

Report of the IFMBE Constitution & Bylaws Committee

HF Voigt, Chair; Elliot Vernet; Olof Lindahl

1 June 2017

Report and recommendation regarding the Application to join the IFMBE by the Associação Brasileira de Engenharia Clínica (the Brazilian Society of Clinical Engineering, ABEClin).

Process: Committee members Vernet and Lindahl independently reviewed the application and Bylaws of the ABEClin. These were reviewed by the Chair who then conducted his own review.

Among the observations were:

1. One person, Alexandre Hermini, serves simultaneously as General Secretary and Vice-president.
2. The translation of the Bylaws into English introduces some ambiguities.
3. In addition to a President, there are 5 vice-presidents in addition to the executive vice president (Article 5)
4. Since the SBES and the ABEClin are willing to work as a team, if the SBES directs all aspects of clinical engineering to ABEClin without the need for a special ABEClin affiliation to IFMBE, the objectives of ABEClin can be achieved with the help from the Brazilian Society of Biomedical Engineering
5. In Brazil there is already an IFMBE-affiliated biomedical engineering society, so it seems redundant to affiliate two societies even when their area of study is different, in my opinion ABEClin should be an organization of the Brazilian Society of Biomedical Engineering.
6. The IFMBE constitution states that only one society per country may be affiliated to the federation and that only in special cases will two associations be allowed per country.
7. The society seems to only organize clinical engineers, no scientific people seems to be engaged.
8. The Society's Bylaws states it will deal with ethical issues that arise.
9. The bylaws are difficult to read, filled with lots of strange details and must be reorganized and corrected.

Summary review and recommendation:

1. The application is straight forward, but there are some concerns offered by the current Brazilian BME Society affiliated to the IFMBE.
 - There is a concern that the new Society will adversely affect the relationship between the current IFMBE-affiliated Society and the IFMBE.
2. This is not a new Society; requiring it to merge with the current IFMBE-affiliated Brazilian Society is not reasonable or appropriate.
3. The Bylaws are a little loose in using interchangeable words for the same thing – e.g., Committee vs Commission.
4. Several editorial suggestions to the Bylaws have been offered for consideration; there may be other changes desired.
5. There is no fundamental objection to the structure of the administrative order (e.g., 5 Vice-presidents). This is seen in other organizations.
6. The ABEClin has a commitment to discover new knowledge in Clinical Engineering, and thus is compatible with the IFMBE's mission as a scientific organization.
7. The Bylaws need to be rewritten so they are gender neutral.
8. There is a precedent for having two Societies representing one Nation – one a Medical & Biological Engineering Society and the other a Clinical Engineering Society.
9. We recommend that the Application to join the IFMBE by the ABEClin be approved contingent on receiving an appropriately revised Bylaws taking into account the points offered above.

Respectfully submitted,



Herb Voigt, Chair

IFMBE Constitution & Bylaws Committee