

Membership Committee for the period 2009 - 2012.

Activity of IFMBE Membership Committee 2009 - 2012

chair: Akos Jobbagy

members: Laura Roa

Fernando A. Infantosi

Gon Khang

Depei Liu

Shankar M. Krishnan

Alan Murray

Kenneth I. Nkuma-Udah

Ichiro Sakuma

James Goh (SG, ex officio)

We tried to elect a vice-chair but this was not successful. However, the amount of work does not necessitate having a vice-chair.

There were several individual membership applications. The committee evaluated the applications and forwarded its suggestion to the SG.

There was a society's application: a second BME Society from Australia. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee supported the application. An explanation from Richard Kirsner helped our committee to decide, and also support the application.

IFMBE leaders asked for the opinion of the Membership Committee in the following three matters.

(1) There are 6 - 8 member societies of IFMBE who haven't paid their membership fee for a long time, for at least 3 years. What should IFMBE do? The proposed action is to put these societies to 'observer' status, and revoke their voting right.

(2) Individual members never pay their dues. The fee is in harmony with the national GDP, can be around 20 euros a year. Efforts for collecting these dues may cost more. The suggestion is that for individual members there is no fee for 5 years, but they are expected to organize their national BME society within this time. Should they fail to do so, IFMBE ceases their individual membership.

(3) IFMBE can offer corporate membership for BME companies. They would not get voting right, but could send observers to GA. They would pay a fee but get discount at World Congresses if they exhibit their products. The exact fee and discount would be decided upon later, this time we need to give an opinion on the idea.

The committee's opinion was the following.

(1) For those societies that do not pay, we should look at their cases individually. What is the reason? Is the membership figure they quote based on informal membership with no fee income? Offering them Observer status could be a very positive option for them while we help them. This should not be considered a punishment. Even if they have the means to pay we should be

encouraging them (and helping them) to become full members, and seeing Observer status as a way towards that.

(2) It is pragmatic to waive the fees, but this could increase applications, which might be a good thing. We could then put all applications from one country in contact with each other. Some of them will have no idea and no means of organising a national application. So this would need lots of help from IFMBE, and perhaps from an adjacent country.

(3) The committee supports it.

The committee has been functioning through e-mail communication, thus did not ask for financial support.

Akos Jobbagy