

76th IAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 6-8, 2002

Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation

May 6: Saint-Petersburg Scientific Centre, University nab. 5, Saint-Petersburg

May 7 & 8: Institute of Applied Astronomy, Kutuzov nab. 10, Saint-Petersburg

DRAFT MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Present:

President	F. Pacini
President-Elect	R.D. Ekers
General Secretary	H. Rickman
Assistant General Secretary	O. Engvold
Vice-Presidents	C. Cesarsky
	N. Kaifu
	N. Kardashev
	K.A. Pounds
	S. Torres-Peimbert
	R.E. Williams
Adviser (Past General Secretary)	J. Andersen

Absent:

Adviser (Past President)	R. Kraft
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DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

Division I	Fundamental Astronomy	Nicole Capitaine
Division II	Sun & Heliosphere	Arnold O. Benz
Division III	Planetary Systems Sciences	Mikhail Ya. Marov
Division IV	Stars	Beatriz Barbuy
Division V	Variable Stars	Edward F. Guinan
Division VI	Interstellar Matter	Bo Reipurth
Division VII	Galactic System	Georges Meylan
Division VIII	Galaxies & the Universe	Virginia L. Trimble
Division IX	Optical & Infrared Techniques	Arlo U. Landolt
Division X	Radio Astronomy	Lucia Padrielli

Absent:

Division XI	Space and High Energy Astrophysics	G. Srinivasan
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In attendance:	Executive Assistant	M. Léger-Orine
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OPENING OF THE MEETING

F. Pacini welcomes the Members of the Executive Committee to its 76th meeting and the Division Presidents who have been invited. The EC members and Presidents of Divisions are then welcomed by Dr. A.M. Finkelshtein, Director of the Institute of Applied Astronomy, and host of the EC meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Presidents of Divisions have been invited to this 76th EC meeting, in order to reach the best possible selection among all the proposals received for the XXVth General Assembly. The meeting is thus partly split into different parts, Johannes Andersen chairing a meeting on the ranking of the scientific proposals linked to the General Assembly with the Presidents of the Divisions.

The agenda is adopted.

REPORT ON 2002 OFFICERS' MEETING

OM-02 was held in Paris on 28-29 January, and all four Officers were present. The main conclusions were as follows.

- * We identified a need to revise the Commission structure of the IAU by introducing flexibility and adaptability into the system. This could be achieved by giving the Commissions limited terms and asking them to motivate their continued existence by activity reports.
- * After discussing the planned restructuring of the EC, we gave Ron Ekers and Oddbjorn Engvold the task of preparing a specific proposal on how to replace the current election of Vice Presidents by one that focusses on the Division Presidents as EC members.
- * We discussed ASP's suggested amendments of the current contract for IAU publishing and concluded that they are not satisfactory. Instead we noted that a new bid for a publishing contract will have to be opened for the period after 2003. A special effort to look into new, electronic means of publication should be undertaken in this regard.
- * We discussed the negative outcome of last year's ICSU proposal on a capacity-building programme for astronomy and space research in Latin America, failing to understand how this goes together with ICSU's pronounced prioritization of capacity-building efforts. We noted with surprise and some irritation that Hans Rickman's letter to ICSU, asking for clarifications in view of upcoming proposals, has remained unanswered.
- * We agreed that post-meeting reports, especially scientific summaries, should be featured on the IAU web page without delay, and that an effort should also be made to add links from the IAU site to electronically available abstract collections of IAU meetings. As an additional means to support the development of the IAU web site, Hans Rickman will seek the advice of several persons in the form of a task group for continuous oversight of this development.

REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR GA25

The main concern of the EC members is the high level of the registration fee. Unfortunately, it has been maintained at AUD 850 (USD 470) for early bird registration (before April 30), and AUD 1050 (USD 575) after that date.

It is confirmed that the inaugural ceremony will be held at the Sydney Opera House, on July Tuesday 15, starting at 18:30.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME OF THE XXVth GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SELECTION OF INVITED DISCOURSES

The following discourses are selected. Franco Pacini will ask for their acceptance:

- Gamma Ray Bursts S. Kulkarni
- The Formation of our Galaxy K. Freeman
(With the recommendation to avoid overlaps with Invited Discourse of M. Perryman of last General Assembly)
- From Molecules to Planets: A Milky Way Dreaming E. van Dishoeck

SELECTION OF SYMPOSIA

16 proposals have been received, out of them, 6 are selected:

- Maps of the Cosmos
- Recycling intergalactic & interstellar matter
- Young neutron stars & their environments
- Stars as suns: Activity, evolution & planets
- Dark matter in galaxies
- Star formation at high angular resolution

SELECTION OF JOINT DISCUSSIONS

Twenty eight proposals have been received, out of which 21 are selected:

- Non Electromagnetic Windows for Astrophysics
- Mercury
- Magnetic Fields & Helicity in the Sun & Heliosphere
- Astrophysical Impact of Abundances in Globular Cluster Stars
- White Dwarfs: Galactic & Cosmological Probes
- Extragalactic Globular Clusters & their Host Galaxies
- The Sun & the Heliosphere as an Integrated System
- Large Telescopes and Virtual Observatory: Visions for the Future
- Astrotomography
- Evolution in Galaxy Clusters: A Multiwavelength Approach
- Dynamics & Evolution of Dense Stellar Systems
- Solar & Solar-Like Oscillations: Insights & Challenges for the Sun & Stars
- Extragalactic Binaries
- Formation of Cometary Material
- Elemental Abundances in Old Stars & Damped Lyman- α Systems
- The International Celestial Reference System: Maintenance & Future Realization
- Atomic Data for X-Ray Astronomy
- Quasar Cores & Jets
- Physical Properties & Morphology of Small Solar System Bodies
- Frontiers of High Resolution Spectroscopy
- The Astrochemistry of External Galaxies

SELECTION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS

Three proposals have been received, 2 of which being retained together with 2 of the proposed Joint Discussions, which were shifted into Special Sessions:

- Recent Progress in Planetary Exploration
- Astronomy in Antarctica

- A New Classification Scheme for Double Stars
- Effective Teaching & Learning of Astronomy

STATUS OF PLANNING FOR GA26, AND LETTERS OF INTENT FOR GA27

GA XXI

The preparations for GA XXI (Praha, Czech Republic) are satisfactory.

GA XXVII

The deadlines to receive invitations is December 31, 2002. Guidelines concerning the maximum registration fee and precisions about the geographical distribution of the GAs will be sent.

Invitations received up to now are as follows:

- Brazil (Rio de Janeiro)
- Canada (Montreal)
- China (Shanghai)
- USA (Hawaii)

DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS FOR EC RESTRUCTURING

The future structure of Divisions of the IAU was discussed in relation to possible representation on the Executive Committee.

REPORT ON SECRETARIAT

H. Rickman reports on the difficulties recently experiences at the Secretariat after Jodi Greenberg departure and the hiring of Ms. Estelle Denos that offers only a partial solution.

MINUTES OF EC 75

The minutes are approved.

REPORT OF THE SNC

The proposals for the Officers, Members of the Executive Committee and Advisors for the period 2003-2006 are as follows:

President:	Ronald D. Ekers	Australia
President-Elect:	Catherine J. Cesarsky	France
General Secretary:	Oddbjørn Engvold	Norway
Assistant General Secretary:	Karel A. Van der Hucht	Netherlands
Vice-Presidents:	Beatriz Barbey	Brazil
	Cheng Fang	China Nanjing
	Kenneth A. Pounds	UK
	Silvia Torres-Peimbert	Mexico
	Brian Warner	South Africa
Advisers:	Robert E. Williams	USA
	Franco Pacini	Italy
	Hans Rickman	Sweden

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ARREARS

Turkey has paid half the dues for 2002. Provided the second half will be paid, it is decided to waive the fees for the period 1998-2001.

Bulgaria will be asked to pay the dues

MOVES FROM ASSOCIATE MEMBER TO FULL MEMBER

Romania, after having been for 9 years Associate Member, is willing and due to move from Associate Member to Full Member in 2003.

Tajikistan, after having been for 9 years Associate Member, is willing and due to move from Associate Member to Full Member in 2003.

STEP-UPS OR STEP-DOWNS

Argentina has requested to move from Category III (4 units of contribution) to Category II (2 units of contribution).

Efforts are being made to stimulate some step-ups of Membership Categories in a half-dozen countries with relatively large numbers of IAU members.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The result is rather good and has allowed to pay for this exceptional meeting, as less scientific meetings have been funded in 2001, and also to offer extra funding for the ISYA in Argentina, as no support has been received from ICSU.

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2004-2006

This proposal has been made although there is some uncertainty on the sums generated by the publications (new publishing contract). An attempt will be made to electronically distribute the Information Bulletin, through an advertisement of its availability in the WEB pages.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Nothing has been done.

TRUST FUND

The ICSU legal adviser will be contacted by H. Rickman.

STATUS OF PUBLICATIONS:

TRANSACTIONS

Transactions XXIVB 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of Astronomy will appear in June 2002.

INFORMATION BULLETINS

The idea is not to issue an extra Information Bulletin in paper form after the XXVth GA, but to have the information it usually contains posted on the Web in downloadable form.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS IN 2003

SUBMISSION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETING PROPOSALS

In view of the fact that some fields of Astronomy were not covered by the proposals received for the General Assembly and that, of course, no feedback could be received, as the proposers were not aware of the proposals which had been made, it is decided to improve the process. The proposals will be in the future made on line, the different presidents of Divisions having permanent access to the proposals made within their Division and thus provoke eventual letters of intent from their members. Furthermore, the general list will be open continuously to the entire community. O. Engvold is in charge of studying the implementation of this decision to be available for the next deadline.

SYMPOSIA

The following Symposia are selected:

- IAU Symp. 216 Maps of the Cosmos
July 14-17, 2003, Sydney, Australia
- IAU Symp. 217 Recycling Intergalactic & Interstellar Matter
July 14-17, 2003, Sydney, Australia
- IAU Symp. 218 Young Neutron Stars & their Environment
July 14-17, 2003, Sydney, Australia
- IAU Symp. 219 Stars as Suns: Activity, Evolution & Planets
July 21-25, 2003, Sydney, Australia
- IAU Symp. 220 Dark Matter in Galaxies
July 21-25, 2003, Sydney, Australia
- IAU Symp. 221 Star Formation at High Angular Resolution
July 22-25, 2003, Sydney, Australia

COLLOQUIUM

The following Colloquia are selected:

- IAU Coll. 191 The Environment and Evolution of Binary Stars
Yucatan, Mexico, February 3-7 2003
- IAU Coll. 192 Supernovae (10 Years of SN1993)
April 22-26, 2003, Valencia, Spain
- IAU Coll. 193 Variable Stars in the Local Group
July 6-11, 2003, Christchurch, New Zealand
- IAU Coll. 194 Compact Binaries in the Galaxy and Beyond
November 17-21, 2003, La Paz, Mexico

PGF COLLABORATION AND ITS ROLE AT GA XXV

The announcement of the Cosmology Prize winner will be made on July 21.

The IAU nominated members of the Advisor Board are:

- V. R. Adhikrishnan
- L. Woitjer
- R.E. Williams (in replacement of V. Rubin)

Thorough thought will be given to the ceremony to be held during the first Session of the GA concerning the PGF presentation.

DISCUSSION OF CHANGES TO THE DIVISION/COMMISSION/WORKING GROUP STRUCTURE

The conclusions from the Officers' Meeting on the future role of Commissions were endorsed. As no rules exist as regards the selection of the Presidents of Divisions, a small group under B. Reipurth will propose a text on this subject, preferably before the end of the year.

DISCUSSION OF CHANGES TO THE IAU STATUTES & BYE-LAWS

A few minor comments are made on the draft submitted by Johannes Andersen. With some modifications, this text will be sent to the Adhering Organizations for pre-review, before they are officially sent in order to meet the deadlines as per the current statutes. These new Statutes and Bye-Laws will be submitted to the vote of the National Representatives during the first Session of the General Assembly.

PLANS FOR NEW IAU PUBLICATION STRATEGY: DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Our contract with ASP ends December 31, 2003. A call for tenders is recommended, the new contract heavily involving electronic publishing. Oddbjorn Engvold will organize this in consultation with the EC Working Group on Publishing.

REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ICSU

Once more, the recurrent question of the membership of the IAU within ICSU is evoked, as the subsidies received from them are constantly decreasing, up to no subvention at all for 2002 and 2003. However, due to the growing interest shown at ICSU to Education and NEOs, it seems advisable to maintain the IAU membership.

UN/COPUOS

The 39th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was held 25 February-8 March 2002, where Johannes Andersen made three main presentations:

1. A formal statement under the standard Agenda item "General exchange of views" on the range of IAU activities of interest to COPUOS;
2. A general statement related to the protection of radio astronomy;
3. An introduction to the agenda item "Obtrusive Space Advertising" which emanated from a US initiative (recommendation has been confirmed by the US).

As IAU and COSPAR representative at the meetings of Action Teams, Johannes Andersen stressed the IAU experience gathered from TAD, ISYA for structuring the efforts in Education and the firm implication of the IAU concerning the Near Earth Objects, under the aegis of OECD Global Science Forum.

ITU

It is recommended to Division X to implement a Working Group for Optical Observations to interact with ITU in view of the ITU bid to regulate the use of all frequencies up to the near ultraviolet for space communications.

REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The Comm. 50 Working Group on Controlling Light Pollution has been very active and made essential contributions to the organization of an international Conference on Light Pollution in La Serena, Chile, March 5-7, 2002.

REPORTS ON EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ISYA

Despite the lack of funding from ICSU, the 2002 ISYA in Argentina is maintained. The 2004 ISYA will possibly be organized in Jordan.

TAD

D. Wentzel is retired, after a marvelous job, as Chairman of the Program Group for Teaching for Astronomy Development. J. White is proposed in this function until the next General Assembly.

77TH & 78TH EC MEETINGS

These meeting will be held in Sydney, Australia, starting on July 13, morning, for EC 77 and on July 24 & 25 for EC 78.

CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The meeting ends on May 8, 17:30. F. Pacini thanks the General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, and the IAU staff for preparing the meeting, and expresses the thanks of the Executive Committee to Dr. N. Kardashev for his kind invitation, and to Dr. Finkelshtein and the Institute of Astronomy staff for their kind hospitality.