

Clarifications and Historical Background of the Current Status of the IOU Fellows and IOU Members of the International Ornithologists' Union (IOU)

The IOU was incorporated as a tax-exempt member-supported organization in 2009 and had established the banking infrastructure necessary for collecting membership dues by 2015.

Prior to 2009, the IOU's predecessor organization, the International Ornithological Committee (IOC, henceforth called IOCommittee) consisted of members who elected the members of the Executive Committee and any nominated ornithologists. In accordance with its international character, the members of the IOCommittee represented ornithology in their respective countries. The Executive Committee, with the agreement of the IOCommittee, was charged with planning the quadrennial International Ornithological Congresses (IOC, henceforth called IOCongress).

At the IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006, the IOCommittee voted for the incorporation of the IOCommittee into a tax-exempt organization. It created Statutes and Bylaws (see Appendix I) that did not change the status of the members of the IOCommittee, who were encouraged to support the IOCommittee with voluntary monetary donations (see Appendix I).

At the IOCongress in Campos do Jordão, Brazil, in 2010, the IOCommittee revised its Statutes and Bylaws. The IOCommittee was replaced by the Committee of Representatives (COR), which remains the governing entity of the IOU. The COR membership consists of elected Senior Fellows, IOU Fellows, and Associate Representatives. New are the IOU members who can join the IOU and pay voluntary membership dues either in monetary or in-kind form (see Appendix II).

At the IOCongress in Tokyo in 2014, the COR accepted new Bylaws that replaced the former Statutes and Bylaws. The COR as the governing body was replaced by a Council. The Council members are elected by the IOU members who pay membership dues. The Council elects new IOU Fellows from a slate submitted by the Executive Committee. The members of the former COR are named Honorary Fellows. They are exempt of membership dues but are encouraged to make voluntary monetary contributions towards the operating budget of the IOU. They have the same voting rights as ordinary IOU Members (see Appendix III).

At the IOCongress in Vancouver in 2018, the IOU Council accepted revised Bylaws. The IOU members who pay membership dues elect the members of the Council as the governing body. IOU Fellows have the privilege and responsibility of nominating and electing new IOU Fellows. Election of new IOU Fellows shall be at each IOCongress from a list of nominations maintained by the Chair of the Fellows Committee. IOU Fellows shall be selected with consideration of a balance of area of expertise in ornithology, continent, region, country, age, and gender. Furthermore, all areas of ornithology need to be represented by the IOU Fellows. The number of IOU Fellows from each country must be approximately proportional to its ornithological activity or the richness of its avifauna. Fellows, who are paid members of the IOU, may hold office and are entitled to vote (see Appendix IV).

Appendices:
**Excerpts from earlier Bylaws of the IOU regarding the status of the
members of the IOCommittee, IOU Fellows, and IOU members, respectively**

Appendix I:
Statutes and Bylaws accepted at the IOCongress2006 in Hamburg

Article II of the Statutes: Membership and Functions

1. Size. The size of the membership of the IOC is determined by the IOC but may not exceed the number specified in the By-Laws.
2. Representation. The membership shall be representative of the international distribution of ornithologists, and the number of members from each country shall be approximately proportional to its ornithological activity and the richness of its avifauna.
3. Nominations. Nominations for membership in the IOC may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation on the activity and merits of the nominees and must be submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary, and the Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee prior to a congress. Nominees for membership in the IOC shall normally have attended at least one International Ornithological Congress, which may be the one at which they are elected. In addition, eminent ornithologists who have never attended an International Ornithological Congress may be nominated as Associate Members without voting rights, with the proviso that they may become full members of the IOC upon attending an International Ornithological Congress.
4. Election. New members and associate members are elected by the IOC at a regular meeting of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress from a list of nominees prepared by the IOC Nominations Committee and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Election to the IOC requires a simple majority of the IOC members present and voting at a meeting.
5. Term. The term of membership to the IOC is indefinite unless a member resigns voluntarily or is absent from regular meetings of the IOC at two consecutive congresses, whereupon the membership automatically lapses, unless the member petitions the IOC President and the IOC Secretary for retention. IOC members who wish to resign must inform the Secretary of the IOC. Resigned or lapsed members may be re-elected, if they so wish and upon recommendation by the IOC Executive Committee. Associate Members will automatically become full members upon their attendance of an International Ornithological Congress. Members who are over the age of 65, Past IOC Presidents, Past IOC Secretaries, Past IOC Treasurers, Past Secretaries-General, and Past Chairs of the Scientific Program Committee are Emeriti or Emeritae Members and are not required to attend at least every other congress to retain their membership. Emeriti and Emeritae members do not count towards the limit of the membership size specified in the By-laws.
6. Meetings. The IOC meets at least twice during each International Ornithological Congress. The quorum for the transaction of business at a regular meeting consists of the members present at the meeting.
7. Duties. The duties of the IOC are: (a) to select the site of the next International Ornithological Congress; (b) to nominate and elect new members of the IOC; (c) to elect the IOC President, the IOC Vice President, the IOC Treasurer, the IOC Secretary, and any Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress; (d) to nominate and elect the elected members of the IOC Executive Committee; and (e) to take actions appropriate and necessary to carry out the stated objectives and functions of the IOC. The IOC members represent the community of ornithologists of the country in which they reside. The members of the IOC are encouraged to make voluntary monetary contributions at least once a year towards the operating budget of the IOC or to one of its special funds.

Article I of the Bylaws: The Size and Composition of the IOC

The Size and Composition of the IOC: The membership of the IOC shall not exceed 250 IOC Members (i.e., National Representatives). Associate, Emeriti and Emeritae Members are not counted in this limit. IOC Members must be residents of the country they represent.

Appendix II:

Statutes and Bylaws accepted at the IOCongress2010 in Campos do Jordão, Brazil

Article II of the Statutes: The Organizational Entities of the IOU

1. The Membership. The IOU consists of member organizations, member institutions, and individual members (see Article III of the Statutes and Article I of the By-Laws).

2. The Committee of Representatives (COR). The COR is the governing body of the IOU and replaces the former International Ornithological Committee (IOCommittee). The COR membership consists of elected (Senior and IOU) Fellows and Associate Representatives.

Article III of the Statutes: The IOU Membership

Section D. Individual Members

1. Eligibility. Individual membership to the IOU is open to anyone who subscribes to the mission of the IOU and pays the IOU membership dues.

2. Membership Dues. The membership dues of individual members are specified by Article I.2 of the By-Laws.

3. Representation within the COR and IOU. Within the COR, individual members are represented through the Fellows who represent their countries. In the case that no Fellow represents the country of a particular individual member, see Article I.3 of the By-Laws. At IOU meetings, each individual member has one vote.

4. Privileges and Responsibilities. Individual members support the mission of the IOU in their own countries or regions and internationally.

Individual members may nominate Fellows for the IOU offices and EC and distinguished and meritorious ornithologists for COR membership as Fellows or Associate Representatives. Individual members may also at any time directly contact members of the IOU Executive Committee to raise, discuss, and influence issues relevant to international ornithology.

Through their representatives in the COR, individual members vote on candidates for COR membership as Fellows or Associate Representatives, as well as endorse the invitations for the next IOC and the list of candidates for the IOU offices and EC fellowships prepared by the IOU Officers Nominating Committee.

At IOU meetings, individual members may raise, discuss, and influence issues relevant to international ornithology and vote on issues presented to them, such as the site of the next IOC and the list of candidates for the IOU offices and EC fellowships prepared by the IOU Officers Nominating Committee.

Article IV of the Statutes: The Committee of Representatives (COR)

1. Size. The size of the COR membership is determined by the COR members and is specified in Article II.1 of the By-Laws.

2. Membership Categories. There are three categories of COR: (1) IOU Fellows with voting privileges; (2) Senior IOU Fellows with voting privileges; and (3) Associate Representatives without voting privileges.

3. Nominations and Elections. Nominations for membership in the COR and elections of new Fellows and Associate Representatives are regulated by Article II.3 of the By-Laws).

4. Terms. The term of membership to the COR is indefinite, except for IOU Fellows who

resign voluntarily or are absent from regular meetings of the COR at two consecutive IOCs.

5. Responsibilities and Privileges. The COR is the governing body of the IOU and the representational assembly of all IOU members. The COR strives to achieve a balance of continental, regional, national, cultural, age and gender presence through its Fellows. Furthermore, all areas of basic and applied ornithology need to be represented by its Fellows. The number of Fellows from each country must be approximately proportional to its ornithological activity and the richness of its avifauna.

Fellows and Associate Representatives support the mission of the IOU in their own countries or region and internationally and represent the interests of the IOU members in their own country or with which they are affiliated (see Article III.B.3, C.3 and D.3 of the Statutes). Fellows and Associate Representatives may nominate distinguished and meritorious ornithologists for COR membership as Fellows or Associate Representatives (see Article X.B of the By-Laws), but only Fellows may elect them. Fellows and Associate Representatives may raise, discuss, and influence issues relevant to international ornithology, but only Fellows may vote on issues presented to them. Fellows and Associate Representatives may also at any time directly contact members of the IOU Executive Committee to raise, discuss, and influence issues relevant to international ornithology. For responsibilities and privileges reserved for Fellows, see Article II.5 of the By-Laws.

Article I of the Bylaws: The IOU Membership

1. Membership. The IOU membership categories are regulated by Article III.A of the Statutes. Applications for membership by organizations, institutions, and individuals are submitted to the IOU Membership Committee via forms accessed on the IOU website. Applications are vetted by the IOU Membership Committee.

2. Membership Dues. The membership dues of member organizations and member institutions to the IOU is voluntary and may be monetary or in kind, such as expertise, services, consulting, housing for IOU members, travel funds for delegates from low income countries, access to informational or funding resources, etc. The membership dues of IOU individual members shall be proportional to the economic strength of the country in which they reside. The membership dues of IOU individual members shall be determined by the Membership Committee in consultation with the IOU Finance Committee and subject to approval by the Executive Committee. Upon application to the Treasurer (*via* the Secretariat), the membership dues may be reduced or waived for four-year periods at a time to deserving individuals who reside in low-income country.

3. Representation within the COR. In the case that no Fellow is a member of a particular member organization, affiliated with a particular institution, or residing in the country of a particular individual member, these particular IOU members may nominate an individual for election to the COR from the organization, institution or country of the particular IOU member, provided that the nominee meets the eligibility criteria for COR membership.

Article II of the Bylaws: The Committee of Representatives (COR)

1. Size of the Committee of Representatives (COR). The number of IOU Fellows (exclusive of Senior IOU Fellows) shall not exceed 300.

2. Membership Categories and Eligibility Criteria. COR members are distinguished or meritorious ornithologists, who are members of the IOU, have attended at least one IOC, and have been elected as IOU Fellows or Senior IOU Fellows. They have voting privileges and represent the country in which they reside. Senior IOU Fellows are over the age of 65. Associate Representatives are distinguished or meritorious ornithologists who are not IOU members or have never attended an IOC; they do not have voting privileges, but will automatically become Fellows when they meet the eligibility criteria.

3. Nominations and Elections. Nominations for COR membership as Fellow or Associate

Representative are submitted by any IOU member to the Chair of the COR Nominating Committee. New Fellows and Associate Representatives are elected by a simple majority of the Fellows present and voting at a COR meeting from a list of nominees that was prepared by the COR Nominating Committee and endorsed by the Executive Committee.

4. Terms. If a Fellow is absent from COR meetings at two consecutive IOCs, his or her membership automatically lapses, unless he or she petitions the Executive committee (through the Secretary) for retention. Senior IOU Fellows and Associate Representatives are exempt from this rule. COR Members who wish to resign must inform the Secretary. Resigned or lapsed IOU Fellows may be re-elected, if they so wish and upon recommendation by the Executive Committee. Associate Representatives shall automatically become Fellows upon joining the IOU and attending an IOC.

5. Responsibilities and Privileges. Fellows have an obligation to represent the interests of the IOU members in their own country or region or with which they are affiliated. Fellows endorse the invitations for the next IOC and the list of candidates for IOU offices and EC fellowships prepared by the IOU Officers Nominating Committee. Fellows are encouraged to make voluntary monetary contributions at least once a year towards the operating budget of the IOU or to one of its special funds in addition to their regular IOU membership dues.

Associate Representatives may attend the COR meetings and receive communications addressed to the COR membership, but do not have voting privileges until they have met the eligibility criteria for full membership to the COR.

Appendix III:

Bylaws accepted at the IOCongress2014 in Tokyo, Japan

Article III: Membership

1. Any person interested in the discipline of ornithology and willing to pursue the objectives of the Union is eligible for membership.
2. Membership shall be accomplished by application and payment of dues.
3. Each member shall have one vote. Members may vote at meetings of the members in person or by written proxy.

Article V: Council and Council Organization

1. There shall be a governing body of the Union known as the Council.
2. The Council shall consist of the President; President-elect; immediate past President; Vice President, Secretary; Vice President, Finance; Vice President, Membership; Vice President, Communications and Publications; Vice President, IOC Convener and two Council Members at-large. The Council shall:
 - (a) Manage the affairs of the Union.
 - (b) Fill all vacancies in elected positions of the Council. Any such appointment shall extend only until a successor shall be duly elected by the members.
 - (c) Call and organize meetings of the general membership.
 - (d) Invest and administer the funds of the Union
 - (e) Establish and appoint such committees as may be required pursuant to Article IX of these Bylaws.
 - (f) Select a Management Firm and name an Executive Director who will function as the chief operating officer of the Union with responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Union.
 - (g) Elect Fellows of the IOU from a slate thereof put forth by the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Director is an *ex officio* member of Council without voting privileges.

Article X: Honorary Fellows

The members of the former Committee of Representatives (COR) shall be named Honorary Fellows. They are exempt of membership dues but are encouraged to make voluntary monetary contributions towards the operating budget of the IOU. They have the same voting rights as ordinary IOU Members.

Honorary Fellows are responsible for maintaining IOU's stated objectives and purposes (Article II) and to ensure that they are appropriate in every respect. Honorary Fellows may put forth changes to the objectives and purposes for Council consideration and vote. Honorary Fellows are also responsible for the nomination and selection of new Honorary Fellows. New Honorary Fellows should be selected with consideration of a balance of continental, regional, national, cultural, age and gender among their members. Furthermore, all areas of ornithology need to be represented by the Honorary Fellows. The number of Honorary Fellows from each country must be approximately proportional to its ornithological activity or the richness of its avifauna.

Honorary Fellows shall meet at each IOCongress where they shall select and elect new Honorary Fellows. The quorum for the transaction of business at these meetings consists of the Honorary Fellows present and voting at the meeting.

Appendix IV

Bylaws accepted at the IOCongress in Vancouver in 2018

https://www.internationalornithology.org/PDF/Bylaws_8-20-18.pdf

Article III - Membership

1. Membership in the Union shall consist of the following types, as further defined below: Regular, Student, Retired, Post Doc/Early Professional, Member from a low-income economy, Student Member from a low-income economy, and Institutional. The Council may create additional classifications of Members with the criteria and privileges the Council establishes at that time. Any person or institution interested in Ornithology and willing to pursue the objectives and abide by the policies of the Union is eligible for membership. Memberships are for a term of twelve (12) months from the receipt of the Member's dues.

Article V - Council and Council Organization

1. There shall be a governing body of the Union known as the Council.

Article X - Fellows

The IOU may recognize eminent and/or meritorious ornithologists for their contributions to ornithology by bestowing upon them the honor of IOU Fellow. IOU Fellows have the privilege and responsibility of nominating and electing new IOU Fellows. Election of new IOU Fellows shall be at each IOCongress from a list of nominations maintained by the Chair of the Fellows Committee. IOU Fellows shall be selected with consideration of a balance of area of expertise in ornithology, continent, region, country, age, and gender. Furthermore, all areas of ornithology need to be represented by the IOU Fellows. The number of IOU Fellows from each country must be approximately proportional to its ornithological activity or the richness of its avifauna. Fellows, who are paid members of the IOU, may hold office and are entitled to vote.