

IAU Executive Committee Meeting EC91, 19 & 23 August, 2012, Beijing

Draft Minutes

Present:

Officers:

Robert Williams, President
Norio Kaifu, President-elect
Ian Corbett, General Secretary
Thierry Montmerle, Assistant GS

Vice-Presidents:

Matthew Colless
Martha Haynes
George Miley
Jan Palouš
Marta Rovira
Giancarlo Setti

Catherine Cesarsky, Advisor
Karel A. van der Hucht, Advisor

IAU Secretariat

Vivien Reuter, Executive Assistant

1. Welcome by the President of the IAU, *Bob Williams*

The President welcomed the Committee members to Beijing.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Executive Committee

3.1 Draft minutes EC90

The minutes were approved.

3.2 Action Items

All action items had been completed but no nominations to the Special Nominating Committee had been received from DPs. This would have to be expedited as soon as possible.

4 Report on the Secretariat

4.1 Personnel

The General Secretary reported that Jana Žilová had been ill for several weeks and had sent in a medical certificate covering the period to 31 August. It was not known when, or if, she would return. Her absence had increased the strain on an already very busy Secretariat, which was nevertheless coping with the heavy workload in the run-up to the GA. The EC thanked Vivien Reuter for her exceptional contribution to the IAU.

5 Division Structure

5.1 Resolution for the GA

The Committee agreed the wording of the draft Resolution.

5.2 New DPs and V-Ps

The list of proposed DP and DVP for the new Divisions, and the 'fall back' DP and DVP for unchanged Divisions, (attached to these minutes) was agreed.

5.3 Transitional Process for Commissions and WG

It had already been agreed that this should be carried out by the new Divisions, if approved, with guidance from the new EC, and that the initial plans should be presented by DPs at EC93 in April or May 2013.

5.4 Projected Timeline

The proposed timeline was reconfirmed. Two lunchtime 'town meetings' are organised at the GA (Friday 24 and Tuesday 28) to explain the proposed structure and implementation to process to members before the GA vote.

6 Strategic Development Plan / OAD

GM presented his paper summarising recent progress. The Committee noted that agreements would be signed during the GA for an East Asian ROAD/LEC based in Beijing and a South East Asian ROAD based in Thailand. The Committee congratulated GM and Kevin Govender on the sustained progress in implementing the Strategic Plan

7 First and Second Sessions of the GA

Agenda item 9 was taken at this point, in view of the likely impact of the visit by the Vice-President of China, Jinping Xi, to the Inaugural Ceremony and the resulting rearrangement of the schedule for Tuesday 21.

The Committee agreed the agendas for Sessions 1 and 2, and to the moving to 13:30 of the presentation of the proposed Divisional restructuring by TM.

8 Review of Resolutions for GA

The Committee agreed the revised resolutions. IFC would now discuss them with the Resolutions Committee and return, if necessary, to the EC with any substantive changes. *This was subsequently done and no changes were requested.*

9 General GA Matters

The discussion focussed on the visit by the Vice-President of China and the security and other measures being implemented, following a briefing meeting between IFC, VR and Gang Zhao. It was agreed that this was a very great honour for the IAU and for the NAOC, and that we would do everything required to make sure the event went smoothly.

10 Changes to Working Rules

These were endorsed for passing on the EC92 to approve, assuming the changes to the Statutes and Bye-Laws were approved at the first session of the GA.

11 Financial Status Report

The Committee noted the current financial situation and once again thanked VR for her work on the finances of the Union.

12 Budget for 2013-2015 and Finance Sub-Committee Report

The Committee noted that no comments had been received on the draft budget and that the FSC Report recommended approval of the accounts and of the budget for 2013-2015.

13 EC Report to GA

The Committee agreed the draft EC report to the GA.

14 Proposal(s) to host 2018 XXX GA

The Committee welcomed the proposal by Austria to host the XXX 2018 GA in Vienna. Gerhard Hensler would present the proposal to EC on 23 August.

15 National Membership

15.1 New members and Change of Status

The Committee noted that the candidates (Kazakhstan, North Korea DPRK and Ethiopia) would go forward to the General Assembly for admission, and that Vietnam would be re-classified as a 'prospective member'.

15.2 NM Dues overview

The Committee noted the information supplied by VR and re-affirmed that the Statutes should be rigorously applied to defaulting members.

16 ICSU matters

IFC reported that, accompanied by VR, he had met with Steven Wilson, the newly appointed Executive Director, in July. IFC stated that he had explained in plain terms the IAU's reservations about the relevance of ICSU to the basic science unions, and that it was important that ICSU took into account the unions' concerns and priorities in formulating its own priorities. Wilson explained ICSU's strategic priorities and noted that bodies like WDS and CODATA were important to the IAU, which is of course accepted by us. The issues are at a higher level within the ICSU Executive.

I invited Wilson to write an article on ICSU for IB111 to be published in January 2013. *(As a footnote, Dov Jaron from the ICSU Executive Board, gave a short talk on ICSU at the GA.)*

17 KAVLI / PPGP/PPGF

17.1 Gruber Foundation Fellowship 2012

The Committee noted that the next Gruber Fellowship selection committee should be appointed at EC92.

17.2 Kavli Prize Report

The President gave a short report. Both he and IFC will be present at the award ceremony and symposium in Oslo immediately after the GA. IFC reported that the NASL had offered 5000€ in support of the Young Astronomers Lunch at the GA.

17.3 Membership of Kavli Prize Selection Committee

The IAU will be invited to offer names from those put forward by the Academy of Science, the Royal Society and the Max Planck Society.

18 EC92 at GA.

EC92 on Saturday 1 September 8.30-17.00 in the NAOC – **New EC and DPs**

19 AOB

There being no AOB, the President thanked the members for productive discussions and declared the meeting adjourned until Thursday 23 at 8:30.

Second session, Thursday 23 at 8:30.

All members present except Marta Rovira.

20 Presentation of Austria Proposal to host 30th GA in Vienna

Gerhard Hensler presented the proposal and answered a range of questions, mainly of clarification. After Hensler left the EC discussed various points arising and agreed that they preferred the Convention Centre over the Messe, and that it would be better not to have the GA in the last two weeks of August. There were some concerns over the robustness of the financial projections and cost estimates, which would have to be addressed in due course with the proposers.

The EC unanimously agreed that the 30th GA would be in Vienna and that a small team from the EC should visit Vienna as soon as possible.

21 Membership of Resolutions Committee

The committee agreed the following composition:

Ian Corbett, Bruce Elmegreen, Karel van der Hucht, Yanchun Liang, and Renée Kraan-Korteweg (as link to EC).

22 Membership of SNC

The DPs had been asked to submit names: a few had already been received. The names received would be discussed by the President and GS, and put to the Nominating Sub-Committee chair (Johannes Andersen) so that a reasonable slate of candidates can be put to the NM at their meeting on 29 August, before the second session of the GA on 30 August.

23 Presentation Bowl

The Committee examined the engraved crystal bowl to be presented to the LOC at the conclusion of the Closing Ceremony, and expressed their appreciation to Vivien Reuter.

The meeting closed at 10:45. As this was the last meeting of this Executive Committee the President thanked all members for their contribution to the work of the EC and to the IAU.

Plan A: New Divisions, final slate

| Divisions | DP | DVP |
|---|---|--|
| A Space & Time Reference Frames | S. Klioner (D; M) | J. Laskar (FR; M) |
| B Facilities, Technologies, & Data Science | D. Silva (USA; M) | P. Ubertini (IT; M) |
| C Education, Outreach & Heritage | M.K. Hemenway (USA; F) | H. Malasan (Indonesia; M) |
| D High Energies & Fundamental Physics | D. Worrall (UK; F) | F. Aharonian (D/IRL; M) |
| E Sun & Heliosphere | L. van Driel (UK; F) | Yihua Yan (China; M) |
| F Planetary Systems & Bioastronomy | G. Valsecchi (IT; M) | N. Haghighipour (USA; M) |
| G Stars & Stellar Physics | I. Ribas (ES; M) | C. Charbonnel (FR/CH; F) |
| H Interstellar Medium & Local Universe | E. van Dishoek (NL; F) | J. Bland-Hawthorne (AU; M) |
| J Galaxies & Cosmology | F. Combes (FR; F) | T. Padmanabhan (IN; M) |
| <i>Gender/Nationality (NCA)</i> | 5F, 4M D: 1; ES: 1; FR: 1; IT: 1; UK: 2; USA: 2 | 1F; 8M AU: 1; CH: 1; China: 1; FR: 1; FR/CH: 1; D/IRL: 1; Indonesia: 1; India: 1; USA: 1 |

Plan B: Existing Divisions, final slate

| Divisions | DP | DVP |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| I Fundamental Astronomy | S. Klioner (D; M) | J. Laskar (FR; M) |
| II Sun & Heliosphere | N. Gopalswamy (USA; M) | L. van Driel (UK; F) |
| III Planetary Systems | G. Valsecchi (IT; M) | N. Haghighipour (USA; M) |
| IV Stars | C. Charbonnel (FR; F) | M. Asplund (AU; M) |
| V Variable Stars | I. Ribas (ES; M) | K. Pollard (UK; F) |
| VI Interstellar Medium | S. Kwok (HK/China; M) | B.-C. Koo (Korea; M) |
| VII Galactic System | B. Nordstrom (DK; F) | G. Carraro (IT; M) |
| VIII Galaxies & Universe | F. Combes (FR; F) | T. Padmanabhan (IN; M) |
| IX Opt. & IR techniques | D. Silva (USA; M) | M. Burton (AU; M) |
| X Radio Astronomy | J. Chapman (AU; F) | G. Giovannini (IT; M) |
| XI Space & High Energies | N. Brosch (IS; M) | D. Worrall (UK; F) |
| XII Union-Wide activities | R. Norris (AU; M) | M. Ohishi (Japan; M) |
| <i>Gender/Nationality (NCA)</i> | 4F; 8M AU: 2; D: 1; DK: 1; ES: 1; FR: 2; HK: 1; IS: 1; IT: 1; USA: 2 | 3F; 9M AU: 2; FR: 1; IT: 2; India: 1; Japan: 1; Korea: 1; UK: 3; USA: 1 |