

Statutes of the International Organization for Systematic and Evolutionary Biology

(adopted in Budapest, at the Fifth International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology, on 24th August 1996, and amended in Patras, at the Sixth International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology, on 16th September 2002)

Article I Name and Affiliation

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the International Organization for Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (IOSEB). IOSEB is set up as an Association under the terms of the Swiss Civil Code. Its duration shall be unlimited. Its seat shall be Geneva, Switzerland.

Section 2. IOSEB is affiliated with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), a family of scientific organizations, as the scientific member for Systematic and Evolutionary Biology of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).

Section 3. By the decision of the Plenary Session of the International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB) on 24th August 1996, the assets, rights and responsibilities of that body were transferred to the International Organization for Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (IOSEB). It was also agreed that the name ICSEB should in future be used only for international congresses sponsored by the IOSEB.

Article II Objectives

The objectives of IOSEB are to promote the development of systematic and evolutionary biology by all suitable means, in particular by organizing international meetings of scientists working in those disciplines of biology, and to promote the awareness, among scientists and the public at large, of the importance of systematics and evolutionary biology, and of the indispensability of the research tools in these fields, including systematic collections. Such objectives are to be pursued in co-operation with, and by co-ordination with, other organizations with related objectives, and especially with affiliated organizations.

Article III Membership

Section 1. Other than those classes of registrant arising from Article III, Section 2, below, all persons who register for an ICSEB meeting shall be Regular Members of IOSEB from the commencement of that Congress to the commencement of the subsequent Congress. Registration fees shall be used only to defray the expenses of Congress organization, and not for the benefits of members.

Section 2. There may be additional classes of registrants (e.g. day-fee participant) which are determined for each ICSEB meeting by the local committee and approved by the Officers of the IOSEB.

Section 3. All Regular Members are entitled to one vote at Plenary Sessions of an ICSEB meeting.

Section 4. Subject to a two-thirds majority of the Council, international, national, regional or other organizations with an interest in systematic and evolutionary biology can become Affiliated Organizations of IOSEB. Such Affiliated Organizations shall pay no annual dues but may, where appropriate, be invited by the President to make donations for suitable purposes.

Section 5. Individuals with appropriate interests may become Regular Members of IOSEB between ICSEB meetings by applying to the Council, subject to their election by a two-thirds majority of Council.

Article IV Governance

Section 1. IOSEB shall be governed by a Council.

Section 2. The Council shall consist of the President, VicePresident, Secretary-General and Treasurer, and of elected Councillors up to a maximum number that would result in a Council of 30 members.

Section 3. The Council shall be composed of current members of IOSEB who, because of their contribution in the areas of systematic and evolutionary biology, have been nominated and elected. All members of the Council are expected to participate actively in the programmes and congresses of IOSEB. Nominations for the Council may be made by individual members of the current Council, or by Regular Members, and be submitted to the Secretary-General (or his or her delegate) no later than 48 hours before the final Plenary Session of the ICSEB. From among the nominees, the current Council shall elect new members, guided by the principle that representation on the Council should approximately reflect the activity of systematic and evolutionary biologists in the respective nations. Not every nation need be represented, but no nation may be represented by more than five members of Council. The term of a member shall commence immediately upon election, and terminate at the end of the next Congress thereafter, and cannot be extended for more than two full consecutive terms.

Section 4. The function of the Council shall be to assure the continuity and promotion of the work of IOSEB and to resolve any procedural or organizational questions that may arise between Congresses, or questions that the Officers may refer to it.

Section 5. If an insufficient number of nominations is received at an ICSEB, the Officers shall endeavour to find suitable additional members of Council. Other vacancies on the Council arising between Congresses may be filled on the nomination of the Officers and remaining members of the Council, subject to the approval of a two-thirds majority of those responding.

Section 6. Council shall have the power to co-opt, by a majority vote, up to five additional Councillors for particular tasks. The period of membership of Council of such Councillors shall lapse at the end of the next ICSEB meeting, unless then elected as provided in Article IV, Section 3, above.

Section 7. Council shall have the power to enact By-Laws to facilitate its objectives.

Section 8. Unless otherwise provided herein, decisions of the Council shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast, not counting abstentions.

Section 9. The business of the Council may be conducted by mail, e-mail, fax, or by other means of long-distance communication, as appropriate.

Article V Officers

Section 1. The Officers of IOSEB shall be a President, VicePresident, Secretary-General and Treasurer. They shall be elected by the Council at a special meeting held at each Congress, on the basis of the nominations received. The result of the elections shall be announced at the final Plenary Session.

Section 2. The terms of the Officers shall commence immediately upon election, and shall terminate at the end of the next ICSEB meeting thereafter. When a vacancy in the post of one of the officers occurs between Congresses, the Council may fill the vacancy in accordance with Article IV, Section 5, above. The Secretary-General and Treasurer, but not the President and Vice-President, are eligible for not more than one additional consecutive term in their existing office. Terms as an Officer of IOSEB shall not count for purposes of eligibility as Council member under Article IV, section 3, above.

Section 3. The President shall preside over meetings of the Council and Plenary Sessions of an ICSEB. He or she may preside over other sessions of the Congress, or delegate this task to other members of the IOSEB. The President has the ultimate executive responsibility and authority concerning all business matters of IOSEB. He or she shall endeavour to secure for action of the Council one or more invitations for the next ICSEB meeting.

Section 4. The Secretary-General shall attend all meetings of the Council and the Plenary Sessions of a Congress, and shall keep a record of the decisions of such meetings. The Secretary-General shall ensure that sufficient notice be given of all business meetings of IOSEB, shall assist the President in preparing the agenda for such meetings, shall be responsible for preparing a report of the activities of IOSEB to each General Assembly of the IUBS, and shall submit a report on the activities of IOSEB to the Council at least every three years.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody of the funds and securities of IOSEB, and for keeping full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements, and shall cause to be deposited all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of IOSEB in such depositories as may be approved by Council. The Treasurer shall submit an audited financial report for approval by the Council at least every three years, on the decision of the President. The auditor, or auditors, shall be appointed by, but shall not be members of, the Council.

Section 6. IOSEB funds may be expended only in furtherance of the objectives of IOSEB, and may not be expended in any way that inures to the personal benefit of any member of Council or Officer, apart from reimbursements of expenses actually incurred in furtherance of IOSEB objectives and approved in advance by not less than two other Officers, or else approved subsequently by a simple majority of Council. The Treasurer and one or two other persons approved by the Council are the only persons who may authorize the payment of monies, or sign cheques drawn on any IOSEB accounts.

Article VI Meetings

Section 1. An IOSEB Congress, i.e. an ICSEB, shall be held at a time determined by the Council, but the time between such Congresses shall not normally exceed six years. A meeting place shall be chosen by the Council from among the invitations presented to the President by a date announced in *Biology International*, or at an ICSEB meeting. Notice of the place and date of the next ICSEB shall be advertised, as far as possible, at least two years before the date of the Congress.

Section 2. Preparation for a Congress is the responsibility of the Council, discharged by means of a Local Committee and such other committees and sub-committees as may seem necessary. The Chair of the Local Committee should be a resident of the country that is hosting the Congress, shall be appointed by the Council and shall serve as an *ex-officio* member of the Council. The Local Committee shall be chosen by its Chair, with the advice and consent of the Council. The Secretary-General and the Treasurer shall be members of the Local Committee, shall approve all drafts of budgets for the Congress, and shall endeavour to attend at least one meeting of the Local Committee.

Section 3. With the advice and consent of Council, the Local Committee determines the exact dates and site of the Congress, prepares all non-scientific aspects of the programme, organizes logistic details, and contributes to the planning of the scientific programme.

Section 4. One or more IOSEB Plenary Sessions may be scheduled by the President during an ICSEB, but there shall be a Plenary Session on or before the final day of each Congress, which shall also be a business meeting of IOSEB.

Section 5. Where possible, the agenda of the final Plenary Session shall include announcement of the arrangements and approximate dates of the next ICSEB, announcement of the names of the newly elected Officers and members of Council, the reception of reports from committees, and the consideration of any

resolutions or other business raised. The main purposes of a Plenary Session are to disseminate information concerning IOSEB and to provide an opportunity for its members to express opinions and to make recommendations to the Officers and Council.

Section 6. The Council shall meet near the beginning of, or during, a Congress to receive suggestions and official invitations for the next Congress. A second meeting of the Council shall take place prior to the final Plenary Session to elect the new Officers and Council, and to recommend to the Plenary Session the proposed arrangements for the next Congress.

Section 7. Affiliated Organizations are entitled to nominate an observer, who may attend all meetings of Council.

Article VII Committees

There shall be such standing committees and ad hoc committees as the Council may decide.

Article VIII Publications

Publication of the proceedings of the whole or any part of a Congress is the responsibility of the Local Committee, subject to any necessary financial arrangements being approved in advance by the IOSEB Treasurer.

Article IX Revision of the Statutes

Section 1. Revision of the Statutes may be proposed to the Council by any Member. The Council shall put these proposals, with its recommendations, to the next Plenary Session, for consideration or adoption.

Section 2. Decisions on such Revisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of those present and voting at a Plenary Session and shall have immediate effect.

Section 3. The Statutes cannot be changed during the period between Congresses.

Article X Dissolution

Section 1. A recommendation to dissolve IOSEB shall require a two-thirds vote of the Regular membership attending an ICSEB Plenary Session. Upon adoption of such a recommendation, it shall be forwarded by the Council to the IUBS.

Section 2. If an ICSEB Plenary Session does not take place, or if a proposal as in Article X, Section 1 is made between Congresses, the Council may so decide by a two-thirds majority of those responding.

Section 3. Upon dissolution, any assets remaining shall be transferred to IUBS to be disbursed by that organization in furtherance of the Objectives defined in Article II.

Article XI Other Matters

Matters not specifically addressed in these Statutes are decided by the President, subject to the approval of the Council.

Signed by the President, Werner Greuter, on September 16th 2002