

BP 2017:3: Rules for providing funding for Board Members

When the Board decided to expand its membership in Xi'an in 2010, it was agreed that members' travel would be funded every other year. In that year, we drew lots to decide the starting pattern of funding and allowed trading of funding slots. It turned out that the old system prevented some Asian members from ever receiving support to participate in African events because the location changed in sync with their entitlement.

But we could not maintain the pattern. We need a new procedure. We have budgeted for travel of only 10 Board Members at each event. Even now, what we spend on the Board is around 50 percent of what we spend on Young Scholars. I cannot justify anything more. But this means hard choices have to be made. And lived with. All affected must understand why we have to fund some people and not others; they must understand the procedure and must be comfortable with its fairness.

We have to hit restart. The new proposal mixes up African and Asian Board members. But I have not been able to eliminate the problem of some always getting funding for Asia and others always getting support for travel to Africa, because the entitlement alternates with the same frequency as does the location. But by restarting the process, we now start with an almost even African and Asian mix in each group.

I propose the following rules.

1. The presence of the Chair and the Alternate Chair are essential for the effective functioning of the program. If they can come, their travel will be funded. If we keep to the established tradition, one will be from Asia and the other from Africa. The two-year terms are short, which means that this entitlement also gets spread around.
2. That leaves 18 unfunded Members.
3. We need an initial entitlement of travel funding for nine Board Members (or half that number). They will be offered funding in 2017 (Asia). The other nine will be entitled to travel funding in 2018 (Africa). Mutual trades will be allowed, but once it occurs those who traded have to stay with the new entitlements and cannot switch back other than through another mutual trade. The administrative partner has to be informed of trades and will maintain a database.
4. Unutilized entitlements expire, irrespective of reason.
5. There are six new members. To enable them to engage with the organization, it is proposed that they be included in the initial entitlements. That leaves three slots.
6. Professors Jhunjunwala and Rho did not attend the 2016 conference. Even earlier, they did not utilize travel funding. It is proposed that they be given 2017 entitlements.
7. The last 2017 entitlement may be offered to Dr Naidoo who did not attend the 2016 conference.
8. The remaining nine members will be entitled to travel funding in 2018.
9. All Board Members are encouraged to find their own travel support, but they can be assured that every other year, they will receive travel support. If any Member makes his/her own way to the location, accommodation will be provided by CPRsouth.
10. Funding in subsequent years will follow the above sequence of alternating entitlements. We will henceforth have half the board terms expiring at one time so this should work smoothly. The only complication I foresee is if we choose to increase the number of Board members, which I hope we will not do. Twenty is a big number.

Name	2017 Asian location	2018 African location
Alison Gillwald, PhD, Alternate Chair	x	x
Ashok Jhunjhunwala, PhD	x	
Erwin Alampay, PhD		x
Helani Galpaya	x	
Jae Jeung Rho, PhD	x	
Kameshnee Naidoo, PhD	x	
Krishna Oolun, PhD	x	
Lishan Adam, PhD		x
Monica Kerrets Makau, PhD	x	
Muhammad Aslam Hayat		x
Nirmita Narasimhan, PhD	x	
Olivier Nana Nzepa, PhD	x	
Payal Malik		x
Pirongrong Ramasoota, PhD		x
Rohan Samarajiva, PhD, Chair	x	x
Supriya Singh, PhD		x
Timothy Waema, PhD		x
Tracy Cohen, PhD	x	
Wallace Chigona, PhD		x
Zhong Liu, PhD		x