



**AMENDMENTS TO THE IAU STATUTES, BYE-LAWS AND
WORKING RULES**

to be presented to the

XXXth General Assembly

(Wien, August 20-31, 2018)



Introduction.

This document presents three groups of amendments to the Statutes, Bye-laws and Working Rules of the IAU that will be presented at the XXX General Assembly for approval.

The rationale for the three groups of amendments is the following:

1. Introduction of the new categories of individual member called “Junior Member” and “Honorary Members”

The new Category “Junior Member” is intended to be open to PhD researchers in their early career of post-Doc in Astronomy/Astrophysics. The motivation for introducing the new Category is to increase the direct participation of young researchers in the activities of the Union. It is expected that the admission of the new Category will increase substantially the number of individual Members of the Union and, as an additional benefit, it should improve its overall gender balance.

The new Category “Honorary Member” is intended to give official recognition to individuals that have contributed significantly to the progress of astronomical research and culture in their Country, but do not qualify as Individual or Associate. Typically they would be policy makers or philanthropists.

2. Modification of the definition of the Interim and Prospective category of National Members.

The above categories were introduced in order to allow National Members with small number of professional astronomers to join the Union paying a reduced or zero contribution. Both categories were made temporary (9 years for Interim and 6 years for Prospective Members) with the expectation that, after the indicated periods, their community would have grown and they could be upgraded to Category I or higher. Past experience shows that the period for developing a substantial community of astronomers in a Country is much longer than the above time limits and, in some cases, the number of professional astronomers remain small and constant for extended periods of time. Moreover, within the NM in Category I, that are paying a full unit as annual contribution, there is a notable dispersion in the unit quota pro capita. In an attempt not to excessively penalize the small NM and to encourage additional communities to join the IAU, it is proposed to waive the time limit on both the Interim and Prospective categories, and to change the denomination of the latter to Observer NM. As before, Interim NM will pay ½ unit and Observer NM will not pay any dues and will not have voting rights.

3. Modification of the Art. XIV – Dissolution of the Union

On the occasion of the organization of a summer 2017 workshop of the EC Working Group “Coordination of global ground and space astrophysics”, which is generously supported by the Kavli Foundation, the IAU was invited to complete the NGOsource Equivalency Determination (“ED”) process. The purpose of the ED is to demonstrate that our organization is the equivalent of a U.S. public charity, which may qualify the International Astronomical Union for certain funding. In order to obtain the ED qualification, it is necessary to make the Statute’s article on the dissolution of the Union more explicit. The text of the amended article has been preliminarily approved by the EC in order to obtain the qualification, but it has now to be formally accepted by the General Assembly.

Note: In order to improve the readability of the amendments, the current text and the amended one are displayed in two facing columns and the amended parts are highlighted in yellow.

Amendments for the introduction of the new category of individual Junior Member

STATUTES

Current text	Amended text
<p>III. COMPOSITION OF THE UNION</p> <p>The Union is composed of:</p> <p>4.a National Members (adhering organizations)</p> <p>4.b Individual Members (adhering persons)</p>	<p>III. COMPOSITION OF THE UNION</p> <p>The Union is composed of:</p> <p>4.a National Members (adhering organizations)</p> <p>4.b Individual Members (adhering persons)</p> <p>4.c Junior Members (temporary adhering persons)</p> <p>4.d Honorary Members</p>
<p>V. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</p> <p>11. A professional scientist who is active in some branch of astronomy may be admitted to the Union by the Executive Committee as an Individual Member. An Individual Member may resign from the Union by so informing the General Secretary in writing.</p>	<p>V. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND JUNIOR MEMBERS</p> <p>11.a Individual Member</p> <p>A professional scientist who is active in some branch of astronomy may be admitted to the Union by the Executive Committee as an Individual Member. An Individual Member may resign from the Union by so informing the General Secretary in writing.</p> <p>11.b Junior Member</p> <p>A junior scientist who completed the PhD studies and who is in the initial phase of the professional researcher career in some branch of astronomy may be admitted to the Union by the Executive Committee as Junior Member for a period not exceeding 6 years</p>
<p>14. Voting at the General Assembly on issues of a primarily scientific nature, as determined by the Executive Committee, is by Individual Members. Voting on all other matters is by National Member. Each National Member authorizes a representative to vote on its behalf.</p>	<p>14. Voting at the General Assembly on issues of a primarily scientific nature, as determined by the Executive Committee, is by Individual Members and Junior Members. Voting on all other matters is by National Member. Each National Member authorizes a representative to vote on its behalf.</p>

BYE-LAWS

Current text	Amended text
<p>I. MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>...</p> <p>4. Individual Members are admitted by the Executive Committee upon the nomination of a National Member or the President of a Division. The Executive Committee shall publish the criteria and procedures for membership, and shall consult the Membership Committee before admitting new Individual Members.</p>	<p>I. MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>...</p> <p>4. Individual Members, Junior Members and Honorary Members, are admitted by the Executive Committee upon the nomination of a National Member or the President of a Division. The Executive Committee shall publish the criteria and procedures for membership, and shall consult the Membership Committee before admitting new Individual, Junior and Honorary Members.</p>

WORKING RULES

Current text	Amended text
<p>III. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Professional scientists whose research is directly relevant to some branch of astronomy are eligible for election as Individual Members of the Union (cf. Statutes § V). Individual Members are normally admitted by the Executive Committee on the proposal of a National Member. However, Presidents of Divisions may also propose individuals for membership in cases when the normal procedure is not applicable or practicable (cf. Bye-Laws § 4). The present rules are intended to ensure that all applications for membership are processed on a uniform basis, and that all members are fully integrated in and contributing to the activities of the Union.</p> <p>3. The term “Professional Scientist” shall normally designate a person with a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) or equivalent experience in astronomy or a related science, and whose professional activities have a substantial component of work related to astronomy.</p>	<p>III. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>The guidelines for the admission of new Individual Members, Junior Members and Honorary Members are drafted and regularly updated by the Membership Committee.</p> <p>a. Regular Individual Members</p> <p>Professional scientists whose research is directly relevant to some branch of astronomy are eligible for election as Individual Members of the Union (cf. Statutes § V). Individual Members are normally admitted by the Executive Committee on the proposal of a National Member. However, Presidents of Divisions may also propose individuals for membership in cases when the normal procedure is not applicable or practicable (cf. Bye-Laws § 4). The present rules are intended to ensure that all applications for membership are processed on a uniform basis, and that all members are fully integrated in and contributing to the activities of the Union.</p> <p>3. The term “Professional Scientist” shall normally designate a person with a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) or equivalent experience in astronomy or a related science, and whose long term professional activities have a substantial component of work related to astronomy.</p>

4. National Members and Division Presidents may propose Individual Members who fall outside the category of professional scientist but who have made major contributions to the science of astronomy, e.g., through education or research related to astronomy. Such proposals should be accompanied by a detailed motivation for what should be seen as exceptions to the rule.

5. Eight months before an ordinary General Assembly, National Members and Presidents of Divisions will be invited to propose new Individual Members; these proposals should reach the General Secretary no later than five months before the General Assembly. Late proposals will normally not be taken into consideration. Proposals from Presidents of Divisions will be communicated by the IAU 3 months before the General Assembly to the relevant National Members, if any, who may add the person(s) in question to their own list of proposals.

6. National Members shall promptly inform in writing the General Secretary of the death of any Individual Member represented by them. National Members are also urged to propose the deletion of Individual Members who are no longer active in astronomy by including a written agreement of the member concerned. Such proposals should be submitted to the General Secretary at the same time as proposals for new Individual Members.

7. Proposals for membership shall include the full name, date of birth, and nationality of the candidate, postal and electronic addresses, the University, year, and subject of the M.Sc./Ph.D. or equivalent degree, current affiliation and occupation, the proposing National Member or Division, the Division(s) and/or Commission(s) which the candidate wishes to join, and any further detail that might be relevant.

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5. By September 15th of the year preceding an ordinary General Assembly, National Members and Presidents of Divisions will be invited to propose new Individual Members, new Junior Members and the confirmation of previously selected Junior Members; these proposals should reach the General Secretary no later than March 15 before the General Assembly. The proposals will be transferred to the Membership Committee for evaluation. Late proposals will normally not be taken into consideration. Proposals from Presidents of Divisions will be communicated by the IAU 3 months before the General Assembly to the relevant National Members, if any, who may add the person(s) in question to their own list of proposals.

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7. Proposals for membership shall include the full name, date of birth, and nationality of the candidate, postal and electronic addresses, the University, year, and subject of the M.Sc./Ph.D. or equivalent degree, current affiliation and occupation, the proposing National Member or Division, the Division(s) and/or Commission(s) which the candidate wishes to join, and any further detail that might be relevant as indicated in the on-line submission form.

8. The standing Membership Committee advises the Executive Committee on its behalf on matters related to the admission of Individual Members (Statute 13f.)

8. The standing Membership Committee advises the Executive Committee on its behalf on matters related to the admission of Individual, **Junior and Honorary Members** (Statute 13f.)

b. **Junior Individual Members**

4 bis. Scientists who have completed their PhD studies and have the prospect of becoming professional researchers in some branch of astronomy are eligible for selection as Junior Member of the Union. Junior Members are admitted annually by the Executive Committee on the proposal of a National Member, supported by at least two referees that should assess the potential of the candidate to become a professional astronomer. The Junior membership is temporary and cannot be extended for more than 6 years.

5 bis. By September 15th of each year, National Members and Presidents of Divisions will be invited to submit a list of candidate Junior Members to the General Secretary together with the relevant referees' assessment. The lists of proposed candidates should reach the General Secretary no later than March 15th. The lists will be reviewed by the Membership Committee and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

6 bis. Junior Members must indicate at least one Division they wish to join, they can join Commissions and Working Groups according to the same rules as Individual Members, but they cannot hold office within the scientific bodies, except in Commissions or Working Groups specifically established for Junior Members. As for the Junior Proposal details, § III 7. above applies. It is understood that, given the expected high mobility of Junior Members, their confirmation or the proposal to become a regular Individual Member (§ III 5.) may be submitted by a different National Member from the first proposer.

c. **Honorary Members**

4 ter. Individuals that have substantially contributed to the development of the astronomical research in their Country, who are not professional astronomers (see art. III a.3) and do not qualify as Individual Member under the provision of art. III a.4, may be proposed to become IAU Honorary Members.

5 ter. By September 15th of the year preceding a General Assembly, National Members will be invited to submit candidatures for Honorary Members. No more than one Honorary Member candidate per NM can be presented every triennium. The candidature shall be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae of the candidate together with a documented motivation that justify the candidature.

6 ter. Honorary Members are exempted from choosing the affiliation to Divisions and do not have voting rights.

Amendments to the definition of the Interim and Prospective NM categories

STATUTES

Current text

Amended text

IV. NATIONAL MEMBERS

5. An organization representing a national professional astronomical community, desiring to promote its participation in international astronomy and supporting the objective of the Union, may adhere to the Union as a National Member.

6. An organization desiring to join the Union as a National Member while developing professional astronomy in the community it represents may do so:

6a. on an interim basis, on the same conditions as above, for a period of up to nine years. After that time, it must apply to become a National Member on a permanent basis or its membership in the Union will terminate;

6b. on a prospective basis for a period of up to six years if its community has less than six Individual Members. After that time it must apply to become a National Member on either an interim or permanent basis or its membership in the Union will terminate.

7. A National Member is admitted to the Union on a permanent, interim, or prospective basis by the General Assembly. It may resign from the Union by so informing the General Secretary in writing.

8. A National Member may be either:

8.a. the organization by which scientists of the corresponding nation or territory adhere to ICSU or:

8.b. an appropriate National Society or Committee for Astronomy, or:

8.c. an appropriate institution of higher learning.

9. The adherence of a National Member is automatically suspended if its annual contributions,

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6. An organization desiring to join the Union as a National Member while developing professional astronomy in the community it represents may do so:

6a. on an interim basis;

6b. on a observer basis;

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8. A National Member may be either:

8.a. the organization by which scientists of the corresponding nation or territory adhere to ICSU or:

8.b. an appropriate National Society or Committee for Astronomy, or:

8.c. an appropriate institution of higher learning.

9. The adherence of a National Member is automatically suspended if its annual contributions,



as defined in Articles 23c and 23e below have not been paid for five years; it resumes, upon the approval of the Executive Committee, when the arrears in contributions have been paid in full. After five years of suspension of a National Member, the Executive Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to terminate the Membership.

10. A National Member is admitted to the Union in one of the categories specified in the Bye-Laws.

...

23.e. National Members having interim status pay annually one half unit of contribution.

23.f. National Members having prospective status pay no contribution.

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In justified, exceptional cases, the Executive Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to cancel the arrears of a suspended or terminated National Member and resume it.

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23.e. National Members having Interim status pay annually one half unit of contribution.

23.f. National Members having Observer status pay no contribution.

BYE-LAWS

Current text

I. MEMBERSHIP

...

3. The Executive Committee shall examine any proposal by a National Member to change its category of adherence to a more appropriate level. If the Executive Committee is unable to approve the request, either party may refer the matter to the next General Assembly.

4. Individual Members are admitted by the Executive Committee upon the nomination of a National Member or the President of a Division. The Executive Committee shall publish the criteria and procedures for membership, and shall consult the Membership Committee before admitting new Individual Members.

...

Amended text

I. MEMBERSHIP

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3. The Executive Committee shall examine any proposal by a National Member or invite a National Member to change its category of adherence to a more appropriate level. If the Executive Committee is unable to approve the request, either party may refer the matter to the next General Assembly.

4. Individual, Junior Members and Honorary Members are admitted by the Executive Committee upon the nomination of a National Member or the President of a Division. The Executive Committee shall publish the criteria and procedures for membership, and shall consult the Membership Committee before admitting new Individual Members.



VII. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

25. Each National Member pays annually to the Union a number of units of contribution corresponding to its category as specified below. National Members with interim status pay annually one half unit of contribution, and those with prospective status pay no dues.

Categories as defined in article 10 of the Statutes

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
VIII	IX	X	XI	XII		
1	2	4	6	10	14	20
27	35	45	60	80		
number of units of contribution						

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I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
VIII	IX	X	XI	XII		
1	2	4	6	10	14	20
27	35	45	60	80		
number of units of contribution						



Amendments to the final clause of the Statutes

STATUTES

Current text

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION

25. A decision to dissolve the Union is only valid if taken by the General Assembly with the approval of three quarters of the National Members having the right to vote by virtue of article §14.a. Such a decision shall specify a procedure for settling any debts and disposing of any assets of the Union.

Amended text

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION

25. A decision to dissolve the Union is only valid if taken by the General Assembly with the approval of three quarters of the National Members having the right to vote by virtue of article §14.a. Such a decision shall specify a procedure for settling any debts and disposing of any assets of the Union. Upon dissolution, all assets will be used exclusively for charitable purposes, including but not limited to support to colleagues from economically less privileged countries, providing education and outreach activities to young scientists and for education and outreach activities at large.