/2004	1/19/2005	<u>20500</u> + Div I: 4000 (24500)

Design of polymer education material for french speaking countries

2004-037-1-400G. Froyer Div IV and CCE

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
10/19/2004	3/29/2005	<u>3500</u> + Div IV: 0 + CCE: 1500 (5000)

Terminology and measurement techniques of starch components

2004-022-3-400M. Fitzgerald Div IV, VI, and VII

<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>
12/1/2005	5/13/2005	<u>7000</u> + Div IV: 0 + Div VI: 0 + Div VII: 0 (7000)

Conferences that received financial support by the PC

- Approved during the first year of the program, between 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2003

(events listed in the order of granting date)

Between 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2003, the total amount granted was USD 36100

- CHEMRAWN Consultation Forum - Innovation in the Chemical Industry: the Way from Pure to Applied Chemistry [New Directions, Chremrawn]
Ottawa (GA/IUPAC Congress2003), August 2003 > USD 3100
- Biophysical Complexity [New Directions, div I]
Southampton, UK, April 2003 > USD 4000
- Chemical Thermodynamics, 18th IUPAC Conference on (ICCT 18) [Emerging Region, div I]
China; Aug 2004 > USD 10000
- Physical Chemistry of Bio-Interfaces [New Directions, div I]
Australia, May 2004 > USD 5000
- Chemistry Conference in Africa (ICCA 9) [Emerging Region]
Tanzania, Aug 2004 >USD 4000
- UNESCO Introductory Course & Conference on Macromolecules - Polymers in Medicine, Nanotechnology and Degradation [Emerging Region & New Directions, div IV]
South Africa, Apr 2004 >USD 10000

- Approved since 1 January 2004 (up to 21 May 2005)

The total amount granted as of 21 May 2005 = USD 70760.

- DNA Supramolecular Assemblies [New Directions, div VII]
France, May 2004 > USD 5000
- Environmental Significance of Mineral-Organic Component-Microorganism Interactions in Terrestrial Systems [New Directions, div VI]
China, Sep 2004 > USD 3060
- Chemical Education and Sustainable Development [Emerging Region, CCE]
Russia, Nov 2004 >USD 5000
- UNESCO School & IUPAC Conference on Macromolecules – Biopolymer [Emerging Region, IV]
Mauritius, June 2005 > USD 10000
- Nanotechnology: Science and Application (NanoTech Insight '05) [Emerging Region & New Directions, div I & II]
Egypt (Luxor), Feb 2005 > USD 7000
- Solution Chemistry, (ICSC-29) [New Directions, div I & V]
Slovenia (Portoroz), Aug 2005 > USD 4200
- Chemical Thermodynamics (RCCT-2005) [Emerging Region, div I]
Russia (Moscow), June 2005 > USD 5000
- Analytical Chemistry and Chemical Analysis [Emerging Region, div V]
Ukraine (Kiev), Sep 2005 > USD 5000

- Enhancing Students' Interest in Learning Science, European Science Education Research Association (ESERA) [New Directions, CCE]
Spain(Barcelona), Aug 2005 > USD 5000
- Remediation of Groundwater Contamination by Arsenic [Emerging Region, Chemrawn]
Bangladesh (Dhaka), Dec 2005 >USD 5000
- Advanced Materials (WAM III) focusing on Nanostructured Advanced Materials, IUPAC New Direction in Chemistry [New Directions, div II]
South Africa (Stellenbosch), Sep 2005 >USD 10000 (note_1)
- Nuclear Analytical Methods in the Life Sciences (NAMLS-8) [Emerging Region, div V]
Brazil (Rio de Janeiro), April 2005 >USD 4000
- Molecular Mobility and Order in Polymer Systems [Emerging Region, div IV]
Russia (Saint-Petersburg), June 2005 >USD 2500