

August 25, 1964

Captain L. Capurro,
Director,
Naval Hydrographic Service,
Marina de Guerra,
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Dear Captain Capurro,

I think the best answer I can give to the questions in your letter of July 31 is to copy the terms under which the Australian Academy of Science (the official Australian body adhering to ICSU) establishes national committees. These terms are -

NATIONAL COMMITTEES (Made 22 February 1957)

1. The National Committees, and their Conveners, are appointed by Council at three-yearly intervals, in June*. All Officers of the Academy are ex-officio members of National Committees.
2. The Convener of a National Committee is responsible for the conduct of its business.
3. A National Committee will contain normally not more than eight appointed members. At the conclusion of the three-yearly term Conveners will be asked to suggest the personnel of the incoming Committee, under the condition that not more than three-quarters of the retiring members shall be re-appointed, except for special reasons.
4. The chief function of a National Committee is to serve as an effective link between Australian scientists and overseas scientists in the same field. To this end it should
 - a ensure the maximum participation by Australian scientists in relevant activities of the International Union or other organization;
 - b keep the International Union or other organization informed at appropriate times of Australian opinions, practices and plans;
 - c advise the Council regarding Australian participation in the work and affairs of the related International Union or organization, including the appointment of delegates to assemblies of Unions or Commissions.

A Committee may also advise the Council regarding the state of the appropriate science in Australia, where a standing committee with this function has not been appointed by Council.

5. A Committee may appoint sub-committees to conduct its detailed business.

In order that a Committee may maintain liaison with particular institutions or with persons with particular knowledge it may also appoint Correspondents.

* The tenure of the present committees expires in June, 1966.

6. A Committee may communicate, through its Convener, directly with the related International Union or organization, and should in general communicate thus directly on matters which do not involve any major commitment for Australia or for the Academy; Council should be informed generally about such communications in the annual report of the Committee, or informed specifically, at any time, on any matter which seems of sufficient importance. The Convener may at his discretion reply to communications from the related Union or organization.
7. The chief matters on which international communications should be made through the Secretaries of the Academy are
 - a notifications regarding personnel of Australian National Committees;
 - b appointments of delegates to Assemblies of Unions or Commissions;
 - c matters of major policy or commitment, and of any financial commitment;
 - d. matters on which it is desired that an opinion carrying the full weight of the Academy be expressed.
8. Committees must almost always conduct their business by correspondence, but, on a sufficiently weighty cause being shown, Council may authorize the provision of travelling expenses for a meeting.
9. Each Committee shall send a Report annually to Council, in December, covering
 - a meetings held and business transacted at meetings or by correspondence
 - b meetings of or convened by the related International Union or organization, and Australian representation and contributions thereat (e.g., papers read);
 - c offices of the Union held by Australians;
 - d reports and recommendations;
 - e recommendations as to membership of the Committee;
 - f names of Correspondents and members of sub-committees.

The Report should in general be in summary form.

The Australian National Committee for Oceanic Research consists of 8 members drawn from universities, the Hydrographic Office, and C.S.I.R.O.

Yours sincerely,

(G.F. HUMPHREY)
Convener of ANCOR