

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee, 71st Meeting

Council Room, Observatoire de Paris

July 3 & 4, 1998

Draft Minutes

Present:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| R. Kraft | President |
| F. Pacini | President-Elect |
| J. Andersen | General Secretary |
| H. Rickman | Assistant General Secretary |
| C. Anguita | Vice-President |
| C. Cesarsky | Vice-President |
| B. Hidayat | Vice-President |
| N. Kaifu | Vice-President |
| N. Kardashev | Vice-President |
| L. Woltjer | Adviser |
| I. Appenzeller | Adviser |

Excused: V. Trimble Vice-President

In attendance:

M. Léger-Orine Administrative Assistant

I. OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

The President, Robert Kraft, welcomes the members of the Executive Committee to its 71st meeting. He also thanks Catherine Cesarsky for her kind invitation to have the meeting held in the historical room of the Scientific Council of the Paris Observatory.

The President reports that, after the Officers meeting, he sent a letter supporting the efforts of the Astronomische Gesellschaft to persuade the authorities of Bad Salzuflen to secure the preservation of the grave of W. Baade. Thanks in particular to the efforts of AG President W. Pfau and Prof. Th. Schmidt-Kaler, the grave will be taken care of by them as of this year.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda is adopted, with minor re-arrangements of some items, plus, under § VI, the status of Peru's membership in the IAU

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EC 69 AND EC 70

The minutes of EC 69 and 70 are approved, with minor corrections.

IV. REPORT ON SPECIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President reports that D. Morton, after the Kyoto General Assembly, had resigned from the Special Nominating Committee, on the grounds that he had already been member of a previous one, and that he was also Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee. The President had therefore appointed another Canadian astronomer, William E. Harris, who has accepted this task.

R. Kraft also reports that the work of the Special Nominating Committee is progressing on schedule.

V. REPORT ON SECRETARIAT

The GS informs the EC of the resignation, for personal reasons of Julie Saucedo to resign from her position at the Secretariat effective July 31, 1998. Her replacement, Jodi Greenberg, will begin in the position as of July 6, 1998. The EC sent their best wishes to Julie Saucedo and thanked her for her eight years of service to the Union.

VI. MEMBERSHIP

An official application having been received from the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and following the authorization by the General Assembly to accept that country as a new member when a proper request had been received, the EC accepts *The Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia* (FYROM) as a full member of the IAU effective January 1st, 1998.

Azerbaijan's membership terminated on December 31, 1997 according to paragraph 7 of the IAU Statutes, since no payment of dues had been received for 5 years. Several contacts had been attempted, but without success.

The Executive Committee welcomed *Morocco's* payment received recently, in anticipation of the formal renewal of its membership. Meanwhile, this additional income will be used to increase the funding of the TAD activities in Morocco. The former Adhering Body for Morocco had been encouraged to submit a formal application for renewal of Morocco's membership well ahead of the 24th GA in 2000.

Peru, which had been granted a waiver of their membership dues for the years 1994, 1995 and 1996, provided that the dues for the years 1997 and 1998 be paid promptly early 1998, had declared itself unable to pay until possibly in 1999. Since that would invalidate the waiver, Peru would then cease to be an Associate Member at the end of 1998, the second five-year period with such a result for Peru. Contacts have been made with M.L. Aguilar but no satisfactory information has been received up to now. Consequently, J. Sahade and C. Anguita are asked to contact with them to avoid Peru losing its IAU membership for the second time.

R. Kraft reports that an increase to Category IX of the *USA*, starting in 1999, had been accepted by the National Academy; the corresponding provision has been included in the new National Science Council budget. The Executive Committee welcomed this favourable development and thanked the US National Committee for its initiative. However, the actual appropriation of funds remains to be approved by the US National Science Foundation.

VII. FINANCES

Adhering Organizations

It is agreed to waive the dues of *Armenia* for 1995-1998, provided the 1999 dues are promptly paid.

Finance sub-Committee - Investment strategies

The report from the Finance sub-Committee concerning the 1997 accounts has been received. They welcome the reduction of the deficit by 19% of that budgeted. They also make recommendations as regards the investment strategy of the IAU. The GS is asked to thank D. Morton on behalf of the EC for the contribution and comments of the FSC, and to ask the FSC for recommendations for an investment plan. The GS is encouraged to pursue the matter in the light of the introduction of the Euro and submit a proposal which could be reviewed at the next EC meeting.

Budgets 1998 and 1999

It is noted that the grant received from ICSU is decreasing, compared to the provisions: 11600 and 17950 CHF deficit for 1997 and 1998 respectively.

VIII. STATUTES, BY-LAWS, AND WORKING RULES

The EC approves the modifications as proposed by the GS. Modifications concerning the Statutes will be submitted to the next General Assembly for official approval. The modifications of the Working Rules are in force immediately.

IX. DIVISION, COMMISSION, AND WORKING GROUP MATTERS

Policy on attendance of Division Presidents at EC meetings

Due to financial limitations, it is impossible to invite all Presidents of the Divisions to attend every EC meeting. As agreed, the GS had sent them the agenda of this EC meeting. One Division President sent substantial comments, and three had volunteered to come at their own expense.

The general feeling of the EC is that it would become impracticable for the EC to work efficiently if the attendance to the meetings becomes too large. At the same time, experience has shown that the written comments are very valuable for the EC in arriving at informed decisions. It is decided, therefore, that the comments of Division Presidents will be requested for the selection of all GA meetings at the 1999 EC meeting, but they will not be invited to attend in person. At the same time, the AGS will further optimise the meeting proposal procedures to streamline the processing of proposals through the Divisions.

At the XXIVth GA in Manchester in 2000, in addition to their attendance at the EC meetings as in 1997, it is proposed to organise a special meeting with the Officers and the outgoing and incoming Divisions Presidents to discuss the functioning and structural improvements in the Divisions.

Division IX (Optical Techniques)

On behalf of the Division, C. Sterken proposes that its name be revised to "Optical and Infrared Techniques". This is accepted by the EC, effective immediately. At his suggestion, the EC asks the Division President to proceed promptly with the formation of topical Working Groups in the Division to better cover new fields of research within this very broad subject.

Commission 51 (Bioastronomy: Search for extraterrestrial life)

F. Colomb has resigned as President of Commission 51. The EC understands that the OC will propose that S. Bowyer (present Vice-President of the Commission) be appointed as Interim President until the next General Assembly, without prejudice to his election to the Presidency at that time, as originally foreseen, and authorises the GS to approve this arrangement when formally proposed.

WG matters related to asteroids and NEOs

A revised version of the IAU Policy Statement on Near Earth Object Research proposed by the GS is approved. Furthermore, it is decided to reinstate funding for the MPC with immediate effect, the amount being CHF 6000/year until further notice. The GS is asked to seek for additional European funding to encourage support for NEO observations, including support to the MPC.

Commission 6 is asked to define suitable procedures for any press releases concerning astronomical discoveries that might be issued to the public.

Report of WG on World Wide Development of Astronomy

Following the proposal received from Prof. Narlikar (India) to involve the IAU in setting up networks aimed to reduce the isolation that is common to many third-world astronomers, the EC expresses his sympathy to the idea. However, the EC advises Prof. Narlikar to co-ordinate any such actions with other bodies, in particular the UN, which has already initiated such enterprises. The EC, in particular Vice Presidents Kaifu and Hidayat, will be glad to participate in the negotiations with these organizations.

X. GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

XXIIIrd GA

The final report on the XXIIIrd GA has been received from T. Fukushima. It will be sent for information to the LOCs, both in Manchester and in Sydney.

Preparations and timetable for the XXIVth GA

The GS visited Manchester June 16, 1998. Preparation is going smoothly. The deadline for early registration has been set to May 1st, 2000.

New buildings are being completed and there should be no major problem regarding meeting rooms in accommodating a total attendance of 2500 persons. However, as Manchester is easily accessible and accommodation cheap, it is not inconceivable that that number might be exceeded. Consequently, it is decided to indicate already in the first announcement that attendance may be limited to ~about 2500 persons,

Preparations for the XXVth

Regular meetings are being held by the LOC. Harry Hyland plans a visit to the LOC in Manchester next July.

XI. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

STATUS OF ISYA AND TAD PROGRAMMES

TAD/Central America

The EC accepts the proposal by D. Wentzel for an increase in the budget, i.e.:

\$ 1500 for 1998 for one-time support of a course of lectures by A.A. Ferro at the University of Salvador and \$ 1000 annually, starting in 1998, to provide partial support for one Central American student to visit the University of Guanajuato, Mexico, to carry out an observational project

1999 ISYA

The proposed ISYA in Romania (July 26 –August 14, 1999) is approved, provided its programme is suitably revised. The precise amount of IAU funding will be decided when the ICSU grant is known.

2001 ISYA

The proposed ISYA in Thailand in 2001 is approved in principle; a proposal including funding and a revised budget will be presented for later approval.

Collaboration with UN bodies (UNESCO, COPUOS)

The proposal for a satellite meeting on Capacity Building in Astronomy and Space Science within the UNISPACE III meeting in Vienna, 1999, is accepted.

IAU/COSPAR initiatives

The Workshop proposal made last year to ICSU has been turned down. Longer-term programmes are under development and should be ready soon.

ICSU Programme on Capacity Building in Science

The IAU will be represented at the Conference in Brazil on that subject to be held by the end of 1998, through Commisison 46.

XII. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The GS informs the EC of the different contacts he is having with the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). He also recalls that the IAU has been granted Observer Status with COPUOS. Amongst the documentation distributed is a summary of the main subjects foreseen by the IAU for its cooperation with COPUOS for the years 1998-2000.

The EC endorses the statement on *Environmental Challenges to Astronomy* proposed by the GS, and approves the proposal for a satellite meeting to publicise the case and present recommendations to UNISPACE III, to be held in Vienna in 1999 (IAU Symposium 196 – see below).

XIII. Scientific Meetings

Selection of IAU sponsored meetings in 1999

The following scientific meetings were approved by the EC:

Symposia

IAU Symposium 195: *Highly Energetic Physical Processes & Mechanisms for Emission from Astrophysical Plasmas*
6 - 10 July, 1999, Bozeman, MT, USA

IAU Symposium 196: *Preserving the Astronomical Sky*
12 – 16 July, 1999, Vienna, Austria

IAU Symposium 197: *Astrochemistry: From Molecular Clouds to Planetary Systems*
23 – 27 August, 1999, Sogwipo, South Korea

IAU Symposium 198: *The Light Elements and their Evolution*
22 – 26 November, 1999, Natal, Brazil

IAU Symposium 199: *The Universe at Low Radio Frequencies*
30 November – 4 December 1999, Pune, India

Colloquia

IAU Colloquium 174: *Small Galaxy Groups*
13 - 18 June, 1999, Turku, Finland

IAU Colloquium 175: *The Be Phenomenon in Early-Type Stars*
28 June – 2 July, 1999, Alicante, Spain

IAU Colloquium 176: *The Impact of Large-Scale Surveys on Pulsating Star Research*
9 - 13 August, 1999, Budapest, Hungary

IAU Colloquium 177: *Pulsar Astronomy – 2000 and beyond*
30 August – 3 September, 1999, Bonn, Germany

IAU Colloquium 178: *Polar Motion: Historical and Scientific Problems*
27 – 30 September, 1999, Cagliari, Italy

IAU Colloquium 179: *Cyclical Evolution of Solar Magnetic Fields: Advances in Theory
& Observations*
13 – 16 December, 1999, Kodaikanal, India

XIV. PUBLICATIONS

Information Bulletin

IB 81 and IB 82 have been published within the new contract with ASP

Transactions and Highlights

The manuscripts are to be sent to Kluwer within the following weeks.

List of institutes receiving free IAU publications

It is decided to no longer send free publications to the institutions which did not reply to the inquiry on the subject

Publication of the Archives of the Carte du Ciel

The EC regards this publication as the continuation of the work of the IAU Commission on the “Carte du Ciel” and is willing, with other institutions, to co-sponsor its publication. Consequently, it is decided to grant FRF 10,000 to that effect.

XV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ICSU

The GS reports briefly about the on the restructuring of ICSU, including its name, which in the future will be: *ICSU: The International Council for Science*.

XVI. OTHER BUSINESS

Date and place of EC 72

Upon the invitation of C. Anguita, the next EC meeting will take place in Santiago de Chile, June 18 - 20, 1999.

VII. CLOSURE BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting ends at 15 h 30. The President thanks the General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, the IAU staff, and expresses the thanks of the Executive Committee to Dr. C. Cesarsky for her kind hospitality.