Proposed Revision of IPA's Constitution and By-Laws.

The intent of many minor adjustments we have suggested should be self-evident. Here we briefly explain the basis on which we have suggested more substantive changes.

• Article II. The aim of IPA as specified in its existing document refers only to its disciplinary scope. We have suggested inclusion of some broad language referring to the conduct of our work and the kind of global community of palaeontologists that IPA exists to encourage, specifying some general expectations.

We have added the development of PaleoParks to the list of IPA's specified activities.

• Article III. Membership. This section has been updated to include recognition of Affiliated Ordinary Members who are current members or student members of any organization that is a current, dues-paying Corporate Member of IPA.

• Article VI. Officers. The number of Vice-Presidents is increased from five to six to facilitate further diversification of the elected leadership of IPA.

• Article VII. Executive Committee. Following recent practice, membership in the committee has been expanded to include the immediate Past-President. The intent of this change is to enhance IPA's institutional memory across transitions of leadership.

• Article VIII. The Council. Delegates appointed by Corporate Member societies will automatically be Affiliated Ordinary Members of IPA by virtue of their membership in the societies that they represent.

• Article X. Domicile. It would seem natural that the domicile of IPA should be placed in conjunction with the office of the Secretary-General, as stated in this article. However, this practice is inconsistent with IPA's status as a tax-exempt charitable or educational institution within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America, which is advantageous to IPA. Hence, IPA's domicile needs to rest in the office of the Treasurer for as long as the person elected to that office is a resident of the USA.

By-Laws

• (2). The statement describing *Lethaia*'s relationship to IPA has been updated.

• (3). The characterization of membership dues has been updated in recognition of recent changes to state the principles on which dues are set, to set out current levels of dues in each category, and to specify that further changes in prices, employing the same principles, may be set by the Executive Committee, with concurrence of the Council, without need to further change the By-Laws.

• (4). A *Directory of Palaeontologists of the World* was thought to be a valuable resource when it was published in print in 1984. Digitized in 2007, it was by then far out-of-date. This project and that proposed to list fossil collections have died natural deaths as the capacity to search on-line has expanded its reach. IPA has not so far been involved in development of the Paleobiology Database or the rapidly expanding use of Large Language Models to be employed in analysis and synthesis of palaeontological data, matters that it may wish to address un the near future.

RDKT and **RBZ** **July 12, 2026**