IAU Executive Committee Meeting EC89, 24-26 May 2011, Prague

Draft Minutes

Present:

Officers:

Robert Williams, President
Norio Kaifu, President-elect
Ian Corbett, General Secretary (24 & 25 May only)
Thierry Montmerle, Assistant GS
Catherine Cesarsky, Advisor
Karel A. van der Hucht, Advisor

Vice-Presidents:
Matthew Colless
Martha Haynes
George Miley (25 & 26 May only)
Jan Palouš
Marta Rovira
Giancarlo Setti

Dennis McCarthy, D I
Valentin Martínez Pillet, D II
Karen Meech, D III
Christopher Corbally, D IV
Gerald Handler, D V
You-Hua Chu, D VI
Despina Hatzidimitriou, D VII
Elaine Sadler, D VIII

Division Presidents & representatives

Andreas Quirrenbach, D IX A Russell Taylor, D X Noah Brosch, D XI Françoise Genova, D XII

IAU Secretariat Vivien Reuter, Executive Assistant Jana Zilová, Database Manager

1. Welcome by the President of the IAU, Robert Williams

The President opened the meeting at 9 a.m. with EC members and DPs present.

2. Approval of the agenda and Structure of Meeting

After a short discussion the Agenda was approved and the Division Presidents left the meeting to discuss the proposed new Divisional Structure (agenda item 8).

3. Executive Committee

3.1. Draft minutes EC88 – for approval

The Minutes of EC88 were approved.

- 3.2 The Action Items from EC88 were reviewed.
- 3.3 The minutes of OM2011 were noted.
- 3.4 The Action Items from OM2011 were reviewed and updated.

4. Report on the Secretariat

4.1. Personnel

IFC and VR reported that the situation at the IAU Secretariat in Paris was entirely satisfactory and staffing positions would be reviewed in advance of GA2012.

4.2. Data base and web site

4.2.1. Member access and editing

VR and JZ summarized activities and progress.

4.2.2. Commission websites

VR and JZ reported that 31 out of 40 Commission websites have been updated since EC88. A major problem is the migration of the sites when new officers are elected. ESO is currently developing a template for sites to be hosted by Google, Drupal or a comparable service.

Some of the contents of these sites might be backed up at ESO; however, the IAU cannot run Division and Commission websites, nor is the IAU legally responsible for their content.

4.3. Contract with ESO

IFC reported that the web management contract with ESO is reviewed and renewed regularly. There is much goodwill on both sides, with excellent cooperation, and overall the arrangement represents excellent value to the IAU. An ambitious overhaul of the database is currently underway, supervised by Lars Holm Nielson. The EC expressed its thanks to ESO for continuing to provide these invaluable services, and to the IAP for their support to the Paris Secretariat.

5. EC WG Future Large Scale Facilities

The EC agreed the revised Terms of Reference. IFC described ongoing discussions with Roger Bonnet and COSPAR concerning the current review of astronomy from space, and how it would fit in with the activities of the EC WG.

In discussion of the membership of the FLSF-WG committee, CJC and MH suggested that Africa and Latin America should be represented. In the discussion, the names mentioned were:

- Renée C. Kraan-Korteweg, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Maria Teresa Ruiz, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile

TM, with support from GS, asked for someone from the field of Astroparticles to be added, and several possible names were suggested.

IFC pointed out that this WG only exists formally until the next GA. It must be efficient and act fast if it is to achieve its goals.

EC89 AI 1 on IFC: to follow up on suggested additional members to FLSF-WG committee. (DONE)

6. Public Outreach Coordinator

CJC emphasized the importance of maintaining the links to the amateur community that the IAU has developed through the IYA.

There is much enthusiasm in the Asian community: NAOJ, JAXA, NAOC, KASI and ASIAA have all agreed to contribute 5keur per annum each for the next five years towards the position of an IAU Public Outreach Coordinator (POC). The target (cf. AI- EC88-8b) is to seek more financial support for a total of 50 keur per annum.

GM suggested combining POC activities with OAD regional nodes, and it was agreed that overlap with the OAD should be reviewed.

BW would like to see a concerted action to move forward.

NK proposed to start discussions with other Asian partners on location, staffing and funding of the POC, in close cooperation with the Asian Regional Office of the Strategic Development Plan.

* EC89 Resolution 1, proposed by CJC/IFC and agreed unanimously:

The IAU commits to paying 25K per year in 2011 and 2012 towards the POC, subject to its being established, and will make provision for on-going support in the next triennial budget.

* EC89 Resolution 2, proposed by NK and agreed unanimously:

The IAU should recruit and prepare to hire a POC on the assumption that the PO Office (POO) be situated in Asia, probably in Japan.

EC89 AI_2a on IFC: make provision for on-going support for the POC in the next triennial budget. EC89 AI_2b on IFC NK: prepare an operation plan for the POC/POO in cooperation with NAOJ and other Asian institutes.

The Division Presidents re-joined the EC for the remaining items on the 24th.

7. Status of Division and Commission Working Groups

7.2 Renewal or suppression of Working Groups

Despite numerous reminders, 6 WGs currently either have no chair or have failed to inform the Secretariat. The EC reviewed the list and decided as follows:

The following WG are to be considered for renewal

- Adaptive Optics
- Particle Astrophysics
- New Media / Virtual Astronomy Multimedia Project

The Libraries WG is active and will continue.

Two WG will be terminated:

- Small Telescope Projects
- Global VLBI

EC89 AI_3 on JZ: update website accordingly.

EC89 AI 4 on FG: to follow up the chair of the WG Libraries. (DONE)

8. Proposed New Divisional Structure

Chris Corbally reported on the outcome of the DP discussion. In principle, the Division Presidents agreed to the broad outline of new structure and gave the EC a "clear mandate" to proceed with the reform, subject to extensive consultation with stakeholders and further studies of the implications for Commissions, Working Groups etc. The Division Presidents were concerned that Divisional changes should be presented as part of a 'complete package' which all members could understand.

The EC noted that a revision of the Division structure can be done within the existing Statutes, although some minor tidying up of wording may be helpful. The EC noted that any proposal to the General Assembly must be

- recommended by the Executive Committee,
- submitted to the General Secretary six months in advance of the 2nd General Assembly session,
- sent to members by 19 February for changes to the Statutes and Bye-Laws, and 28 February as a Resolution,
- put on the Agenda of the General Assembly, and
- approved at the General Assembly.

(cf. Statutes sections 20 and 22; Bye-Laws Section 7)

If necessary, the Commissions can be fine-tuned by the new Divisions in the course of the following triennium.

RW presented a possible timeline and outline for Division changes. Since the final proposal for the Division structure cannot wait until EC90 in April 2012, the EC agreed that it may be necessary to organise an extra EC meeting.

The EC established a Task Force to develop the Division reform proposal, comprising:

IAU EC members:

Thierry Montmerle (Chair) Martha Haynes Norio Kaifu Giancarlo Setti

Division Presidents:

Chris Corbally – D IV Russ Taylor – D X Christine Jones – D XI Françoise Genova – D XII All those present agreed to serve in an ad hominem capacity. Note: Christine Jones, who was not present, subsequently agreed to serve on this Group.

EC89 AI_5 on EC/Task Force considering a new Divisional structure:

To formulate a "vision statement" on the goals of the new Division structure and make it publicly available. The statement should

- provide a uniform, coherent explanation for the proposed changes to inform the IAU community
- explain that Divisions are no longer to be simply umbrellas for Commissions;
- explain how the reforms will affect members and invite comments;
- set up the goals of Task Force;
- be accompanied by ToRs, scope and goals, etc. of new Divisions (to be developed by Task Force).

EC89 AI_6 on TM: to investigate means of Task Force video conferencing via computers on the internet.

9. Electronic Voting

The EC were given an online demonstration of the MiVoice e-voting system. The Division Presidents agreed that it could be very useful to both Divisions and Commissions, but the EC did not reach a consensus on how it might be used at or for General Assemblies.

* EC89 Resolution_3: to implement MiVoice and offer the service to Divisions and Commissions.

EC89 AI_7 on IFC: to negotiate and sign a contract with MiVoice EC89 AI_8 on VR: to write up the workflow and post it on the website.

10. UNESCO / World Heritage / C41 - for information

IFC reported that the Memorandum with UNESCO has been renewed.

He presented the proposal by Clive Ruggles for establishing an "Astronomical Heritage Portal" and requested the EC's approval to offer limited support of the order of 3 - 4000 EUR p.a.

* EC89 Resolution_4: to support the proposal for establishing an "Astronomical Heritage Portal" with a contribution to be agreed by the GS on an annual basis.

EC89 AI_9 on IFC: to inform Clive Ruggles of the EC decision and agree funding for 2011 and 2012, and a budget provision for the next triennium.

11. **NEO Working Group** – for information

KAvdH presented his report on the activities of the Division III WG on Near Earth Object. The EC noted the report and agreed that the General Secretary should respond by writing to the Chair and members of the WG along the lines suggested.

EC89 AI_10 on IFC: to write to the Chair and members of the Division III WG on NEO along the lines suggested by KAvdH.

12. Selection of Scientific Programme for GA 2012 – initial discussion

TM outlined the situation following the telecon involving the Division Presidents and IAU Vice-Presidents, which had produce an initial rank order for Symposia. The EC agreed that there should, exceptionally, be 8 Symposia at the 2012 Beijing General Assembly. IFC confirmed that there should be adequate space in the Beijing Conference Center (CNCC) to allow 8 Symposia plus ~26 other sessions.

The meeting adjourned for the day at this point.

25th May – the Division Presidents met separately to discuss the scientific meetings for 2012.

13. IAU Scientific Meetings

13.1 Symposia and Regional Meetings 2010 and 2011

The EC expressed concern about the "intangible" impact of ICTAM, e.g. on the price and availability of nearby hotel rooms.

4. Registration Fees

The proposed fee structure was discussed, and the LOC renewed its commitment to keeping the rates within the agreed limits, which was ≤4000 CNY, the equivalent of 500 USD at time of signing the MoU, but now more than 600 USD.

As in Rio, there will be reduced rates for students and seniors.

The EC confirmed that it will not be possible to register for one week only.

The EC agreed that the provision of one set of Proceedings must be included in registration fee. The EC did not agree the proposed Registration Fees and requested IFC to discuss the budget in more detail with the LOC.

5. Accommodation

The LOC chart lists rooms from 20 to 215 USD; however there are too many reserved in 5-star hotels and too few at and below 150 dollars.

People will want to be within walking distance, but the nearby hotels are all luxury class.

There is no mention of the dormitories on the adjacent CAS property.

The EC urged the LOC to reserve rooms in the CNCC Grand Hotel for the EC as soon as possible.

6. Draft Budget

The LOC presented its draft budget, which contained a number of items to be discussed further. e.g., the Women in Astronomy and Young Astronomers' lunches are funded by the IAU.

7. Miscellaneous

IFC will liaise with the Chinese LOC on the room distribution, programme format, badge system.

After the video conference, the EC considered possible speakers for the Inaugural Discourse (agree on Jocelyn Bell Burnell) and for the Invited Discourses.

EC89 AI_13a on FG: to compile the ID suggestions of the Division Presidents and liaise with KAVDH. EC89 AI_13b on KAVDH: to continue with the discussion and selection of ID speakers, and submit EC recommendations to IFC.

15. Financial matters

15.1. LCL / past auditor

IFC and VR reported on the progress of seeking damages from the past accountants MBM. A preliminary court hearing is scheduled for 1 June (since postponed until September).

15.2. Accounts

VR presented the 2010 accounts and explained the reasons for the unusually high positive balance. The EC noted the 2010 accounts.

15.3. FSC and Audit reports

The accounts have been audited and approved.

The Finance Sub-Committee received the accounts and has voiced no further questions.

The EC noted the audit report and expressed satisfaction with the status of the accounts.

15.4. Investment Policy

IFC explained the logic behind the current fixed-time investment policy of the IAU, which was then endorsed by the EC.

16. National Membership

16.1. National Members' Dues 2011

TM reported that IAUS 279, which had to be cancelled due to the tsunami in Japan, has been rescheduled for March 2012 at the same location. Otherwise the meetings were proceeding as scheduled.

13.2 Publication status

non-GA Symposia

IAUS 260: the Proceedings are finally going to press. CUP has been most understanding and helpful.

IAUS 279: CUP has agreed to postpone publication of the Proceedings by one year.

IAUS 275 has been published on schedule.

The Proceedings of IAUS 271 - 277 (except 275) are late.

GA Symposia

In 2009, CUP offered participants the option of pre-ordering Proceedings at discounted level. This was not a success.

The EC agreed that for Beijing 2012 it will be mandatory to order either one Symposium Proceedings or *Highlights of Astronomy* vol. 16, with the cost to be included in the registration fee. IFC will negotiate a price with CUP on grounds that guaranteed sales will be higher, and IAU may offer to forego part of profits to keep registration fee down.

EC89 AI_11 on IFC: to write to Beijing LOC confirming that it will be mandatory to order one Symposium Proceedings, with the cost to be included in the registration fee, and to negotiate a reduced price for the mandatory volume with CUP. (DONE)

14. Preparations for XXVIII GA in Beijing

The EC participated in a video conference with the Chinese LOC from 9.30 to 10.30. The conference started with a short Powerpoint presentation which is attached to these minutes.

1. Contract for Conference Venue

Gang Zhao reported that the contract with the CNCC was ready to sign upon confirmation of the meeting rooms by IAU.

The GA will have use of all of floors 3rd and 4th except for Hall A, the Auditorium and – possibly – the smaller but still large Hall B.

The remaining point is the high cost of Hall B, which can only be rented for whole days.

The EC agreed to consider limiting its use to the Inaugural and Closing Ceremonies and Business Sessions.

EC89 AI_12 on IFC: to write to Beijing LOC confirming meeting room requirements and offering to limit use of Plenary Hall B to the Inaugural and Closing Ceremonies and Business Sessions.

The draft contract currently foresees no use in the evening as of 6 p.m.

RW pointed out that approximately 2x per week, the GA holds Invited Discourses that begin at 6 p.m. and last approximately 90 minutes. This must be taken into consideration.

2. Poster Section

The Poster Section will be installed in the North Hall of Level 3.

3. Simultaneous use for other events.

The ICTAM General Assembly will run simultaneously for first week of the IAU GA, but the IAU will have separate entrance in the Lobby.

The EC expressed concern over maintaining the separation of the ICTAM and IAU meetings e.g. during meals and coffee breaks. Michael Podt of MCI assured the EC that this would not be a problem but did not elaborate.

The Dues situation is generally healthy.

Egypt, Viet Nam, Peru, and Morocco remain difficult cases.

negotiated by IAU with NM. The EC agreed with this approach.

An amateur astronomy society of Tunisia is seeking to join the IAU and has been advised to seek the support of the Tunisian Academy of Science.

GM suggests that before expulsion, all IMs of that country should be informed.

EC89 AI_14 on IFC/VR: Egypt to receive a letter warning of suspension if the arrears are not paid by end of 2011, with copies to all Egyptian IMs.

16.2. Methodology for selection of Category of Adhesion

IFC presented his analysis as a useful instrument for the GS to use in any negotiations with National Members, but stressed that there was no intention of introducing a strict formula based on GDP or any other economic indicators. Dues Categories will continue to be

17. Nominating Sub-Committee & Individual Membership

17.1 Proposal by Johannes Andersen
The proposal to do away with the Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee met with unanimous approval.

EC89 AI_15 on IFC: to write to all NMs before rewording the Statutes in line with JA's suggestions.

17.2 Creation of Junior and Associate Member categories

While the EC was favourably inclined to this idea, it was recognised that it needs more thought on the admission criteria and process (support from two members?); the duration of membership (link to career stage? to be renewed every three years?); the delineations between associate members, consultants and full members; and the benefits of such new categories to the adherents as well as to the IAU.

EC89 AI_16 on IFC/VR: to investigate whether such an implementation would necessitate a change in the Statutes; to research precedents and produce a global overview of the consequences on the IAU.

18. Selection of Scientific Programme for 2012

The Division Presidents rejoined the Executive Committee for this discussion. Françoise Genova acted as spokesperson for the DPs, and presented their recommended programme of 8 GA Symposia, 7 Joint Discussion and 15 Special Sessions, plus 1 non-GA Symposium. 6 of the recommended SpS were Symposia proposals and the proposers would have to accept the offer of a SpS position.

The DPs had also recommended the amount of time to be allocated to each, but it was noted that this would depend on the detailed planning of the GA programme, taking into account all constraints. IFC pointed out that sessions for the Strategic Plan plus OAD, the Future Large Scale Facilities WG, and for 'Hot Topics' would have to be added, making this a somewhat larger programme than Rio 2009.

The Symposium programme selected by the EC after discussion was (in alphabetical order of the contact persons):

- 1. Molecular Gas, Dust, and Star Formation in Galaxies Contact: Martin Bureau, UK bureau@astro.ox.ac.uk
- 2. Astrophysics from Antarctica Contact: Michael Burton, Australia m.burton@unsw.edu.au
- 3. Advancing the physics of cosmic distances Contact: Richard de Grijs, China grijs@kiaa.pku.edu.cn

- 4. Formation, detection, and characterization of extrasolar habitable planets Contact: Nader Highighipour, USA nader@ifa.hawaii.edus
- 5. Solar and astrophysical dynamos and magnetic activity
 Contact: Alexander Kosovichev, USA sasha@sun.stanford.edu
- 6. Neutron stars and pulsars: Challenges and opportunities after 80 Years Contact: Richard Manchester, Australia dick.manchester@csiro.au
- 7. The intriguing life of massive galaxies
 Contact: Daniel Thomas, UK daniel.thomas@port.ac.uk
- 8. Feeding compact objects: Accretion on all scales
 Contact: Zhang Chengmin, China <u>zhangcm@bao.ac.cn</u>
- 9. Symposium to be held outside the General Assembly:

Cosmic masers - from OH to Ho Stellenbosch, South Africa (29/1-3/2/2012)

Contact: Roy Booth, South Africa rbooth@ska.ac.za

The JD and SpS programmes will be publicised after confirmation by the proposers.

EC89 AI_17 on TM: to write to all proposers informing them of the decisions of the EC, and request those offered SpS instead of Symposia to confirm acceptance as soon as possible.

EC89 AI 18 on TM: to publicise the selected Symposia on the IAU web site as soon as possible.

EC89 AI_19 on IFC: to produce a preliminary time allocation for the draft programme and circulate to EC and DPs for comment and agreement.

EC89 AI 20 on IFC: to confirm the selection of 8 Symposia to the Beijing 2012 LOC.

19. Final Discussion of proposed new Divisional Structure

This took place with the DPs present. The outcome is summarised under Item 8 above.

20. Educational Programmes of Div XII /Commission 46

- 20.1 Reports for information
 The reports were noted by the EC.
- 20.2 Collaboration with UNESCO RW reported on recent meetings. Despite its defects, UNESCO remains a valuable partner not least for its imprimatur. UESCO has asked the IAU to submit a proposal for cooperation on education.

EC89 AI 21 on RW/GM: to follow up plans for cooperation with UNESCO.

20.3 Budget for 2011 and 2012 - for information

21. Strategic Development Plan

21.1 Progress report

GM reports that the OAD is progressing according to plan. The Statutes, Working Rules, etc. have been very well formulated. No EC action is required at this time.

EUNAWE now has activities in 40 countries. Carolina has been succeeded as Project Manager by Pedro Russo, who is doing an excellent job. The programme has been awarded a grant of EUR 1.9 million from the European Union. GM was invited to make a presentation at the European Parliament on 24th May

before the relevant Commission. "The importance of astronomy" was a high-profile event, with presentations by ESO, ESA and Martin Rees.

21.2 Transitional Arrangements

The paper presented by GM and Kevin Govender was discussed and approved. The interface with C46 can be clarified in conjunction with the new Division and Commission structure.

21.2 Global OAD Director's report – for information

An OAD presentation session (one afternoon) is planned for the GA in Beijing, as well as outreach activities. Since language is an essential component, the Chinese/Japanese regional node should be involved. Kevin Govender might also speak briefly at the Inaugural Ceremony.

22. Report from Special Nominating Committee

Speaking on behalf of the SNC, which consists of Robert Williams, Catherine Cesarsky, Patricia Whitelock, Jiansheng Chen, Reinhard Genzel, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Ken Freeman and (as an observer) Norio Kaifu, Robert Williams presented the list of proposed nominees for IAU President-elect and Assistant General Secretary 2012-2015, as well as three new Vice-Presidents to replace Martha Haynes, George Miley and Giancarlo Setti. RW stressed that the names must remain confidential until the GA.

23. KAVLI / PPGP/PPGF

23.1 PPGP Report / Replacement for PPGP Board

The EC noted and discussed the cooperation between the Gruber Foundation and Yale University.

The EC agreed on Rashid Sunyaev or Sadanori Okamura to replace Ron Ekers, whose term on the PPGP board expires at the end of 2011.

EC89 AI_22 on RW: to contact Rashid Sunyaev and ask him to serve on the board, with S. Okamura as an alternative and then inform Patricia Gruber of the IAU nomination. DONE.

23.2 PPGF Fellowship Selection Committee 2011

Matthew Colless and Jan Palouš were asked to join the committee and accepted. The Committee comprises Ian Corbett (Chair), Thierry Montmerle, Marta Rovira, Matthew Colless and Jan Palouš.

Pat Gruber has agreed that the fellowship may be split with 25K to a candidate from a developing country and 25K for the best candidate. This is the policy of many other unions, and the EC expressed a preference that that the IAU should follow suit.

23.3 Membership of Kavli Prize Selection Committee

Robert Williams summarized: The selection committees for the Kavli Prizes are appointed by the NASL. Nominees/candidates for the Astrophysics selection committee are presented to the NASL by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the UK Royal Society, and the German Max Planck Society (MPG).

The current Astrophysics committee is headed by Oddbjorn Engvold of the NASL, and the other four members are: Joe Silk (UK), Andy Fabian (UK), Scott Tremaine (USA) and Reinhard Genzel (Germany). Tremaine and Genzel are rotating off the committee, so the NASL has sought nominations for two new members to replace them.

The agreement between the IAU and the NASL stipulates that "The IAU Officers shall discuss the merits of the nominees with the designated NASL representative and provide him/her with their evaluation of the nominees. The NASL shall take the IAU assessment into account in

their appointment of new Prize selection committee members."

The NASL has followed the IAU recommendation and appointed Claire Max (University of California, Santa Cruz) and Guinevere Kauffmann (Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics)

24. ICSU matters

24.1 Strategic Plan 2012-2017

Ian Corbett reported: the main priorities of ICSU's Strategic Plan are not well aligned with IAU activities. Their main concerns are environment, climate, etc. On behalf of the IAU, IFC has made the case for more consideration of the role of basic science, and gave a presentation to ICSU on the IAU Strategic Plan, the achievements of IYA 2009, and the plans for the OAD. The response at was bland and no feedback has been received.

CJC presented Ian's letter about the IYA at the CSPR committee (Committee on Scientific Planning and Review) on 24 November 2011. At the meeting, the response from CSPR members was very positive, but their comments were not minuted.

24.2 ICSU General Assembly September 2012

Ian Corbett will attend triennial GA in Rome at the end of September 2011. The IAU and other physical science unions intend to make concerted effort to raise their profile within the ICSU framework.

25. Reports from IAU representatives to other organizations

The EC noted the reports.

26. EC90 in April 2012

No precise date was set, but it will probably fall within the two weeks after Easter.

27. AOB

The EC discussed WGs that have applied to become Commissions.

27.1 Structural changes to Division I

Dennis McCarthy submitted several proposals for structural changes to Div I in advance of the EC Meeting. These are now caught up in the discussion on Divisional restructuring and should be referred to the Task Group. It should be noted that funding issues are involved.

EC89 AI 23 on DMcC: to update his suggestions in light of the EC89 discussion and submit to IFC.

27.2 Obituaries of IAU Individual Members

DMcC notes that the IAU needs to formulate a policy on the publishing of obituaries online and in the Information Bulletin.

EC89 AI 24 on IFC: to write a statement for IB108, to be published in July, 2011.

27.3 World Data Services - WDS

Françoise Genova is the IAU representative at World Data Services, which has the purpose of coordinating data services. For more information, see www.atnf.csiro.au/people/rnorris/WGAD/CODATA2008.htm
www.atnf.csiro.au/people/rnorris/IAUC5/WGAD2008.pdf

EC89 AI_25 on FG: to present the WDA to C5 and formulate a recommendation for increased participation.

The Meeting was adjourned at on Thursday, 26 May, at 13h10.