

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.

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.

The projects that received financial support by the PC since the last report to Council dated 20 June 2005 and since the beginning of the current biennium are listed in the annex. As of today, and out of its 2006-2007 budget of USD 110 000, the PC made commitments for a total USD 71 345, covering 8 projects. Out of these 8 approved projects, 1 was interdivisional.

Comparison with previous biennia

	\$ PC budget	\$ PC spending	# of projects supported
2000-01		152 500	10
2002-03	250 000	170 000	18
2004-05	110 000	110 000	12
2006-07	110 000	71 345*	8*

as of 16 May 2007

Financial Support for Conferences

As a result of a Bureau decision in 2002, the PC 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.

A review of the forms and guidelines was completed early January 2005 and again later in October after the General Assembly. The documents - FSC New Directions in Chemistry and FSC Scientifically Emerging Regions - clearly reflect the policy guidelines.

For the 2004-2005 biennium, the funding available for this program was USD 65 000. The PC reached this commitments limit in April 2005. At its meeting in Beijing (August 2005), the PC made plans to improve its evaluation procedure and to implement a review cycle to overcome the problem of having to turn down applications submitted later in the biennium because of shortage of budget. The guidelines for applications were basically unchanged, but the following points were implemented to clarify and facilitate the procedure:

1. A statement was added in the form clearly specifying that the FSC program is for modest financial support of typically of the order of USD 4 000.
2. A statement was added in the guidelines that clearly requested to submit the applications at least one year prior to the start of the conference in order to allow for careful evaluation.
3. A review cycle every 6 months was implemented. In each period a proportional part of the total budget is made available. This procedure opens the possibility to set up a ranking of the applications which makes the program more competitive.

Practically, the Secretariat keeps acknowledging the applications when they are submitted and inform the submitter and the relevant Division officers of the next review cycle in which the specific application will be evaluated.

On January 1 and on July 1, the PC is asked to review the applications. A decision is reached within a month. Such timing, together with the requirement of a submission date of one year prior to the event still allow for a decision from the PC to be communicated to the Organizer not less than 5 months prior to the event.

4. 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.
The Secretariat should make sure that the applications that reach the PC have the necessary Division endorsement.
5. When funds are allocated to support the travel of young scientists, such payment should be made directly to the recipients, and the Secretariat should made arrangements directly with the organizers to cover travel expenses. If a lump sum is allocated, a report detailing the expense of IUPAC funds should be requested soon after the event.

Experiences gained while running the first cycles of review result in a closer and more regular consultation between the Secretariat and the Project Committee Chairman to avoid that filed applications stay unattended and to ensure that proper endorsement by the corresponding Division is completed in a timely manner.

For the 2006-2007 biennium, the funding available for this program is again USD 65 000. As of today, and in result of the 3 cycles of reviews performed in January and July 2006, and January 2007, the PC made approved support for 8 conferences for a total of USD 35 640.

Annex

Projects that received financial support by the PC between 20 June 2005 (date of the previous report to the Council) and 11 August 2006.

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 20 June – 31 December 2005, the total amount granted by the PC was USD 3 700:

IUPAC Stability Constants Database – completion of data collection up to 2006

2005-014-1-500	Kip Powell	Div V
<i>Date of decision</i>	<i>Amount granted (requested)</i>	
19 September 2005	3 700 (14 800) + Div V: 3 000 + SG: 8 100*	

* Additional funds were supplied by the Secretary-General and the Treasurer in order to supplement the PC budget.

Projects that received financial support by the PC since 1 January 2006.

The total amount granted by the PC as of 16 May 2007 is USD 71 345:

Chemistry in a changing world – new perspectives concerning the IUPAC family

2006-030-1-022	Jonas Unger	COCI
<i>Date of decisions</i>	<i>Amount granted (/ requested)</i>	
11/16/2006	6000 + COCI: 6000 (/ 12000)	

Crop protection chemistry in Asia: Harmonized approaches for safety evaluation, regulation, and protection of trade

2006-017-2-600	K.D. Racke	Div VI
<i>Date of decisions</i>	<i>Amount granted (/ requested)</i>	
11/30/2006	6000 + Div VI: 3000 (/ 9000)	

Responsible Application of Chemistry. An Introduction to Responsible Care

2006-047-1-022	Bernard West	COCI
<i>Date of decisions</i>	<i>Amount granted (/ requested)</i>	
12/20/2006	4500 + COCI: 4500 (/ 9000)	

Preferred IUPAC Names (PINs) for Inorganic Compounds

2006-038-1-800	Richard Hartshorn	Div VIII
<i>Date of decisions</i>	<i>Amount granted (/ requested)</i>	
12/26/2006	9820 + Div VIII: 7000 (/ 30000)	

Principles of Chemical Nomenclature - revision

2006-029-1-800	G.J. Leigh	Div VIII
<i>Date of decisions</i>	<i>Amount granted (/ requested)</i>	
12/26/2006	20325 + Div VIII: 10000 (/ 45000)	

Wet surface vibrational spectroscopy experiments

2006-050-3-100	J McQuillan	Div I, CCE
<i>Date of decisions</i>	<i>Amount granted (/ requested)</i>	
3/14/2007	4200 + Div I: 2500 + CCE: 1500 (/ 8200)	

IUPAC-UNESCO-UNIDO Safety Training Program Workshop, Turin, Italy

2006-051-1-022	M. Cesa	COCI
<i>Date of decisions</i>	<i>Amount granted (/ requested)</i>	
3/14/2007	17000 + COCI: 1500 (/ 21500)	

The Social Responsibility of Chemists: Responsible Stewardship

2006-043-3-050

Natalia Tarasova

COCI

*Date of decisions**Amount granted (/ requested)*

4/17/2007

3500 + CCE: 3500 (/ 7000)

Conferences that received financial support by the Project Committee

FSC approved at the GA in Beijing (August 2005)

- Photodynamics, IVth International meeting [Emerging Region, Div I]
Havana, Cuba, 6-10 February 2006 - support USD 5 000

FSC approved during the 1st review cycle of January 2006

The total amount granted in this cycle = USD 16 640

- New Directions in Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation of Chemical Sciences at Tertiary Level [Emerging Region, CCE]
Colombo, Sri Lanka, 11-12 March 2006 - support USD 3 740
- Workshop on Biocalorimetry and Biological Thermodynamics (WBBT 2006) [Emerging Region, Div I]
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 30 April-4 May 2006 - support USD 3 900
- Occupational Health and Safety Management in East Africa [Emerging Region, COCI]
Nairobi, Kenya, 27-29 September 2006 - support USD 5 000
- Mycotoxins and Phycotoxins, XIIth International Symposium on (ISMP) [Emerging Region, Div VI]
Istanbul, Turkey, 21-25 May 2007 - support USD 4 000

FSC approved during the 2nd review cycle of July 2006

The total amount granted in this cycle = USD 9 000

- Coordination Chemistry (37th ICC) [Emerging Region, Div II]
Cape Town, South Africa, 13-18 August 2006 - support USD 4 000
- Chemistry Education in the Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) Age (20th ICCE) [Emerging Region, CCE]
Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius, 3-8 August 2008 - support USD 5 000

FSC approved during the 3rd review cycle of Jan 2007

The total amount granted in this cycle = USD 10 000

- 5th IUSS International Symposium of Interactions of Soil Minerals with Organic Components and Microorganisms [Emerging Region, Div VI]
Pucón, Chile, 26-30 November 2008 - support USD 6 000
- International Workshop on Infrared Spectroscopy Applied to Biological and Biomimetic Systems (From the Isolated Molecule to the Cell) [Emerging Region, Div I]
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 5-7 November 2007 - support USD 4 000