

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee: 63rd Meeting

September 11-15, 1992, Bangalore, India

Draft minutes

I. OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

The President, A. Boyarchuk welcomes the members of the Executive Committee to the 63rd meeting held in the Council Room of the Raman Research Institute in Bangalore.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Executive Committee agrees to the General Secretary's suggested time sequencing of the Agenda to take into account the early departure of some members. Furthermore, the following items were added to the proposed agenda: Close session (III.3.) and 75th year of History of the IAU (XIV.1.)

III. EC INTERNAL MATTERS

The Minutes of EC 61 & 62 are approved. The Minutes of the February Officers Meeting are presented and the General Secretary draws the attention of the Members on the delicate matter of relationship with COSPAR.

The EC decides to implement the recommendation of the Finance Committees (GA XX, Baltimore & GA XXI, Buenos Aires) that one of the vice-Presidents act as Treasurer Adviser of the Union. Dr. M. Roberts accepts to take upon this task.

IV. REPORT ON THE SPECIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. Boyarchuk reports that a new deadline (November 1st, 1992) has been communicated to the Special Nominating Committee Members. The General Secretary stresses the need within the coming weeks to concentrate the efforts on the selection of the Assistant General Secretary.

V. MEMBERSHIP

- Policy on the dissemination/selling of the membership list.

A consensus is reached as regards the dissemination of the membership list on computer readable form:

- . The General Secretary is authorized to communicate the complete IAU membership list to National Committees for Astronomy upon legitimate request;
- . It is agreed that it may be distributed to bona fide scientists on the basis of a justified need;

- . It is confirmed that commercial use of the membership list is excluded;
- . The General Secretary is asked to check the legal aspect within the French law of selling the membership list. A price of SF 2000 is suggested and only information as published in the IAU Transactions should be sold.

— New national membership

- . States of the former Soviet Union
 - A. Boyarchuk confirms that he has written to the Presidents of all former Academies and Presidents of leading Institutes in: Armenia, Azerbaidzhan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Positive answers have been received from: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Georgia is favorable, but foresees financial problems.

As of today, no reply has been received from Azerbaidzhan & Latvia.

The General Secretary indicates that upon the request of its Academy of Sciences Estonia has become a member of the IAU as on May 20, 1992, following the ICSU recommendation of automatic admission upon request.

- . Other countries
 - The General Secretary will ask ICSU the outcome of their questionnaire regarding the recommendation for the states of the ex-Yugoslavia and their recommendation for Czechoslovakia.

For the above mentioned new member countries, the EC agrees that in case of severe financial difficulties, the IAU may waive the contribution for the current year. However, the country contributions to the IAU are mandatorily due starting the year following their admission.

VI. FINANCES

The national contributions received during the 1988-1990 triennium reveal an loss of income which represents 9.6% of the budget.

The General Secretary has suggested an increase of contributions to: Australia, Brazil, China Beijing, Finland, Greece, India, Italy, Korea PR, Netherlands, Spain and USA. No positive answer has yet been received. As the South African funding agency is considering a reduction of adhering category, the General Secretary has provided the National Representative of South Africa with information to help preventing such a reduction.

The General Secretary reports that the voluntary contribution from the USA of US\$ 50,000 has been received. This sum will be committed before the end of the year in order to plea for another grant in 1993. The EC asks the President to send a resolution to the AAS in order to thank them for the grant. The General Secretary indicates that the regular contribution of the USA has been received at the Secretariat on 07.09.92. The USA has declined to presently increase its category of adherence.

The audited 1991 accounts have been sent in due course to the EC Members and no special question arises. The accounts of the first semester of 1992 are presented. The General Secretary gives relevant explanations as regards the annex to the 1991 and 1992 first semester accounts concerning the salary of one IAU staff. The CNRS contribution to the salary above mentioned, which has been reimbursed to the CNRS on 07.09.92, appears as a debt, and the retirement plan (pension civile) that the CNRS has kept at its own charge appears as a donation.

Some modifications in the presentation of the accounts concerning the committed expenditure have been requested by the Finance Committee (XXI GA) and by L. Woltjer. They will be implemented for the 1992 accounts as for those of the current triennium for presentation at the XXII GA.

The General Secretary proposed that the funds of the "Eclipse account" be used as an aid for the payment of the dues by the states from the former USSR. This proposal is not adopted.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee (XXI GA) and of ICSU that the reserves do not exceed one year of operation is discussed. Since the present reserves exceed by 30% the 1992 budget, the EC recommends a steady slow decrease of the reserves during the current triennium.

VII. COMMISSIONS & WORKING GROUP MATTERS

- Restructuration of commissions

The proposal written by the General Secretary is discussed. The GS is requested to prepare a new proposal, taking into account remarks concerning the reduced number of commissions envisaged, and the role devoted to the working groups. In order to initiate a wide discussion among the IAU members, the new proposal will be sent to IAU commission Presidents & vice-Presidents and will be summarized in the Information Bulletin (see Annexe 1).

- Reports of EC Working Groups

WG on the Worldwide Development of Astronomy

Contacts are maintained with Vietnam. A. Batten is due to visit this country by the end of the year. Since Y. Kozai has initiated the relationship with Vietnam and remains the official contact, A. Batten should prepare his visit in consultation with him, and report on the outcome to Y. Kozai and to the EC. As regards the funding of A. Batten visit to Vietnam, the decision is left to the GS.

WG on Encouraging International Development of Antarctic Astronomy

A meeting of this WG has been held end of May in Paris, at the same time as the French/Australian Workshop on Antarctic Astronomy. The most practical short-term action is to collaborate in site testing of the high plateau. P. Gilligham was to visit the CARA base (Yerkes Observatory), to establish in detail the best way to initiate a French/Australian/US seeing test programme under the auspices of the IAU.

- Financial help to EC Working Groups

The EC agrees with the proposal presented by the GS to create a budget line for the EC and Commission Working Groups. A preliminary budget of SF 30000 is adopted and the GS should report on the use of these funds at the next EC meeting.

- Commission 27: The General Catalogue of Variable Star (GCVS)

The EC is not certain of the necessity to fund the distribution of the GCVS. Consequently, the General Secretary is requested to enquire whether the President of commission 27 would favor a distribution of the GCVS on a subscription basis, as is done since 1992 for the Information Bulletin on Variable Stars. For the latter during a two year transition period 1992/1993, the IAU will support its distribution cost to East-European and former USSR institutes.

- Commission 38: Exchange of Astronomers

The General Secretary expresses her concern at the insufficient use of the funds allotted to Commission 38 (positive balance of over SF 9000 in 1991). As announced in the July 1992 issue of the Information Bulletin, there has been an increase of SF 10000 of Commission 38 grant allocation for the period 01.07.92-30.06.93 for specific help to Eastern Europe & former USSR astronomers. Since J. Sahade has not yet received any application from these states, another announcement will be made in IB 69 (January 1993).

VIII. GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

- XXIIInd GA/1994

The format/schedule of the XXIIInd GA, as presented in Table 10 of the EC 63 documents, is adopted, thus selecting the following options (see Annexe 2 for detailed report):

- 3 Invited discourses
- 6 four day Symposia
- 12 to 15 one day & 5 half a day Joint Commission Meetings
- 40 x 2 one hour and a half commission business sessions

The level of the registration fees as indicated by the LOC (DG 400) is too high and the General Secretary is requested to ask the LOC to lower the fees.

The General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretary will visit the Conference Center at The Hague and discuss organizational issues with E. Raimond (LOC) before the end of the year.

Following the concern from some commission Presidents on the selection of some GA Symposia at EC 63, it is decided that all GA Symposia will be selected at EC 64 together with the Joint Commission Meetings.

- 3. The EC decides not to hold the special workshop "Meeting on Women issues" proposed by the AAS on the basis that given its subject, the IAU is too narrow a framework to organize such a meeting. Consequently, the General Secretary is asked to transmit this suggestion of the AAS to ICSU.

- XXIIIInd GA/1997: invitations

Formal invitations have been received from Japan and China, Beijing. A consensus is reached concerning Japan. The General Secretary is mandated to contact the Japan Council for Astronomy and visit the Convention Centers in Makuhari (Chiba) and Kyoto. The latter is favored by the EC and the GS is requested to ask Japan to provisionally pre-book it.

- XXIVth GA/2000: invitation

A preliminary invitation has been received from Denmark. The GS has sent further information on the tasks to be undertaken by the host country of a GA.

IX. SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Thanks to the voluntary contribution from the USA, the level of funding for symposia & colloquia has been increased as of August 1, 1992. Grants are now at a level of: SF 17000 for Symposia and SF 10000 for Colloquia. The grants for co-sponsored meetings remain at a level of SF 3000.

The poor quality of symposia/colloquia reports is again pointed out. They should primarily focus on scientific highlights. They should also give the number of participants, the distribution of the countries represented and the number of scientists supported by the IAU. The AGS is requested to ensure higher quality reports for publication in the Information Bulletin.

The symposia approved are:

- . Symposium 160 Asteroids Comets Meteors 93, June 15-19, 1993, Belgirate (L. Maggiore), Italy.
- . Symposium 161 Astronomy from Wide Field Imaging, August 23-27, 1993, Postdam Germany
- . Symposium 162 Pulsations, Rotation and Mass Loss in Early-type Stars, October 5-8, 1993, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France

The colloquia approved are:

- . Colloquium 145 Supernovae and Supernova Remnants, May 23-27, 1993, Noordwijk, Netherlands
- . Colloquium 146 Molecular Opacities in the Stellar Environment, May 24-29, 1993, Copenhagen, Denmark
- . Colloquium 147 Equation of State in Astrophysics, June or July 1992, France

The co-sponsored Meetings approved are:

- . VLBI: Progress & Future Possibilities, Kyoto, Japan, September 6-10, 1993 (URSI)
- . COSPAR XXXth Plenary Meeting, Hamburg, Germany, July 10-22, 1994
 - Solar Flare, Coronal and Heliospheric Dynamics
 - Elemental Abundance Variations in the Sun and the Heliosphere
 - Space Observations in the Infrared and Submillimeter
 - New Developments in X-ray and UV Astronomy
 - High Energy Radiations from Galactic and Extragalactic Black Holes
 - Gamma-Ray Astronomy
 - Precursor Missions to the Moon
 - Laboratory Planetology - Needs and Results
 - The Origin, Evolution and Present State of the Moon
 - Asteroids Comparative Studies
 - Organic Chemistry in Comets, Asteroids and Interplanetary Dust

In order to avoid potential overlaps in 1994, this list will be published in the next issue of the Information Bulletin and attention will be drawn to the COSPAR XXXth Plenary Meeting in the Editorial by the GS.

The level of the IAU grant for this COSPAR Plenary meeting is of SF 11000.

X. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ISYA

The Guidelines and Working Rules for ISYA proposals proposed by the GS are discussed and some amendments are requested. These Guidelines and Working Rules will be communicated to the Secretary of the ISYA, D. Wentzel and the President of Commission 46, L. Gougenheim.

The ISYA programme for 1992-1994 is:

- . ISYA, Beijing, China Beijing, July 19-August 8, 1992
The school was very successful. The report, received from D. Wentzel, will be published in the Information Bulletin.
- . ISYA, Pune, India, January 3-21, 1994
The scientific programme has been amended, following the recommendations of the GS. Consequently, the EC confirms IAU sponsorship of this ISYA.
- . Kottamia, Egypt, September 18-October 8, 1994
A proposal to hold an ISYA in Egypt has been received from Prof. Aly. A preliminary agreement is given to that school. However, complaints having been received from students attending a previous school in Kottamia and Cairo in 1981, the Secretary of the School should clarify the organizational problems related to this venue.
- . Nigeria
Another proposal has been received from Nigeria through A. Batten. Since it is more an International Workshop (already co-sponsored by COSPAR & UN) than a School, the EC suggests support to only a few Nigerian scientists attending this Workshop. However, this could only be done if Nigeria accepts the Associate membership Statute proposed earlier in 1992.

- VLPs

The GS stresses the difficulties in finding lecturers for VLPs. The EC decides that no VLP should be accepted aside from those already in progress or proposed at previous EC meetings.

- . China Beijing
This programme was already proposed in 1991 and the GS should write a contract with China Beijing and D. Wentzel, Chair of the Committee for the VLPs.
- . Paraguay
This programme is continuing successfully thanks to the efforts of D. Wentzel and should be completed.
- . Peru
The EC, upon the recommendation of D. Wentzel, decides to terminate this VLP.

XI. PUBLICATIONS

The list of 1991/1992 publications is appended in the Annexe 3 to this report.

XII. NON DISCRIMINATION ISSUES: GUIDELINES

The guidelines for non-discrimination presented by the GS are adopted by the EC. They will be added as the first of the Working Rules of the IAU Statutes and published in the next issue of the Information Bulletin (see Annexe 4).

XIII. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- UNESCO

IAU/UNESCO/ICSU/COSPAR AEI Meeting

D. McNally reported on the IAU/UNESCO/ICSU/COSPAR meeting on Adverse Environmental Impact on Astronomy: an Exposition which has been held June 30-July 2, 1994 at UNESCO in Paris. He also commented the Declaration by the Participants in which a request is made to consider affording to some observatories the additional protection of being classified as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Following another recommendation of this declaration, the GS is asked to write to ICSU in order to ask them to set up a Committee which will be in charge to review and to report on astronomically detrimental activities and breaches of existing codes of conduct and good practice. It is suggested that membership of such a committee should include representatives inter alia of UNESCO, ICSU, IAU, IUGG, URSI, IUCAF, COSPAR and other interested parties. The GS should request that ICSU ensure the funding of this Committee.

New IAU/UNESCO educational programme

A new IAU/UNESCO educational programme has been proposed to UNESCO. The sponsoring of these new activities by UNESCO should be decided before the next EC meeting.

- ICSU

The GS expresses her concern on the decrease in the net income from ICSU (grants/dues) since 1983 (as presented in Table 12 of the EC 63 documents). The GS will try to ensure that this net income is not further eroded by the new ICSU policy since, starting 1993, the dues to be paid to ICSU by the Unions have been fixed to 3.5% of their national contribution income.

- COSPAR

The meeting between COSPAR officials and the IAU GS held February 3, 1992 has been fruitful and it was agreed that in order to avoid duplication of scientific meetings between the COSPAR XXX Plenary Meeting and the IAU XXII General Assembly in 1994, COSPAR will select only astronomy technical meetings for their XXX Plenary Meeting. This agreement has been thoroughly respected.

The GS should convey to the president of COSPAR, W.I. Axford, the satisfaction of the EC concerning the increasing cooperation between COSPAR and the IAU. On behalf of the EC, the GS should also thank the Chairperson of the COSPAR ISC E Committee, L.E. Peterson, for his memorandum of understanding "of the cooperative concepts COSPAR and the IAU utilize in planning scientific programs".

At the World Space Congress (Washington, USA, August 28 to September 5, 1992) COSPAR has ratified the Declaration by the Participants issued at the end of the meeting IAU/UNESCO/ICSU/COSPAR meeting on Adverse Environmental Impact on Astronomy: an Exposition.

- FAGS

The grounds of the proposal made by ICSU to incorporate FAGS in CODATA are not well perceived. The GS is asked to investigate the consequences of such an incorporation in writing to E. Tandberg-Hansen, P. Melchior, R. Wielebinsky, J. Kovalevsky and A. Heck (IAU Representative, CODATA).

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

75th Year of History of the IAU: R. Morton points out that a brief history has been published in IAU Transactions 1966. A. Blaauw has confirmed to him his interest in writing such an history. Prof. Blaauw has indicated that a budget of US\$ 5000 until 1994 would be necessary in order to perform his task. The GS points out that there is already a budget of SF 25000 allotted to this item.

XV. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT EC MEETING

It is agreed to hold the next EC meeting in Shanghai, China Beijing, June 25, 26 & 28, 1993.

XVI. CLOSURE BY PRESIDENT

The President expressed his thanks to Radhakrishnan for his warm hospitality and also extended them to Mrs. Radhakrishnan and to the Raman Research Institute staff.