

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee

78th Meeting

Darling Harbour Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Sydney, Australia

July 25-26, 2003

DRAFT MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Present:	Ronald D. Ekers	President
	Oddbjørn Engvold	General Secretary
	Karel A. van der Hucht	Assistant General Secretary
	Beatriz Barbuy	Vice-President
	Chen Fang	Vice-President
	Silvia Torres-Peimbert	Vice-President
	Brian Warner	Vice-President
	Robert E. Williams	Vice-President
	Norio Kaifu	Vice-President
	Franco Pacini	Adviser
	Hans Ricman	Adviser

Absent:

Catherine Cesarsky	President-Elect
Kenneth A. Pounds	Vice-President

The Division Presidents for 2003-2006 were invited to attend parts of the EC 78 meeting.

DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

Division I	Fundamental Astronomy	Toshio Fukushima
Division II	Sun & Heliosphere	David Webb
Division III	Planetary Systems Sciences	Iwan P. Williams & Ingrid Mann
Division IV	Stars	Dainis Dravins
Division V	Variable Stars	Jørgen Christensen- Dalsgaard
Division VI	Interstellar Matter	Bo Reipurth
Division VII	Galactic System	Patricia A. Whitelock
Division VIII	Galaxies and the Universe	Franco Bertola
Division IX	Optical & Infrared Techniques	Christiaan L. Sterken
Division XI	Space and High Energy Astrophysics	Haruyuki Okuda
Division XII	Union-Wide Activities	Virginia L. Trimble

Also invited:

Lucia Padrielli	Past President of Division X (Radio Astronomy)
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In attendance:

Monique Léger-Orine	Executive Assistant
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IAU President welcome the new members.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Since some of the agenda items concerned the EC only, it became practical to schedule the items somewhat differently from what was initially presented. Agenda was approved.

MEETING WITH NEW IAU DIVISION PRESIDENTS

IAU President presented an organizational overview. A significant part of this meeting addressed what is to be expected from Division Presidents? The following items will be considered parts of the DP's duties and responsibilities:

- Stimulate members to preparation of good meeting proposals.
- Set up and keep web sited updated.
- Communicate regularly with members on matters of general interest.
- In connection with the above the DPs were informed about the current efforts to update the IAU database. Members will be asked to update their affiliations, e-mail addresses, etc (Henrietta May will assist the secretariat on this matter).
- Provide guidelines for the designation of new Division heads.
- Provide lists of Consultants to Commissions and WGs.
- DPs shall provide info to justify the continuation of WGs.
- Remember that Consultants need to be reaffirmed every triennium.
- IAU Divisions are allowed to create new Commissions (with approval by the EC).

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF GA XXV (NOC GA25 EXECUTIVE)

a. Report by NOC GA25 Executive. In attendance; Harry Hyland, John Whiteoak and Richard N. Manchester Harry Hyland presented a written report (enclosed). The total NOC staff was 15 people. The break-even numbers of participants was 1600, as compared to about 2050 who finally registered. This was more than foreseen and the fact that a large number of participants registered late, led to a regrettable shortage of conference books. It would have made communication with various attending groups easier if the NOC would have access to the IAU membership lists. John Whiteoak stressed that sponsorship from some external sources were problematic since they often were given with (thick) strings attached.

b. Feedback from SOC Chairs of Symposia. The SOC Chairs of Symposia at GA25 were asked to emphasize on problems encountered rather than on what went well. In attendance: Pierre-Alain Duc, Andrea Dupree, Richard N. Manchester, Lister Staveley-Smith and Mark Walker.

S219 submitted a written report (enclosed). This SOC Chair was much disturbed by problems with submission of abstracts. The deadline for submission of abstracts should have been closer to the meeting, and it should have been possible for authors to correct their abstracts. The abstracts should have been arranged in a much more meaningful order in the abstract book. The SOC Chair found it highly dissatisfying that the poster area were located too far away from the conference hall, and that the posters were taken down much too soon. Separate Poster Sessions ought to be scheduled.

The input from the other SOC Chairs may be summarized as follows: Staggered start of Symposia was a good thing. Would like Travel Grant application form on the IAU web site. Often not clear where and when organizers would get information about IAU Travel Grants. Too many different bodies to deal with! On-going scientific sessions should be displayed on screens in the conference hall and outside every major meeting room. The fact that the Program Book was printed one month before the GA25 made it largely outdated. Too many

errors (first name and family names some times mixed). Symposium organizers wanted more than one standard format (LaTeX) for abstracts. A number of participants come just for one Symposium. Could one therefore accept a reduced fee for these?

PREPARATION FOR GA XXVI (NOC GA XXVI EXECUTIVE)

The Executive of NOC GA26 was invited to attend also the report of the NOC GA25 Executive and the feedback from the SOC Chairs of Symposia. The comment was made by the NOC GA26 representative that the science program of GA25 appeared overloaded. The conference center in Prague will provide 3 auditoria for symposia with room for 500 people and adequate number of smaller rooms for Joint Discussions and all other specified services. IAU GS will investigate with the NOC and ensure that there will be adequate space for posters. It was asked that Saturday will be included in the program for the GA26. The NOC do not yet have adequate conference running software. The GS will contact AAS and other organizations with broad experience in organizing and running large scientific meetings in the search for an adequate, well working system for the next GA. The IAU GS was asked to check the competence and resources available to the NOC to handle a large conference like a General Assembly of the IAU. GS should pay a visit with the NOC in the coming half year.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON GAXXV RESOLUTIONS

One concluded that the handling of resolutions did not go well this time. The following problems were identified:

- Proposers were not given the opportunity to see proposed changes/corrections.
- Some resolutions were submitted too late. Strict deadlines are needed.

The EC asked the Resolutions Committee for feedback on possible improvements on the rules. Silvia Torres-Peimbert, who is member of the Resolutions Committee with Robert Williams, will act on this.

PLANS FOR THE YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

Franco Pacini gave a brief overview of the background and current plans. He advised not to involve larger agencies during the initial planning phase. It was agreed that an Ad Hoc group consisting of Franco Pacini, Pierre Léna and President of Commission 41 should be asked to prepare a plan for the next meeting of the EC.

PLACES AND DATES FOR EC 79 AND EC 80

Two invitations for the next two meetings of the EC have been received from, respectively, Silvia Torres-Peimbert and Franco Pacini. Franco Pacini preferred to host EC80 in 2005. The EC gratefully accepted the invitations to hold EC 79 in Mexico City, Mexico, in 2004, and EC 80 in Florence, Italy in 2005. In the absence of the President-Elect, Catherine J. Cesarsky, and of Vice-President Ken Pounds, one did not wish to settle immediately the EC79 meeting dates. The IAU General Secretary was asked to find acceptable dates, in consultations with all members of the EC.

ISSUES RELATED TO THE COLLABORATION WITH THE GRUBER FOUNDATION

The Executive Committee considers the Gruber Prize and Fellowships to be a great success. The Executive Committee of the IAU would welcome a staggering in the replacements of its three members on the Advisory Board which would ensure transfer of knowledge and experience. For this reason the EC recommends that Robert Williams is re-appointed for a second two-year term, and that Lodewijk Woltjer is replaced by JoCelyn Bell-Burnell (UK). It asks furthermore that V. Radhakrishnan remains on the Advisory Board for one extra year. The Advisory Board for the Fellowship program for the next triennium will be: Johannes Andersen, Oddbjørn Engvold, Silvia Torres-Peimbert and Robert Williams.

FUTURE OF THE IAU

The IAU Division Presidents were invited to attend this session. The following issues were discussed:

- Which type of meetings should IAU support? In the years between General Assemblies the IAU competes with a large number of similar type of meetings, .e.g. Colloquia. Therefore, should IAU rather focus on Symposia (Silvia Torres-Peimbert)? Also, other organizations have a notably shorter lead time in organizing meeting, which makes them more attractive (Karel van der Hucht). IAU should sponsor meetings on instrumentation (Catherine Cesarsky). Meetings organized by the IAU are unique in a sense that they tend to have a broader international attendance (Jørgen Christensen-Dalsgaard).
- Is the IAU too exclusive? IAU should consider accepting candidates immediately after their PhD (Chris Sterken). National Committees should be asked for feedback regarding how IAU might become more inclusive (Brian Warner).
- How can IAU become more relevant and attractive to young astronomers? Put young astronomers in charge of organizing a new category of meetings. To be followed up.
- IAU should support educational outreach connected with Symposia.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS IN 2004

A total of eight proposals for Symposia and five for Colloquia had been received. Copies of all proposals had been sent to the Division Presidents 2000-2003 for evaluation and ranking. Copies of all meeting proposals, plus the DPs evaluations and ranking, were sent to all members of the EC and to the DPs 2000-2003 in June, prior to GA XXV. At the GA XXV the outgoing Division Presidents were asked to transfer to their respective incoming Division Presidents, their documents and knowledge related to proposals for IAU supported meetings in 2004. The IAU Division Presidents elected at the second session of the General Assembly, met in a separate session to review and rank the proposals. That session was chaired by Dr. Lucia Padrielli, former President of IAU Division X. The new Assistant General Secretary, Karel van der Hucht, took part in the separate session of the DPs. The DP's ranking and recommendations were subsequently discussed in a joint session with the Executive Committee. The EC decided that the following Symposia and Colloquia will be supported by IAU in 2004 (some dates have been updated since the EC meeting was held):

- IAU Symposium No. 222 on "The Interplay among Black Holes, Stars and ISM in Galactic Nuclei" to be held 1-5 March 2004, in Rio Grande do Sol, Brazil (Thaisa Storchi Bergmann)
- IAU Symposium No. 223 on "Multi-Wavelength Investigation of Solar Activity" to be held 14-16 June 2004, in St-Petersburg, Russia (Elena Benevolskaya)
- IAU Symposium No. 224 on "The A-Star Puzzle" to be held 8-13 July, 2004, in Poprad, Slovakia (Werner W. Weiss and J. Zverko)
- IAU Symposium No. 225 on "Gravitational Lensing Impact on Cosmology" to be held 12-16 July, 2004, in Lausanne, Switzerland (Y. Mellier and G. Meylan)
- IAU Symposium No. 226 on "Coronal and Stellar Mass Ejections" to be held 13-17 September 2004, in Beijing, China (Kenneth Dere and Jingxiu Wang). The EC decided that the total Travel Grants allocated for this Symposium would be CFH 16,000.
- IAU Colloquium No. 195 on "Outskirts of Galaxy Clusters: Intense life in the suburbs" to be held 12-16 March, 2004, in Torino, Italy. The acceptance of this meeting proposal is

subjected to a requested improvement of its science programme which is to be done in close consultation with the Assistant General Secretary.

- IAU Colloquium No. 196 on "Transit of Venus: New Views of the Solar System and Galaxy" to be held 7-11 June, 2004, in Preston, UK (Donald W. Kurtz).
- IAU Colloquium No. 197 on "Dynamics of Populations of Planetary Systems" to be held 31 August-4 September, 2004, in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro (Zoran Knezevic and Andrea Milani). The EC requests that some improvements of the science programme be made in consultations with the ASG.

The Executive Committee decided to follow the DP's recommendation to support a follow-up of an earlier ISYA in Iran.

FUTURE PUBLISHING STRATEGY FOR IAU

The current contract with ASP, the IAU Publisher, expires this year. With bases in a recommendation from the IAU WG on Publishing, a proposal for a publishing strategy to be adopted for publication of Proceedings from IAU Symposia and Colloquia, as well as for the IAU Transactions A and B, and Highlights of Astronomy, was presented and discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the EC on Friday afternoon, 18 July. Also the incoming Vice-Presidents and IAU Division Presidents were invited to this meeting. The following two main conclusions could be drawn from the discussion:

- The Proceedings from IAU Symposia and Colloquia should be electronic
- The views were split regarding whether or not IAU Proceedings should be subject to regular refereeing

An ad hoc group consisting of Ron Ekers, Catherine Cesarsky, Silvia Torres-Peimbert and Oddbjørn Engvold, was asked to prepare a plan for IAU's publishing strategy from 2004. The group held two meetings, and Karel van der Hucht was invited to attend the second of these. The proposed procedure which was adopted by the EC, described the Key Features of the IAU Proceedings Series, sequence of actions and time lines with the aim to ensure continuity of publication of proceedings of meetings held in 2004 and onwards. The EC resolved that:

- It is a high priority to produce a prompt, electronic version of the proceedings of meetings, in addition to a paper version. It is foreseen that the electronic version would be published article-by-article and that the paper version would follow once an issue is complete.
- To ensure prompt publication of Proceedings of IAU Symposia and Colloquia, the AGS will be authorized to oversee the production of the material for the Proceedings.

RELATION TO OECD

The EC had been approached by the OECD concerning a new initiative on "Future Large-Scale Programmes and Projects in Astronomy and Astrophysics". The plans call for the convening of a workshop in December 2003, hosted by ESO. IAU has been invited to nominate a member for the Steering Committee for this initiative. Ron Ekers agreed to be nominated as the IAU's representative in the Steering Committee.

GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION AND BUDGET PROJECTS

The former Chairman of the FSC, Toshio Fukushima was invited to present an overview of IAU's financial situation. The recommendations of the FSC were:

- Save 5% of Planned Budget
- Ensure timely Payment of Dues by Nations

- The Finance Sub-Committee should do an Annual Review
- Implement procedure to prepare budget plan
- Establish Working Rules for FSC

Hans Rickman informed the EC that the total sum in arrears for 2003 is close to 100 kCHF, and that one should expect that close to half of this amount eventually will be paid. Ron Ekers asked why should IAU keep the level of one year's budget in reserve? That is a very special situation and practice compared with most scientific institutions. Also, the annual interest from the reserve is very modest; about 2%. Hans Rickman pointed out that (very) late payments of dues by members cause cash-flow problems. A such example is USA that paid its dues at the end of the year in 2002. Should late payments qualify for a penalty charge? The EC resolved that the level of support for IAU Symposia and Colloquia should not be increased for 2004, as suggested in the budget. Robert Milkey and Robert Williams will draft working rules for the FSC.

REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH ADHERING ORGANIZATIONS TBD

ANY OTHER MATTER

The EC realized the need to update the current working rules.

Johannes Andersen, Hans Rickman, Robert Milkey (Chair of FSC) and Robert Williams, are being asked to re-write new working rules (ref to Johannes' hand-out).

Recover document concerning Terms of Reference for Divisions which has been prepared by Bo Reipurt.

Resolutions Committee should give input to working rules (this time many things went wrong; proposals came in too late, proposers must be informed about changes before they are presented to the GA).

Need guidelines for how to appoint Consultants. GS should initiate preparation for such guidelines.