

Article 2 of the ICSP statutes states:

Full Members. Each Member Society of the BAM Division of the IUMS is entitled to appoint one Full Member to the ICSP by means of a letter to the Executive Secretary of the ICSP. Full Members may be appointed at any time. A Member Society is not obliged to appoint a member, and such positions will be considered to be vacant until a member is appointed.

1. The tenure of a Full Member is for one three-year term. A term begins upon appointment by a Member Society and ends either upon appointment of another Full Member by the Member Society or on 1 April 2020, or every three years thereafter. Full Members shall be eligible for re-appointment by his or her Member Society for an indefinite period.

Certainly one problem is that the IUMS website lists societies that are no longer members, organisations that either have not existed for 5 years or more and organisations that have since been re-organised and re-named. Perhaps some are even missing. A very difficult area to establish a fundamental aspect of Article 2 of the ICSP statutes. However, my experience is that the IUMS secretary-general is always very helpful, providing accurate information. We did have a case of someone sitting in on meetings as a representative of an IUMS member society when the UK Company House records listed the society as having been previously dissolved months before. IUMS also had no record of that society ever having paid membership in the years previous. Strange things have happened, although one would not expect that to be the case.

Article 3

Functions of the ICSP

a) To represent the diversity of interests of different microbiological disciplines on matters concerning the nomenclature of prokaryotes.

Different microbiological disciplines seems to sum up quite well the present e-mail list, although only a small minority can vote. However, I am sure that one can rely on the ICSP membership to represent their interests.

We also have:

Article 18

Officers of the ICSP, including members of the Executive Board, the Judicial Commission, and the Subcommittees of Taxonomy may be removed from office by a vote of the members of the ICSP. Reasons for removal from office include failure to perform the responsibilities of the office, using the

office for purposes other than those specified in the Statutes, and violation of the conflict of interest statement.

I routinely publish a "conflict of interest statement" on all my publications to avoid any misunderstandings, but with the introduction of the "conflict of interest statement" in the last version of the statutes no one has ever asked me for such a statement. I did ask the Judicial Commission for such a statement some years back and if I recall got only two replies. Mine you can extract from the end of my publications.

Prof. Oren's document is very explicit, but is not on the member society letterhead as I would expect from the wording of Article 2. That would clearly authenticate the document - nothing is to be implied or inferred from this observation. What would happen if someone claimed to represent the UK Federation for Culture Collections (hasn't existed for say 10 years), state that they have a new secretary, since we all know that Dr. Fergus Priest sadly passed away and send a delegate to the ICSP?

My original request seemed reasonable, since I have assumed Dr. Dijkshoorn has a file on her PC that could be easily sent out as an attachment. I was not requesting extensive or time consuming website updates. Press reply-to-all button, add attachment, send. Never mind simple requests are often the most difficult to fulfil.

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No affiliation with an employer or organisation is intended or to be inferred