

Paris, October 10, 1995

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee: 67th Meeting

August 18, 19 & 21, 1995

Mount Stromlo Observatory
Canberra, Australia

Draft Minutes

Present:

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

Excused:

C. Anguita	Vice-President
F. Pacini	Vice-President

Invited:

J. Mould	Director MSSSO
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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 members of the Executive Committee to the 67th meeting. The EC members are then welcomed by J. Mould, Director of the Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories and host of the EC meeting.

The President informs the EC members of the death of Edith Müller, past IAU General Secretary, which occurred unexpectedly July 24, 1995.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda is adopted, with the following additions:

Under § International Activities,

UNESCO- Etoile de la Tolérance

Under § Other Business

Upon the proposal by D. Mathewson, suggestions for making the IAU more attractive will be discussed.

EC INTERNAL MATTERS

The Minutes of EC 65 and EC 66 are approved.

REPORT ON THE SPECIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President L. Woltjer reports that the work of the Special Nominating Committee is progressing on schedule.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

After joining ICSU and following the ICSU procedure for the states of former Yugoslavia *Croatia* became Full Member of the IAU in 1994. The membership dues for the rest of 1994 have been waived but payment of the dues by Croatia is expected to start in 1995.

OTHER POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Cuba has expressed interest for the proposed status of Associate Member. However, no payment of dues for 1995 has been received so far.

Latvia has expressed interest to become a member. However, so far no official request has been received from their Academy of Sciences.

Thailand: the Assistant General Secretary reported about contacts with the Thai ICSU delegation concerning a possible future IAU membership.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

The Assistant General Secretary notes that the ICSU dues for Associate Members are significantly lower than for Category I. It is suggested that the IAU follow this example.

FINANCES

RAISE IN CATEGORY OF ADHERENCE

The General Secretary reports that *Spain* has agreed to raise its category of adherence (as of 1996) from II to IV (i.e. 6 units of contribution).

There are reports that *Australia* is also considering a raise of the category of adherence (from III to IV).

R. Kraft reports about efforts by the American astronomers to raise the *US* contribution. He asks for statistics to be provided by the IAU Secretariat on the grants distributed to US astronomers on the occasion of Scientific Meetings to support this effort.

WAIVER OF FEE

The EC agrees that, following a corresponding request, the membership dues for 1993 of *Bulgaria* be waived. However, Bulgaria will be advised that this will be the last waiver for this country.

COUNTRIES IN ARREARS

Korea DPR has not paid dues since 1991. If no payment is received by the end of 1995, their membership will be automatically terminated on January 1, 1996.

Morocco has at last paid (partially) the contribution for 1992. Since then, no payment has been received by the IAU.

1994 AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND JANUARY TO JUNE 1995 PRELIMINARY ACCOUNTS

The General Secretary reports that the deficit for 1994 has been higher than budgeted. Dr. Bergeron points out that the Finance Committee has repeatedly recommended that the expenditure for scientific activities be higher and that the reserve should not be higher than one year expenditure. She also notes that the reserve is still in excess of the yearly expenditure and, therefore, suggests that the funding of the scientific meetings be increased by a factor of 1.5. The decision on this suggestion is deferred until the proposals for scientific meetings are discussed (see hereafter).

Concerning the 1995 budget, the General Secretary points out

- that more will be spent on science this year, since more scientific meetings were accepted than budgeted;
- that the usual ICSU allotment will not be available in 1995;
- that the total number of units of contribution will be lower;
- that, because of lower interest rates, the income from bank interests will be lower.

Although the deficit will not be as large as 1994, the reserves are expected to diminish.

The EC decides to save expenses by discontinuing the distribution of the Symposia proceedings to the EC members. Only upon request such publications will still be sent to EC members.

The General Secretary is asked to check whether it could be of advantage to deposit IAU funds in countries (other than Switzerland), where higher interest rates can be achieved.

TREASURER

D. Mathewson explains that he had to decline the office of IAU Treasurer. It is suggested to ask Morton Roberts whether he would be willing to be nominated again to that position. The President will contact Dr. Roberts.

STATUTES, BYE-LAWS & WORKING RULES

Because of the establishment of the Divisions, the vagueness of the present rules concerning Individual Membership nominations and the lack of instructions concerning the submissions of the resolutions, the General Secretary proposes changes in the Statutes, Bye-Laws and Working Rules of the Union. The EC adopts the GS's draft with some modifications. The modified draft will now be submitted for comments to the Presidents of Divisions. These comments will be discussed at the next EC meeting.

DIVISION, COMMISSION & WORKING GROUP MATTERS

REQUEST FOR DIVISION STATUS FOR COMMISSION 41

After discussion, the EC decides not to support this request,

PROPOSED NEW WORKING GROUP ON FUTURE LARGE SCALE FACILITIES

The Executive Committee confirms the creation of this Working Group on the basis of the terms of reference proposed by the General Secretary. The EC also appoints the founding members of the new WG. The first chairperson of the WG will be Prof H. Butcher, Groningen.

REPORTS OF EC WORKING GROUPS

World Wide Development of Astronomy

Following the proposal of Dr. A. Batten the EC confirms the following composition of the WGWDA: A. Batten (Chair), Y. Kozai, B. Hidayat, D. McNally and M. Ch. Pineda de Carias and the Presidents of Commissions 38 and 46 ex officio. S. Raither from UNESCO will become a consultant of the WG.

Antarctic Astronomy

The Executive Committee expresses its concern that no report has been received on the activity of that Working Group since the last General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

XXIIInd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The EC takes note of the final report submitted by E. Raimond and sent to all EC members.

XXIIIrd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary will visit Kyoto and Tokyo in September to discuss open questions with the National and Local Organising Committees.

Format of the General Assembly

The EC confirms that the format of that General Assembly will be essentially the same as in The Hague, including 6 symposia (3 days and a half duration).

A registration fee level of USD 750, which has been mentioned by LOC members is regarded as totally unacceptable by the EC. The fee should not be significantly higher than in The Hague.

Requests by Japanese National Committee

Dr. Osaki (Chair of the Japanese National Committee for the IAU) has proposed to have certain Special Sessions and a "General Lectures Series". The idea of the General Lectures Series is well received by the EC. However, the EC is of the opinion that these Sessions would have to be organised locally, outside the normal GA programme.

Invited Discourses

Several suggestions are made:

HIPPARCOS	C. Turon/M. Perryman
Galaxy formation and evolution of galaxies	R. Ellis
SETI	J. Tarter
Supernova mechanisms	K. Nomoto
ISO	TBD
Model of Galaxies	E. Toomre
Stellar helioseismology	D. Gough
Big Bang	D. Sciama
The Hubble constant	S. Van den Bergh/J. Peebles

The EC asks the General Secretary to contact the Division Presidents for additional suggestions.

XXIVth GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2000)

Invitations

Letters of intent were received from (in chronological order) Australia, Denmark and the UK.

The invitation from *Denmark* has been withdrawn.

Australia has very recently changed the invitation to the year 2003 rather than 2000.

The *United Kingdom* remains strongly interested. Although a formal invitation has not yet been received from the Royal Society, assurances have been given by the Royal Astronomical Society that the official invitation will be a formality only. Possible venues are Birmingham and Manchester. Our English colleagues favour Manchester, which also would result in lower costs. The General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretary will visit Manchester and (if possible) Birmingham.

A decision is to be taken by the Executive Committee in 1996.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF MEETINGS

The EC decides for the year 1996 the following new contribution levels;

Colloquium	16000 CHF
Symposia	25000 CHF
RAM	25000 CHF

PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Symposia

The following meetings were approved by the EC:

Symposium 178 *MOLECULES IN ASTROPHYSICS: PROBES AND PROCESSES*
July 1 - 5, 1996, Leiden, Netherlands.

Symposium 179 *NEW HORIZONS FROM MULTI-WAVELENGTH DIGITAL SKY SURVEYS*
August 26 - 30, 1996, Baltimore, USA.

Symposium 180 *PLANETARY NEBULAE*
August 26 - 30, 1996, Groningen, Netherlands.

Symposium 181 *SOUNDING SOLAR AND STELLAR INTERIORS*
September 30 - October 3, 1996, Nice, France.

Symposium 182 *HERBIG-HARO FLOWS AND THE BIRTH OF LOW-MASS STARS*
January 20 - 26, 1997, Chamonix, France.

Not approved:

Dynamics and Astrometry of Natural and Artificial Celestial Bodies
July 1-5, 1996, Poznan, Poland

No final decision is taken on the proposed meeting on

Instability Phenomena and their Role in the Evolution of Cosmic Objects
August 29-31, 1996, Byurakan, Armenia

An EC subcommittee consisting of the President, the General Secretary, the Assistant General Secretary and Dr. Trimble is authorised to reach a final decision on the Byurakan proposal after more information on the viability of the proposed meeting has been clarified.

Colloquia

The following meetings were approved by the EC:

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

Colloquium 161 *5TH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON BIOASTRONOMY: ASTRONOMICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL ORIGINS AND THE SEARCH FOR LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE*
July 1 - 5, 1996, Capri, Italy.

Colloquium 162 *NEW TRENDS IN ASTRONOMY TEACHING*
July 8 - 12, 1996, London, UK.

Colloquium 163 *ACCRETION PHENOMENA AND RELATED OUTFLOWS*
July 15 - 19, 1996, Port Douglas, Queensland, Australia.

Colloquium 164 *RADIO EMISSION FROM GALACTIC AND EXTRAGALACTIC COMPACT SOURCES*
April 28 - May 2, 1997, Socorro, NW, USA

Not approved:

Visual Double Stars: Formation and Evolutionary Tracks
July 29-August 1, 1996, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Magnetic Filaments from the Sun and Stars
October 13-21, 1996, Aussois, France

Future Regional Astronomy Meeting

The Seventh Asia-Pacific Regional Astronomy Meeting
August 19 - 23, 1996, Pusan, Korea R

The last programme received for the IXth Asian Pacific Regional Meeting is complete and interesting.

A concern is the participation of scientists from North Korea. Dr. B. Hidayat indicates that he has been in communication with Dr. H.M. Lee on that subject, but that he had not yet received any reply. It is recalled that a general condition for the acceptance of the meetings is the free circulation of the scientists. The General Secretary will get in touch with Dr. Lee concerning that question.

With this proviso the EC approves the meeting.

A proposal to bring the RAMs fully under the authority of the Assistant General Secretary is not supported by the EC. The EC feels that the General Secretary has more weight should political problems arise. Consequently, the General Secretary will remain responsible for RAM proposals until the proposals are accepted by the EC.

IAU Technical Workshop

The EC agrees to sponsor an IAU TW on

Statistical Challenges in Modern Astronomy II
June 2 - 5, 1996, Park, PA, USA

Co-Sponsored Meetings

31st COSPAR Scientific Assembly and Associated Events
July 14 - 21, 1996, Birmingham, UK

The following events will be co-sponsored by the IAU:

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|------|--|
| B0.1 | Comparative Studies of Moon and Mercury |
| B0.2 | Spacecraft Exploration of the Outer Solar System: Galileo Initial Results and Future Prospects |
| B0.4 | Energy Sources in the Planets and Other Bodies in the Solar System |
| B0.6 | Space Exploration of Cometary Nuclei |
| B0.7 | Space Debris |
| D0.4 | Reconnection in the Solar Corona and Magnetospheric Substorms |
| E1.2 | Gamma-ray Bursts |
| E1.5 | Pulsars- Satellite and Ground-Based Studies of Radio-Pulsars |

The EC decides to co-support the

Third SOLTIP Symposium: Solar Transient and Interplanetary Phenomena
October 14 - 18, 1996, Beijing, China

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ISYAs

ISYA Brazil 1995

The 22nd ISYA has been held in Brazil in July. A report by M. Gerbaldi is distributed. There were 75 applications out of which 39 had been selected. The school was very successful. The complete report will be published in the next Information Bulletin.

Future ISYAs

Projects are under development in *Peru, Iran and Turkey*.

Concerning the ISYA in *Vietnam*, it seems that this country is not ready to hold such a school. A small meeting organised in connection with the solar eclipse in October will be supported by the IAU.

TAD

At the moment, there is no further news. An Organising Committee is expected to be established. The General Secretary will get in touch with D. Wentzel.

EXCHANGE OF ASTRONOMERS

As relatively few requests reach the President of the Commission 38, the general feeling is that the rules should be made more flexible.

PUBLICATIONS

TRANSACTIONS A (REPORTS ON ASTRONOMY)

The General Secretary presents a request by the President of Commission 34 to abolish the Reports of Astronomy which he regards as of little value. After some discussion the EC decides to continue this series. However, the emphasis of the Reports should be shifted more towards the main results in the fields of the commissions rather than presenting complete reviews.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

There is consensus in the EC that in the future the Membership Directory should be published in electronic form (such as on CD ROM). After the end of the present Publishing Contract the Directory should be made available (electronically) free of charge.

RENEWAL OF THE PUBLICATION CONTRACT

The present contract with Kluwer Academic Publishers expires on December 31, 1997. A call for tenders for a new contract will be issued in 1996. The EC feels that the price of the IAU publications is too high and that the new contract should tend to reduce it. The royalties which are at the moment of 13%, should be reduced by about a factor 0.5. Electronic publishing should be studied.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ICSU

33rd General Committee, 1994

The IAU Assistant General Secretary attended the 33rd meeting of the General Committee in October 1994.

The main issues were the following:

- an assessment of ICSU's structure and functioning will be conducted to provide a report to the 25th General Assembly in 1996;
- the new ICSU programme on capacity building in science is endorsed;
- the emphasis on electronic communications, including a conference in early 1996, is encouraged;
- the OECD Megascience Forum survey of large scale research initiatives is welcomed. ICSU is acting in concert with related initiatives, e.g. the UNESCO Physics Action Council (PAC).

Report of the meeting of Representatives of the Teaching Commissions

M. Gerbaldi (Commission 46) attended the meeting organised by the Committee on Capacity Building in Science (CCBS) chaired by L. Lederman. At this meeting, reports of the activities of the participating unions were presented. A general discussion took place on the various methods which could be used to (i) stimulate primary science education, (ii) reduce the isolation of scientists and (iii) increase the public understanding of science. The CCBS will produce within some months a report with actions suggested.

ICSU/UNESCO: MEETING ON ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

A meeting is scheduled in February 1996 which should gather about 200 people. The President of Commission 5 (Documentation) proposed as representatives of the IAU Drs. A'Hearn and J. Lequeux.

UNESCO: ETOILE DE LA TOLERANCE

To mark its 50th year of existence UNESCO is contemplating to launch a balloon satellite called "L'Etoile de la Tolérance" into space. Upon request of the IAU, ICSU has approached UNESCO, indicating the highly adverse effects on astronomical observations were such a project be realised.

It is agreed that the IAU should strongly protest, and that a letter will be sent by the President of the IAU to the Director General of UNESCO.

There are also rumours of a project to launch for entertainment purposes remotely controlled vehicles to the moon surface inducing electro-magnetic pollution. Another project would consist in digging into the surface of the moon in order to mine ^3He . ICSU will be asked for information about these projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

HOW TO MAKE THE IAU MORE ATTRACTIVE?

Among various ideas for future actions and programmes of the IAU the creation of an IAU award and of IAU Senior Lecturer programs are discussed. It is decided to continue the discussion on new ideas at the next EC meeting.

DATES AND VENUE OF THE 68th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The 68th Executive Committee meeting will be held June 23-25, 1996, in Baltimore, on invitation of Dr. R. Williams, Director of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

CLOSURE BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting ends at 12 h 30. The President thanks the General Secretary and the IAU staff, and expresses the thanks of the Executive Committee to Dr. J. Mould for his kind hospitality.