

**INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**  
**Executive Committee: 66th Meeting**

August 25, 1994

Nederlands Congresgebouw, Vermeer Hall

**Draft Minutes**

**Present:**

L. Woltjer	President
R. Kraft	President-Elect
I. Appenzeller	General Secretary
J. Andersen	Assistant General Secretary
D. Matthewson	Vice-President
F. Pacini	Vice-President
V. Trimble	Vice-President
B. Hidayat	Vice-President
J. Smak	Vice-President
J. Bergeron	Adviser
A.A. Boyarchuk	Adviser

**Excused:**

C. Anguita	Vice-President
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**In attendance:**

M. Léger-Orine	Administrative Assistant
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**OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT**

The President, L. Woltjer, welcomes the old and new members of the Executive Committee to the 66th meeting.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Reports by Dr. E. Raimond, Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee, on the present General Assembly and by Dr. D. Sugimoto, Chairman of the Japanese National Committee for the IAU, on the preparation of the XXIIIrd General Assembly in Kyoto, are added to the agenda.

**COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS**

**Restructuring of Commissions and Working Groups**

The EC takes note of the approval of the Division structure by the Commission Presidents and the General Assembly and instructs the General Secretary to follow up on these decisions.

A proposal to modify the statutes correspondingly will be discussed at the next EC in order to be submitted to the adhering organizations one year prior the XXIIIrd General Assembly.

It is suggested that Divisions could be allotted 1/2 to 1 page of each information bulletin to spread information to members concerning the activity of the Division.

The EC also feels that the layout of the Bulletin should be made more attractive.

### **Proposal for an IAU Working Group on Future Large Scale Facilities in Astronomy**

The EC welcomes in principle the initiative by the organizers of the corresponding special meeting during the GA and decides to establish such a committee as an EC Working Group as soon as technically feasible, with the following terms of reference:

- to promote the early discussion and dissemination of information on potential large scale international projects,
- to make and maintain an inventory of planned large scale astronomical projects, further contacts and cooperations between different projects and to identify areas of significant duplication and areas of lack of clearly desirable efforts.

The EC does not endorse an effort for "balancing of techniques and wavelengths". The EC is not convinced that such a balancing would necessarily result in an optimum scientific return.

Concerning coordination with URSI, the EC regards this as one of the explicit tasks of IAU Commission 40. Hence if there exists a need for a coordination with URSI's WG on future radio facilities, Commission 40 should establish a corresponding WG of Commission 40. The EC would welcome such a move by Commission 40.

Since the IAU is a non-governmental scientific organization with a national representation differing from OECD the EC is reluctant to include explicitly in the tasks of the new WG contacts with the OECD Mega-Science Forum. While an exchange of information between the planned IAU working group and international governmental organizations or discussion groups might be useful under certain conditions, an approach of the IAU to the Mega-Science Forum does not seem desirable.

The speaker of the initiative concerning the new WG, Professor H. Butcher, is encouraged to suggest a potential composition of the planned Working Group. Taking into account that the IAU represents all branches of astronomy, the new WG should include scientific and technical competence from all these branches. Hence at least the three technical divisions of the IAU or the presidents of Commissions 9, 40 and 44 should be involved in proposing the members of the WG. The membership then will have to be confirmed by the EC which will eventually appoint the WG. This information is requested by the end of the year, in order to be discussed at the IAU Officer's meeting scheduled for February 22 and 23, 1995, where a final proposal for approval at the August 1995 EC meeting could be prepared.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

### XXIIInd General Assembly

*Report by E. Raimond*

Dr. Raimond reports that about 1800 attendees had registered (2/3 were IAU members, 1/3 invited participants). To these have to be added volunteers and guests who were given the opportunity to attend the General Assembly on a part time basis.

Dr. Ramond feels that the advertising of the General Assembly could have been more effective and makes suggestions for future GAs.

The deadline for receiving the poster abstracts turned out to be too early. By that date, only half of the posters had been received. 40 to 50% of the posters for which abstracts were received never materialized.

The deadline for submitting grant requests should have been at least one month earlier than that of the early registrations as hotels were only willing to keep block-bookings fully open until 3 months before the beginning of the GA. Many problems arose with the low-budget hotels, because many grantees knew too late that they had been awarded money to attend.

The professional organizers chosen may not have been optimal. However it would have been impossible to handle such a big meeting without using the services of a professional organization. Furthermore, no institute could have guaranteed any deposits to hotels.

Dr. Raimond announces that he will prepare a detailed report after the General Assembly.

He is warmly thanked by the Executive Committee for the tremendous work and the generally very smooth and efficient organization.

#### *Other remarks concerning the XXIIInd GA*

The response to the new meeting format was in general very positive. However there was a feeling that the scientific programme had been too dense. A solution to be considered would be to shorten the symposia by a half-day, allowing thus one extra day for the General Assembly per se. One might also decrease the number of the Joint Discussions. However, in no case should one go back to the previous format.

The time left for meetings of commissions was linked to the number of rooms available in the Conference Center. As the Kyoto center is similar to the one in The Hague, it is likely that the number of sessions allotted will be of the same order as this time. However, use of the fact that symposia might be shortened and that the number of Joint discussions might be diminished, could provide more time for the commission meetings.

### XXIIIrd General Assembly

Dr. D. Sugimoto explains the wish of the Japanese National Committee of Astronomy that symposia may be held in nearby countries, even within the three months periods before and/or after the General Assembly.

Experience (Baltimore and Buenos Aires) shows that such Symposia will reduce the attendance of the General Assemblies. The EC decides with Dr. Sugimoto's consent that the XXIIIrd General Assembly will aim at 6 Symposia in Kyoto, but to also consider

proposals for meetings outside Kyoto within the exclusion period (when such proposals are submitted and to consider them case by case, taking into account their quality and the programme of the General Assembly).

## SCIENTIFIC MATTERS

### Symposia

#### *Accepted*

Symposium 177: "The Carbon Star Phenomenon"  
May, 1996, Antalya, Turkey.

#### *The decision on the proposal*

SP 11 "Herbig-Haro Flows and the Birth of Low Mass Stars"

was postponed until a potential conflict with another meeting was resolved.

### Colloquia

#### *Accepted*

Colloquium 159: "Emission Lines in Active Galaxies: new Methods and Techniques"  
June 17-20, 1996, Shanghai, China PR.

Colloquium 160: "Pulsars: Problems and Progress"  
February 8-12, 1996, Sydney, Australia.

#### *Not accepted*

CP 11 "Asymptotic Giant Branch"

CP 14 "The Third Conference on Faint Blue Stars"

### Co-sponsored meetings accepted

Commsphere 95, January 22-27, 1995, Eilat, Israel  
ICSU co-sponsoring organization: URSI

## **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Solar-Eclipse Meeting in Vietnam**

At the request of A.H. Batten and D. Wentzel that the IAU support the development of astronomy in Vietnam, it is agreed that the IAU will support a two-day or three-day meeting immediately after the eclipse of October 24, 1995, up to CHF 7500.

### **ISYA Accepted**

#### *Brazil, July 1995*

The EC agrees to support that ISYA. However, the organisers are requested to seek supplementary funding from other sources. As the faculty mentioned have not actually been asked whether they would be available in July 1995, there is a possibility that the ISYA will have to be postponed.

### **ISYAs under consideration**

An informal offer has been made by Dr. Brieva from *Colombia*. As the ISYA proposed by Brazil is more carefully prepared, it is proposed that an ISYA in Colombia be considered a few years later

Intentions to host ISYAs have also been expressed by *Turkey* and *Nigeria*.

### **Teaching for Astronomy Development (TAD)**

The revised proposal submitted by Commission 46 is approved by the EC.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The EC takes note of an additional document concerning Archiving Spectroscopic Data and reaffirms its support of the corresponding WG of Commission 29.

## **PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The 67th Executive Committee will be held from August 18 through 21, 1995, inclusively, at Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatory, Canberra, Australia, upon invitation by Prof. J.R. Mould.

## **CLOSURE BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting is closed at 18 h 30. The President thanks the participants.