



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETIES (IUMRS)

## STATUTES

Approved at the IUMRS Annual General Assembly, Korea, 25 October, 2015

### I. Description and Objectives

- A. The International Union of Materials Research Societies (referred to as IUMRS throughout this document) is constituted as an international union of technical groups or societies which have interest in promoting interdisciplinary materials research. The aim of IUMRS is exclusively not for profit. The terms General Assembly and Executive Council, as employed in these Statutes, are defined by Articles V.A and V.B, respectively.
- B. The objectives of IUMRS are:
1. To facilitate international cooperation among materials research organizations.
  2. To contribute to the advancement of materials research in all its aspects.
  3. To advance the multidisciplinary nature of materials research internationally.
  4. To promote information exchange among national or regional societies with interests in interdisciplinary materials research, and to work to coordinate their activities.
  5. To promote communication of international materials research activities through appropriate media.
  6. To publish international communications and reviews.
  7. To coordinate, develop, promote and encourage series of distinguished international conferences, workshops and outreach activities, in collaboration with IUMRS members worldwide.
  8. To promote materials science education worldwide.
- C. IUMRS shall have the power:
1. To establish and develop a vigorous and productive union of materials research organizations.
  2. To foster the establishment of national or regional groups or societies whose primary interest embraces interdisciplinary materials research.
  3. To provide information to assist developing materials research societies or groups, concerning services and resources which may be available from established societies or groups.

4. To participate in organizing and endorsing appropriate international materials research meetings and related events such as workshops, summer schools, topical meetings, and outreach activities on subjects falling within the purview of IUMRS.
5. To create commissions and other committees for specific tasks.
6. To adhere to the International Council of Scientific Unions and similar super-national organizations.
7. To participate in joint commissions with other unions or other scientific bodies in matters of interest to IUMRS.
8. To engage in professional advocacy relating to issues of public policy in which IUMRS members have relevant expertise or concerns.

## **II. Membership**

### **A. General**

1. Members of IUMRS are:
  - a. Adhering Bodies (societies, or associations of societies, whose purpose is to promote interdisciplinary materials research and that represent a well-defined region of the world);
  - b. Professional Associates (other societies, or associations of societies, whose purpose is to promote materials research).
  - c. Affiliated Organizations (other private or public organizations whose activities and interests serve to support, promote, or benefit from, multi-disciplinary materials research)
2. As employed in these Statutes, the terms “Member” and “Membership” shall apply to Adhering Bodies, Professional Associates and Affiliated Organizations unless further qualified. The term “Partner” shall include Affiliated Organizations and Professional Associates. The term “Adherence” shall apply only to Adhering Bodies.
3. Membership Requirements
  - a. Membership as an Adhering Body in IUMRS is subject to the requirements of Article II.B of these Statutes.
  - b. Membership as a Partner in IUMRS is subject to the requirements of Article III.B or IV.B, as appropriate.
4. Regional Requirements
  - a. Adherence shall be limited to one Adhering Body from a nation or distinct geographical region, as defined by the General Assembly. Applicants for adherence shall be considered with reference to their demonstrated ability and commitment to fruitfully aid in the pursuit of the objectives of IUMRS.
  - b. IUMRS membership as a Partner shall not be constrained by geographic region. Applicants for Partner status shall be considered with reference to their demonstrated

interest in the activities and objectives of IUMRS and in the outcomes of those activities.

- c. Current Adhering Bodies whose region of activity significantly overlaps that of a proposed new Adhering Body shall have the opportunity to review the membership application for mutual compatibility, prior to its presentation for General Assembly or Executive Council action.

#### 5. Categories of Adherence

- a. Participation as an Adhering Body shall be in one of several categories, with corresponding voting powers in the General Assembly and annual financial obligations associated with each category, as detailed below.

| Category of Participation    | I           | II | III | IV | V |
|------------------------------|-------------|----|-----|----|---|
| Number of Votes              | 1           | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5 |
| Number of Unit Contributions | nominal fee | 1  | 3   | 4  | 5 |

The Category of Participation is subject to approval for each Adhering Body by the General Assembly. The General Assembly sets the Unit Contribution in terms of a currency to be designated by the Executive Council and may reassess this Unit Contribution from time to time. Changes will apply to the calendar year following General Assembly approval and continue until subsequent updates take effect.

- b. The highest category available to a specific Adhering Body must be approved by the General Assembly and may be raised or lowered by the General Assembly based on criteria to be enacted by the General Assembly in IUMRS Bylaws or separate resolutions.
  - c. An Adhering Body may choose to participate in any category equal to, or below, the highest category currently approved by the General Assembly.
6. Participation as a Partner is subject to an annual fee, to be set by the General Assembly in terms of a percentage of the Unit Contribution as defined in Article II.A.5a of these Statutes and reviewed from time to time by the General Assembly. An organization may be exempted from this fee by action of the Executive Council, if special circumstances apply, including documented in-kind contributions..

#### B. Application for Adherence

- 1. A request for adherence shall be submitted to the IUMRS Secretary. Detailed application guidelines shall be published by IUMRS. The application should satisfy criteria enacted by the General Assembly in IUMRS Bylaws or separate resolutions.
- 2. Membership as an Adhering Body may be conferred only by approval of the application by the General Assembly, requiring a majority vote of the total voting power assigned to all Adhering Bodies in good standing, whether or not they are participating in-person, electronically, or by proxy in the meeting of the General Assembly where the vote is taken.

C. Cessation of Membership

1. An Adhering Body may withdraw from IUMRS by giving three months advance written notice to the IUMRS Secretary. A Partner organization may withdraw from IUMRS without prior notice. In both cases, fees covering the remainder of the fiscal year in which the withdrawal occurs will be forfeit.
2. The membership of an Adhering Body or Partner is automatically subject to suspension if it has not paid its financial obligations for a period of two consecutive years, provided that it has received a warning six months in advance of the date automatic suspension would occur. Adherence can be reinstated by the General Assembly, and Partner status can be reinstated by the Executive Council, to take effect following payment of financial obligation for the current calendar year. Membership in IUMRS ends automatically if the member organization is dissolved for any reason.
3. An Adhering Body can be expelled from membership if the General Assembly finds that (a) that the relationship of the Adhering Body to the field of interdisciplinary materials research and its practitioners is no longer consistent with the objectives and character of IUMRS, or (b) the Adhering Body has behaved in a manner that reflects poorly on the reputation of IUMRS, or (c) the Adhering Body has not participated in the activities of IUMRS for a period of two consecutive years, or (d) the Adhering Body has not provided a written report of its activities to the General Assembly for a period of two consecutive years. Expulsion requires a two-thirds majority vote of the total voting power assigned to all Adhering Bodies in good standing, whether or not participating in-person, or electronically, or by proxy in the meeting of the General Assembly where the vote is taken.

D. The Founding Adhering Bodies

The Founding Adhering Bodies of IUMRS are the Materials Research Society, the European Materials Research Society; the Chinese Materials Research Society; the Mexican Materials Research Society; the Materials Research Society of Taiwan; the Materials Research Society of Japan; the Materials Research Society of India; the Australian Materials Research Society.

E. Rights and Duties of Members

1. Adhering Bodies

- a. Each Adhering Body is responsible for its own internal structure and organization.
- b. Each Adhering Body is responsible for and free to determine its own activities and is expected to give IUMRS effective prior notice of its technical meetings, workshops, summer schools, and other scheduled programs that may be of interest to the international materials research community. This prior notice should be provided in a timely way.
- c. Each Adhering Body chooses its delegates for meetings of the General Assembly, subject to the limitations in the number of delegates set by the General Assembly. The number of votes accorded to an Adhering Body is determined by its Category of Participation as described in Article II.A.5a of these Statutes. The Adhering Body determines how to divide the available votes among its delegates, noting that fractional votes may not be cast at meetings of the General Assembly.

- d. An Adhering Body must advise the Secretary of any significant change in its purpose, structure or profile, in the course of time.
2. Partners  
See Articles III and IV.

### **III. Professional Associate Membership**

#### **A. General**

1. Professional Associate status may be held by institutions that conduct, support or promote materials research, materials education, or related community outreach, including leading universities, academic, government or industrial research centers, and foundations whose mission complements, reinforces, or links with that of IUMRS. Also included are (a) organizations that promote or fund international exchanges and interactions that involve materials research professionals, and (b) societies involving individuals and consortia whose members are engaged in materials research and its applications.
2. Professional Associate membership is open to qualified organizations regardless of geographical location.

#### **B. Application for Professional Associate Membership**

1. The basic criterion for admission to Professional Associate membership is evidence that the organization supports and will be beneficial to the general objectives of IUMRS.
2. A request for Professional Associate membership must be submitted to the IUMRS Secretary, providing supporting evidence about the organization. A Commission on Membership Affairs or an equivalent committee will review and recommend an action on the application.
3. The Executive Council can approve a request for Professional Associate membership.

#### **C. Rights and Obligations of Professional Associates**

1. Professional Associates are encouraged to participate in the activities and programs of IUMRS and its Commissions.
2. Professional Associates are eligible for benefits to be determined from time to time by the Executive Council.

#### **D. Termination of Professional Associate Membership**

Membership of a Professional Associate may be terminated by action of the Executive Council, if the member is deemed to no longer satisfy the admission criteria of Article III.B.1.

### **IV. Affiliated Organization Membership**

#### **A. General**

1. Affiliated Organization status may be held by businesses or corporations having a local, regional, or global presence and wishing to support or participate in the activities of IUMRS, or benefit from closer interactions with the materials research community.
2. Affiliated Organization status is open to qualified organizations, regardless of geographical location.

#### B. Application for Affiliated Organization Membership

1. The basic criterion for admission to Affiliated Organization membership is evidence that the organization supports and will be beneficial to the general objectives of IUMRS.
2. A request for Affiliated Organization Membership must be submitted to the Secretary of IUMRS, providing supporting evidence about the organization. A Commission on Membership Affairs or an equivalent committee will review and recommend an action on the application.
3. The Executive Council of IUMRS can approve a request for Affiliated Organization membership.

#### C. Rights and Obligations of Affiliated Organizations

1. Affiliated Organizations are encouraged to participate in the activities and programs of IUMRS and its Commissions.
2. Affiliated Organizations are eligible for benefits to be determined from time to time by the Executive Council.

#### D. Termination of Affiliated Organization Membership

Membership of an Affiliated Organization may be terminated by action of the Executive Council, if the member is deemed to no longer satisfy the admission criteria of Article IV.B,1.

### **V. Structure and Organization**

The work of IUMRS shall be conducted by (A) the General Assembly, (B) the Executive Council composed of the officers of IUMRS plus any (non-voting) senior executive staff so designated by action of the officer members of the Executive Council, and (C) Commissions, which may be created and empowered by the Executive Council.

#### A. General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the highest authority of IUMRS and is composed of delegates appointed by the Adhering Bodies. The General Assembly has responsibility for the direction of all affairs and activities of IUMRS.
2. The General Assembly shall
  - a. determine membership fees and assessments for Adhering Bodies, Affiliated Organizations and Professional Associates
  - b. elect the officers who comprise the Executive Council

- c. approve applications for adherence
  - d. determine the number of delegates that may represent an Adhering Body in meetings of the General Assembly
  - e. delegate to the Executive Council those operational responsibilities that it deems appropriate.
3. The General Assembly shall have the power
- a. to amend these Statutes and to formulate and amend Bylaws on any matters not covered by the Statutes
  - b. to establish any board, official position or representative that it may deem necessary for the work of IUMRS
  - c. to dissolve any board, official position or representative appointment previously established when it is no longer deemed necessary
  - d. to suspend or cancel the membership of any Adhering Body in accordance with Articles II.C.2 and II.C.3
4. General Assembly Meetings and Procedure
- a. The Annual General Assembly meeting shall normally be held at the site and time of an international conference hosted by an Adhering Body. A quorum for the Annual General Assembly meeting shall be the participation or representation by proxy of delegates representing two-thirds of the total voting power accorded to all of the Adhering Bodies in good financial standing. In order to be adopted a motion must be accepted by a majority of the votes cast based on voting power assigned to the delegates participating in person or by proxy, unless otherwise noted in these Statutes.
  - b. The meetings of the General Assembly will be conducted according to the procedures outlined by *Robert's Rules of Order*. A Parliamentarian appointed by the Executive Council who is well versed in those Rules may advise the presiding officer of the meetings on procedural issues during the conduct of the General Assembly meetings. Final decisions on procedural issues and Points of Order will be made by the presiding officer, who is normally the President of IUMRS or his/her designee. Additional procedures applicable to its annual and interim meetings shall be enacted by the General Assembly in IUMRS Bylaws or separate resolutions.
5. The maximum voting power available for an Adhering Body in good financial standing at all meetings of the General Assembly, whether in-person, by mail ballot or by electronic means, shall correspond to its Category of Participation according to Article II.A.5a.

## B. Executive Council

1. The voting members of the Executive Council are the officers of IUMRS. These are (a) the President, (b) the First Vice President, (c) the Second Vice President, (d) the Secretary, (e) the Treasurer, and (f) the Immediate Past President. Occupants of any executive staff positions may serve as non-voting, *ex officio* members of the Executive Council.

2. The First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer are elected by the General Assembly. The first Vice President automatically becomes the President when his/her term as Vice President is completed, and becomes Immediate Past President when his/her 2-year term as President is completed. The First Vice President and Second Vice President are elected for two-year staggered terms. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected for two-year staggered terms. The First Vice President and the Secretary are elected in the same year. The Second Vice President and the Treasurer are elected in the same year. The Secretary and the Treasurer may each serve two consecutive terms.
3. Officers must be delegates of Adhering Bodies at General Assemblies, and no more than two officers can represent the same Adhering Body.
4. The Executive Council acts by authority delegated by the General Assembly and is responsible to the General Assembly for overseeing and managing the activities of IUMRS in conformity with the spirit and letter of the Statutes, and implementing the Bylaws and resolutions enacted by the General Assembly. The President or his/her designee presides over the meetings of the General Assembly. The Treasurer administers the finances of IUMRS and prepares the budget. The Secretary or his/her representative is responsible for taking minutes of all General Assembly and Executive Council meetings. Interim meetings and balloting of the General Assembly can be called by the Executive Council.
5. The Executive Council is responsible for the establishment and oversight of Commissions having specific functions integral to the work of IUMRS. Such Commissions are responsible to the Executive Council.
6. The Executive Council is responsible for appointing Chairpersons and members of Commissions, in accordance with criteria enacted by the General Assembly in IUMRS Bylaws or separate resolutions.
7. The Executive Council is responsible for preparing an agenda for meetings of the General Assembly.
8. The Executive Council is empowered to approve applications for sponsorship, co-sponsorship or endorsement of scientific meetings, workshops, or other activities relevant to the interests of IUMRS members.
9. The President is the official spokesperson for IUMRS. Any proposed public policy statements to be issued formally on behalf of IUMRS must first be approved by the Executive Council.

#### C. Commissions

1. Commissions are committees or other bodies created by the Executive Council for specific tasks. They are responsible to the Executive Council. (Article V.B.5)
2. The Chairperson and members of the Commission are appointed by the Executive Council. (Article V.B.6)
3. The Chairperson is responsible for reporting the activities of the Commission to the Executive Council and the General Assembly.



4. A Commission shall be sustained as long as it continues to serve an appropriate function for IUMRS. A Commission may be dissolved by action of the Executive Council if it no longer serves the needs of IUMRS. (Article V.B.5)

## **VI. Finances**

- A. The Executive Council through the Treasurer shall be responsible to the General Assembly for all the financial affairs of IUMRS. The Treasurer is responsible for preparing a projected budget for each successive fiscal year for timely approval by the General Assembly. The General Assembly may enact detailed financial management protocols in IUMRS Bylaws or as individual resolutions.
- B. The Chairperson of each Commission is responsible to the Executive Council for expenditures of funds by the Commission. The projected budget for each Commission should be included in the IUMRS projected budget. Commission expenditures beyond those budgeted require specific approval by the Executive Council.

## **VII. Liability**

- A. IUMRS is liable only to the extent of its assets. No Member is individually liable for IUMRS debts and liabilities.
- B. Liabilities of the Adhering Bodies to IUMRS are limited to the payment of their predetermined number of Unit Contributions as authorized under Article II.A.5a of these Statutes and to any other contributions they may have pledged. Liabilities of Partners to IUMRS are limited to the payment of their fees as authorized under Article II.A.6 of these Statutes.
- C. No officer of IUMRS shall be individually liable for the corporate debts and liabilities of IUMRS.
- D. IUMRS shall not accept liability for any personal loss, damage, or accident sustained by an individual, not being an employee of IUMRS, while engaged in any activity, including travel, on behalf of IUMRS or of any Member.
- E. IUMRS is prohibited from making any representation or commitment, financial or otherwise, in the name of any Member without the written consent of that Member.
- F. IUMRS shall not accept liability resulting from actions or obligations made independently by any Member.

## **VIII. Dissolution of IUMRS**

IUMRS shall not be dissolved except on a motion presented at a meeting of the General Assembly. A two-thirds majority vote based on the total voting power of all Adhering Bodies, whether or not participating, is required for dissolution. In the event of dissolution of IUMRS, net assets will be divided among current Adhering Bodies in proportion to their Category of Participation.

## **IX. Amendments to the Statutes**

Amendments to the Statutes can be made by the General Assembly. A two-thirds majority of the total voting power of all Adhering Bodies participating in the meeting of the General Assembly, whether directly or by proxy, is required for adoption.

## **X. Bylaws**

The General Assembly may enact and subsequently amend, by a majority of the total voting power of all Adhering Bodies participating in the meeting of the General Assembly, whether directly or by proxy, regulations or bylaws to administer IUMRS.

## **XI. Legal Forms, Duration, Domicile, Language, Seat**

- A. IUMRS is organized under the name International Union of Materials Research Societies. It is governed by the laws of the legal domicile of IUMRS and the present Statutes.
- B. The duration of IUMRS is not limited.
- C. The legal domicile of IUMRS is Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America. A change in legal domicile must be approved by a majority of the total voting powers of all Adhering Bodies, whether or not participating in the meeting where the question arises.
- D. English is the official language of IUMRS. The English text of records shall be considered the official and binding records of IUMRS.
- E. The Seat of IUMRS shall be the place of formal incorporation of IUMRS.

Revised Statutes, August 29, 2001

Amendments approved by action of the General Assembly, June 11, 2002.

Statutes verified without change July, 2006.

Statutes revised, June 11, 2014, by General Assembly, Taipei.

Current draft: proposed and approved at General Assembly 25 October 2015.