

Draft Minutes of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 94

30 April - 2 May 2014

Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, ANU/MSO, Canberra

Attendees:

Officers:

Norio Kaifu (*President and Chair*), Thierry Montmerle (*General Secretary*),
Sylvia Torres-Peimbert (*President-elect*), Piero Benvenuti (*Assistant GS*)

Advisers:

Robert Williams (*Past President*), Ian Corbett (*Past General Secretary*)

Vice-Presidents:

Matthew Colless, Jan Palouš, Marta Rovira, Renée Kraan-Korteweg,
Xiaowei Liu, Dina Prialnik

EC Adviser for OAD:

George Miley (*OAD-SC for EC*)

Division Presidents:

Sergei Klioner (*Div. A President*), David Silva (*Div. B President*),
Rajesh Kochhar (*Div. C C41 President, replacing Mary Kay Hemenway*),
Diana Worrall (*Div. D President*), Lidia van Driel-Gresztelyi (*Div. E
President*),
Giovanni Valsecchi (*Div. F President*), Ignasi Ribas (*Div. G President*),
Ewine van Dishoeck (*Div. H President*),
Brian Schmidt, (*Div. J C21 President, replacing Françoise Combes*)

IAU Secretariat:

Muriel Besson (*Head of Administration*)
Madeleine Smith-Spanier (*Database Manager / Assistant*)

Observers:

Patricia Whitelock (*OAD-SC member for NRF*)
Sze-leung Cheung (*IAU International Outreach Coordinator, OAO/NAOJ*)

Guest:

Kevin Marvel (*AAS Executive Director*)

Supporter:

Michelle Cicolini (*ANU*)

Preamble

As has been the case since the start of this triennium (2012-2015), the EC invited the Division Presidents to participate in joint Sessions, to discuss and decide steps in the Commission Reform, resulting from the Division Restructuring voted in Beijing. The main issue in Canberra was to define the contents of a Call for Proposals for Commissions. During the EC meeting, joint EC-DP sessions alternated with separate sessions. For clarity, the statutory EC sessions are summarized in order to those in the Agenda of the EC94 meeting, and then the decisions reached jointly by DPs and the EC on Commission Reform are attached.

1. Welcome

Norio Kaifu, IAU President and Chair of EC, and Matthew Colless, IAU Vice-President and Director of the Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, who hosted the EC94, welcomed the participants to the EC 94 in Canberra.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda for EC94 was approved.

3. Executive Committee and Officers Meeting

The minutes of the EC93 meeting in Nara were approved.

The minutes of the Officers Meeting (OM2014) in Paris, and Action Items, were briefly reviewed.

The status of the selection of prospective EC members was presented by NK, chair of the SNC.

4. GA XXIX at Honolulu (1)

Kevin Marvel, Executive Director of the AAS and Chair of the LOC, reported the status of the arrangements for the GA2015 in Honolulu. The baseline logistics are those of the AAS, but will be adapted to the needs of the IAU. The overall organization is on track, with the Opening of Registrations scheduled for Sep.4 [the actual date was Sep.15].

P. Benvenuti, AGS, gave a brief summary of the status of Symposia and Focus Meetings for the GA. After the EC/DP discussion the official list of meetings was approved, and later posted on the IAU home page (<http://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann14013/>).

It was reminded that name suggestions for Invited Discourse speakers were urgently needed. As a courtesy of the AAS, the travel grant they receive from the Kavli Foundation for one speaker of their biannual meetings was kindly transferred to a speaker of our choice.

5. New Commission Structure (1)

See the separate section after the EC sections (5.&10. New Commission Structure)

6. Secretariat Report

6.1. Personnel

Muriel Besson, Head of Administration, supervises the Secretariat and deals with general administrative issues (relations with Adhering Organizations, dues, legal authorities, etc., salaries, bookkeeping of income and expenses, etc.)

Julia Nauer, Assistant and Database Manager, had been hired on 1/1/13, but left the IAU Secretariat on 30/6/13 to return to her native Switzerland. With her help, she was replaced by Madeleine Smith-Spanier. A US citizen, Madeleine has been living in Paris for many years and is fluent in French. At the time of EC94, she was working for the IAU under a 1-yr US-France bilateral agreement contract, ending on 30/9/14.

Update: After a legally mandatory search for other job candidates and job interviews,

conducted by the Head of Administration and the GS, Madeleine was re-hired, this time with a 10-yr working permit, allowing her to work with the same status as a French employee. She is currently under an "undetermined duration" contract since 1/10/14.

Ginette Rude is working part time (2 days/week) as IAU Archivist. Ginette provides unique help for IAU internal documents, and for the preparation of the digitization of the IAU Archives with CUP. She was supposed to leave after Beijing, but will stay to help with this project (e.g., checking past Colloquia and Symposia, GA publications, etc., contacting libraries for missing volumes, etc.).

6.2. Database

Madeleine reported about her works, including the Membership database (maintained by ESO), and is now autonomous in dealing with issues like collecting data on membership from Adhering Organizations, NCAs, and individual members. She also organizes electronic voting, and keeps a "background activity" answering inquiries from the public (sent to the ["iaupublic@iap.fr"](mailto:iaupublic@iap.fr) mail box), in coordination with the OAO and the GS.

6.3. "Associate" Status

Based on the text approved in the EC93, TM proposed a new definition and a guideline for appointment of "associates". This definition was discussed jointly by the EC and DPs at EC94 and endorsed.

Update: the text was finalized and approved by the EC in May 2015. It is now

implemented in the Working Rules.

(see https://www.iau.org/administration/statutes_rules/working_rules/#xii)

7. Financial Matters

7.1. Accounts

The accounts at 4 April 2014 were presented, noting that it cannot be closed because of the late notice of the CUP royalties for that year. These royalties make up a significant part of the IAU income (typically 100 kE), but fluctuate from year to year.

7.2. Budget

The "effective budget" for (income – expenditure) were presented. It shows a positive balance of 81 kE (savings in anticipation of the future deficit of the GA, as is customary; the balance was 25 kE for 2012).

7.3. Funding requests for specific operations in 2015

TM requested approval for extra expenses in 2015 to cover two "special operations": the participation of the IAU to the 2015 UNESCO "International Year of Light", and to launch the exoplanet naming contest "NameExoWorlds", to be completed at the Honolulu GA (see below, Sec. XXX), and these were approved.

8. National Memberships

8.1. National Member dues (2010-2013)

The status of the contributions from National Members in 2013, in the form of dues, scaled by unit of contribution voted at the GA 2009 was reported. It was a

total of nearly 900 kE and provide 90% of the income. However, a steady loss of 2-3% has been noticed since the start of this triennium, which may be a concern for the future. The Secretariat is regularly sending reminders to recover the unpaid dues.

8.2. Dues for small countries

The question of "Small Countries" was presented, with some analysis by Silvia T. Peimbert, President Elect. These are countries with less than 10 members, but their dues per capita are extremely high: for instance, Ethiopia, which joined the IAU in Beijing, pays a full Category I membership (currently 2400 E), but for the moment, has 2 individual members. So per capita this is 1200 E. By comparison, the USA are in the top Category (X), with dues of 124 kE, yet have 2573 members – so pay 48 E per capita, or exactly 25 times less than Ethiopia. While some differences are unavoidable, this disparity of treatment has been noticed by some countries, which would like the IAU to re-examine their contribution (see Section 25).

9. Office of Astronomy for Development

An oral report on the OAD activities was presented by George Miley, supplemented by a telecon with OAD Director K. Govender. As the current Agreement between the OAD and the IAU is approaching its end (Dec.31, 2015), two decisions were taken:

1) to organize a mid-term review of the OAD, as stipulated in the Agreement.

IAU asks

Jocelyne Bell Burnell (candidate of chair) and Ronald Ackers as members of the Review

committee, and NRF will nominate two other members.

2) to extend the term of the Steering Committee, currently scheduled in the IAU-NRF

Agreement to end on Feb.28, 2015, until the end of the Honolulu GA. This extension was

endorsed.

Update: An amendment was proposed to NRF and adopted, to formalize this

decision. The IAU representatives to the OAD Steering Committee were contacted in May and agreed to serve until the end of the GA.

In the absence of written documents no discussion on the OAD strategy took place. This discussion was deferred to the next EC meeting (2015), i.e., after the Review took place and the report received by the EC. To promote closer ties between the OAD and the Divisions, DPs agreed to send to the OAD the name of a contact person for their Division.

10. New Commission structure (2)

See the separate section after the EC sections (5.&10. New Commission Structure)

11. GAXXIX at Honolulu (2)

After the acceptance of Symposia and Focus Meeting, and to implement the Division Meetings created at EC93 in Nara, a first draft of the meetings layout for the two weeks of the GA was presented by PB and revised in real time at the

discussion went on, mainly to avoid overlapping topics as much as possible. The content and organization of GA Division Meetings, introduced for the first time, were discussed jointly with DPs. It was agreed that the Division Meetings would take place on the Friday of the first week, and the Monday of the second week, with no parallel sessions running.

Update: This first layout has been posted on the IAU web site. It will be superseded by the AAS "Block Schedule" when the GA Registration opens.

12. Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO)

12.1. Appointment of new IOC

The OAO (Office for Astronomy Outreach, based at NAOJ in Tokyo) has hired its new IOC, to replace Sarah Reed who had to return to the UK just before EC93. The competition was at a high level, with 28 candidates from 19 countries. A short list of five candidates were invited at NAOJ for the final interview by NK and the NAOJ Director M. Hayashi in January 2014, and the final decision was made. A Chinese citizen from Hong-Kong, the new IOC is Sze-leung Cheung. He took office in March 2014.

12.2 Status Report and Tentative Plan for OAO

The status of the OAO was reported by new IOC, Sze-leung Cheung. The operation started very quickly and efficiently under the support by NAOJ, with three projects targeted towards the public:

1) setting up the "IAU Directory for World Astronomy", targeted at astronomy clubs,

associations and professional institutions. (<https://directory.iau.org/>)

2) supervising the different phases of the NameExoWorld contest, in collaboration with

Zooniverse, and due to be completed at a ceremony during the GA.

(<http://www.nameexoworlds.org/>)

3) coordinating the "Cosmic Light" cornerstone of the 2015 International Year of Light and

Light-based Technologies (IYL2015) and preparing a call for proposals.

(<http://www.iau.org/iyl/proposals/>)

Funding for above new operations were described in 7.3. In view of the rapid success of the OAO, and its role in the "Beyond IYA2009" program, NK raised the appointing a second OAO staff as an extension of the current Agreement between the IAU and NAOJ, and it was endorsed.

13. Public Naming of Exoplanets

TM reported the discussion by the EC Working Group "Public Naming of Planets and Planetary Satellites" and summarized the main stages of the

"NameExoWorlds" project and their timeline. See

http://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/209/). Note that the project also incorporates the naming of the host stars (when not already named).

These stages and timeline were discussed in coordination with the new IOC (SLC).

In summary:

1) Opening of the contest with a selection of exoplanetary systems provided by the relevant

IAU Commission (C53) (Fall 2014)

2) Creation of an IAU Directory for World Astronomy, so that clubs and associations can

register to participate in the contest (asap)

3) Vote by these clubs to select their favourite 20-30 systems (early 2015)

4) The registered clubs propose names for these systems (Spring 2015)

5) Using the Zooniverse environment, the world public votes for the names proposed (end July 2015)

6) IAU collects and checks the names proposed for validity, and announces the winners at a special ceremony at the Honolulu GA.

14. International Year of Light and Light Technology (IYL2015)

The first steps towards engaging the IAU in the UNESCO IYL2015 activities took place as early as January 2014 (TM attending the AAS winter meeting). Several preparatory meetings and telecons took place, including with the Chair of the IYL2015 Steering Committee J. Dudley. Based on the organizational experience gained during IYA2009, it was decided that the prime IAU activity should be around the protection of the night skies (in application of GA2009 Resolution B5). An informal IYL Working Group was formed with R. Green as Chair (and TM and PB as EC representatives), and proposed to become an EC-WG "International Year of Light". This proposal was endorsed by the EC (see Sect.19). The first goal of this WG was to draw a Call for Proposals for IYL global projects, with a funding of 30 kE approved by the EC (Sect. 7.3).

15. Status of IAU Publications

15.1-2. Proceedings of Symposia 2013 and Regional Meeting2013

PB reported the publication status of IAU symposia by CUP. Among 9 symposia held in 2012 8 were published, and one is in production. Among 9 in 2013 6 were published, 1 is in process, and 2 are waiting editor's submission. Situation is healthy. The publication of LARIM2013 (25-29 Nov. 2013) is in production.

15.3-4. Highlights of Astronomy and Transactions

TM reported the status. The Highlights of Astronomy, vol.16 (Beijing) is in preparation. Some contributions are still missing. The Transactions XVIII A (Reports on Astronomy), with Commission and Division Reports submitted before Beijing, has been published (Edited by I. Corbett). The Transactions XVIII B (Proceedings of the Beijing GA) is still in preparation. One reason is that the long lists of members (countries, Divisions, etc.) which is traditionally published in this volume, is not yet firmly established (this is an important activity of the Secretariat, in view of the generalization of electronic voting)

15.5. CUP Contract and Financial Statement

PB reported the status of CUP accounts, which are in healthy situation. Preparations of 9 symposia allocated in 2014 are proceeding well.

16. Scientific Meetings 2014 and 2015

Regional meetings in 2014:

APRIM 2014 (XIIth): Deajeon, Korea (Aug.19-22)

MEARIM 2014 (IIIrd): Beirut, Lebanon (Sep.1-6)

Non-GA Symposia for 2015:

Note that for 2015 only 7 Symposia were selected (including the 6 selected for the Beijing GA), because of a drop in the number of proposals.

17. The IAU Heritage

17.1. Digitization of Archives (status)

The digitization of the IAU Archive since its foundation in 1919 is in progress. The "Book Archive" (Symposia, Colloquia, etc.) is expected to be completed by the Honolulu GA. The "Document Archive" (internal documents, etc.), comprize "the first 50 years" (classified by A. Blaauw), stored at the French Académie des Sciences, and more recent archives stored at the IAU Secretariat. These need to be examined for their historical interest, which will take some time. Their digitization will take place in the next triennium.

17.2. New project: Book on the occasion of the IAU 100th anniversary (due GA 2018)

A "Centennial Book" is planned, for completion at the GA2018 in Vienna.

The digitization of the GA Newspapers since they were introduced (GA1958 in Moscow) has been outsourced and is in progress (see

http://www.iau.org/publications/iau/ga_newspapers/)

The composition of all ECs since 1919 (year of the creation of the IAU), to be also put on-line, is in progress.

18. Future General Assemblies

GAXXX in Vienna (2018):

the Agreement between the University of Vienna and the IAU has been signed.

GAXXXI (2021):

Letters of Intent have been received from Chile, Korea, and South Africa.

19. EC Working Groups, Task Groups, and Advisory Groups

Termination of the EC Advisory Group on "Hazards of Near-Earth Objects"

At the suggestion of G. Valsecchi, President of Div.F, the EC Advisory Group on "Hazards of Near-Earth Objects" was terminated.

Note: This activity is now followed by the Div.F WG "Near-Earth Objects", and by the IAU

Representative to UN-COPUOS K. van der Hucht.

EC Working Group for "International Year of Light 2015"

To prepare for the UNESCO International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL2015), an EC-WG was created (Chair: R. Green).

(http://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/212/)

EC Task Group for "IAU Branding & Patronage"

To reflect about clear procedures to allow the use of IAU endorsement and logo (e.g., in amateur astronomy meetings, in IAU-selected projects, in possible joint ventures with the private sector, etc.), an EC-Task Group "IAU Branding &

Patronage" was created (Members: R. Williams (Chair), T. Montmerle, M.K. Hemenway)

EC Task Group for “Dues of IAU National Members”

To reflect on how to take into account the differences in dues per capita between large and small countries, an EC Task Group "Dues of IAU National Members" was created (Members: S. Torres-Peimbert (Chair), T. Montmerle, I. Corbett)

20. IAU Communication (discussion)

TM informed that following the overhaul of the IAU database and web site just before EC93 in Nara the Communication of the IAU has been revamped. Now we can, as advised by the IAU Press Officer Lars L. Christensen, post news on the web site as often as needed to improve “daily” communication among members and to public. These “news items” come in three categories:

1) *Press Releases*: news, official IAU statements, Prizes, etc., thought to be of importance for the public (ex.: naming issues, etc.). Seven PRs were published between EC93 and EC94.

2) *Announcements*: news of a more internal nature, but publicly accessible (scientific results, meeting reports, OAD and OAO Newsletters and events, etc.). The contributions are

generally edited by the Press Office for better legibility by a non-expert public. Twelve Announcements were published during the same period.

3) *e-Newsletters*: these are sent via mass mailing by ESO to the ~10,000 IAU "active"

members, and also posted on the web site. They are issued on the occasion of a PR and

recapitulate news items published since the last one. This is also an opportunity to send a

"Message from Administration" when appropriate.

21. Collaboration with UNESCO

The collaboration with UNESCO continues being fruitful, under the leadership of C. Ruggles, IAU Representative. It is concentrated on the so-called "Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative". On the IAU side the activities are steered by the "Astronomy and World Heritage" WG (C41), which maintains the web "Portal to the Heritage of Astronomy". This Portal is linked directly (via the "IAU For The Public" menu) to the IAU home page: <http://www2.astronomicalheritage.net/>.

22. ICSU and international organizations

STP reported on the ICSU Regional Meeting in Cuba. The four high-priority activities were selected: 1) Future Earth, 2) Biodiversity, 3) Natural Hazards, 4) Mathematics Education.

I. Corbett, the IAU representative to ICSU commented that his persistent feeling is that ICSU ignored the contact from IAU for improvements of the ICSU scientific activities. As a result, the IAU declined the (standard) invitation to attend the ICSU 31st GA in Auckland (30 August-3 September 2014 –National and Union members only). An detailed explanatory letter was sent to ICSU by I. Corbett, but

received no answer.

More generally, TM pointed out that the IAU entertained multiple relations with no less than 25 International Unions([ww.iau.org/administration/international_org_relations/other_organizations /](http://www.iau.org/administration/international_org_relations/other_organizations/)), but these were essentially at a standstill, so the presence of the IAU in these organizations was essentially invisible. This issue will be considered in conjunction with the the "Relations of the IAU with International Scientific Organizations" as one of the portfolios for EC Vice-Presidents (24.).

23. TGF

TM reported the status of selection of the Fellowship of 50 kUSD/yr provided by The Gruber Foundation (TGF). The applications to the Fellowship are selected by a six-member EC selection committee. For the 2014 Fellowship, there were 15 applications from 12 different countries (up from 2 for the 2013 Fellowship). The laureate was a young female astronomer in her first year of post-doc, D. Ladjal, and using the Fellowship as a salary complement at the Gemini Observatory in Chile.

24. CBAT

CBAT stands for "Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams", located in the Earth & Planetary Sciences department of Harvard University. It is under the oversight of C6 (Astronomical Telegrams), now under Div.F. The IAU gives a grant of 5 kE/yr for CBAT operations.

The situation of CBAT is a concern. G. Valsecchi (Div.F President) assessed the situation for the part of CBAT activities on discoveries of solar-system objects (mostly asteroids). Essentially now a one-man project (led by D. Green), CBAT has been the subject of many complaints from the community, some of them sent directly to the GS, and asking for IAU "action".

Another series of complaints concerned the slow response time to report supernova discoveries. Supernovae survey teams (like the "High-z Supernova Search Team" of Brian Schmidt) create their own database and nomenclature, and do not use CBAT.

TM will contact B. Schmidt for advice on the supernova issue, and D. Green for face-to-face discussions about the future of CBAT on the occasion of his travel to the Gruber Prize Ceremony at Yale in September 2014. Some action will probably be required before this triennium is over.

25. Specific Tasks for VPs

"VP for Development" was the case in the preceding EC, with VP G. Miley officially playing this role and succeeded to the current term as an advisory position on the OAD. Considering the importance of OAD for IAU and EC, NK proposed that this task should be succeeded by a Vice President of the next term EC. In the process of search for new EC members by the Special Nominating Committee this point of view was kept, and SNC concluded a good candidate for the "VP for OAD" among the selected candidates for new VPs. Officers Meeting discussed other tasks (or portfolios), by the same token, could be assigned to other VPs. Based on the discussion TM proposed in addition to "VP-for-OAD", "VP-Scientific Unions" as mentioned above, and possible "VP-for-Prize Nominations". This proposal would be dicussed in the next EC meeting.

26. EC95: 2015, dates and place

PB, the AGS, proposed to hold the next EC meeting in Padua, Italy. The EC gratefully accepted. After some discussion, the selected dates were 15-17 April, 2015.

5. &10. New Commission Structure

At EC94, like at EC93, the DPs had the opportunity to have face-to-face discussions about the details of this reform independently of the EC. At Nara it was agreed that the next step of the Reform would be to set up a "Call for Proposals for Commissions".

The discussions at Canberra revolved around:

- defining the terms of reference for the Call (led by D. Worrall)
- agreeing on a realistic timeline (TM)
- establishing appropriate means of communication with the community, so that the Reform would be understood, accepted, and supported (D. Silva, M. Colless).

The first two points were discussed in depth at EC94, based on previously discussed documents agreed at the draft level between DPs. The relevant documents (edited as necessary) would be quickly posted on the IAU web site. The key decision by the EC was to adopt (much inspired in methodology by the Symposium proposals) a three-stage process:

- 1) Issue a Call for Proposals for Commissions, with the proper justifications and computer form;
- 2) Call for Letters of Intent (LoI), posted on-line;
- 3) After a few months, Call for Full Proposals, to be selected by DPs and VPs.

Details of the process can be found in the supporting documents to EC94. More discussions were however necessary to reach a consensus on how best communicate with the community at the various stages of the Reform.

- 1) to call for an electronic "expression of interest" for the proposed LoIs;
- 2) to set up a "forum" where the community could post questions, reactions, etc. of general interest, and moderated by the AGS.

These actions will be reported at EC95.

Closure of EC94

Action Items

Actions Items EC94			
#	Specific Actions	Deadline	Responsible Person
EC94_AI_5.2	Commission Reform: Forward suggestions to GS (TM & DW)		DPs
	Release announcement to Commission Presidents	By June 15th	DPs
	Allow Feedback		
	Release a message to all IAU members		TM
	Create & release a call for proposals with form etc.		TM
EC94_AI_6.3	Approve final version for Associates (advice from STP & DPs)		EC
EC94_AI_8.1	Suspend Iran, Morocco & Peru via the website	ASAP	MB
EC94_AI_13	Start Process Naming Exoplanet		TM
EC94_AI_13.2	Zooniverse Agreement		TM
EC94_AI_15.4	Transactions B	ASAP	TM
EC94_AI_DP1	Publications of Focus Meetings GA?		DPs
EC94_AI_DP2	Announcement GA Meetings		TM
EC94_AI_19	Implementation of EC Decisions on Working/Task Groups via the website		MSS
EC94_AI_19.3	IAU Branding - guidelines for using logo, etc.		RW
	Find a team to reflect on using IAU brand/logo, etc.		RW
EC94_AI_19.4	Create of a Task Group regarding National Member categories		STP / IC / TM
EC94_AI_25	CBAT/MPC - Follow up with Brian Schmidt regarding his database info		TM