

July 22, 1992

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee: 62nd Meeting

August 1 (afternoon) 1991, Buenos Aires, Argentina

MINUTES

Present:

A.A. Boyarchuk	President
L. Woltjer	President-Elect
J. Bergeron	General Secretary
I. Appenzeller	Assistant General Secretary
D.S. Mathewson	Vice-President
F. Pacini	Vice-President
V. Radhakrishnan	Vice-President
M.S. Roberts	Vice-President
Ye Shu Hua	Vice-President
J.I. Smak	Vice-President
Y. Kozai	Adviser
D. McNally	Adviser

I. The meeting was open by the President of the IAU, Dr. A.A. Boyarchuk, who welcomed in particular the new members of the Executive Committee.

II. The agenda was approved subject to addition of the following items: the newly created Working Groups, the request of the Chairperson of the World Astronomy Days were added under point III; the EC members agreed to hear a presentation by D. Crawford of the forthcoming IAU meeting "Adverse Environment Impacts on Astronomy: an Exposition".

III. General Assembly Matters

Working Groups

Three new Working Groups have been established at the XXIst General Assembly:

- Encouraging International Development of Antarctic Astronomy Working Group (WGDA)

This is a WG of the EC, established following the resolution from Commissions 50 (leading Commission), 9, 40 and 44. A preliminar membership list has been approved by the EC: it includes P. Gillingham (Chairperson), J. Davis

(Commission 50) and D.S. Mathewson (Commission 9, and EC representative ex officio). P. Gillingham is due to communicate the terms of reference of this WG to the EC.

- Near Earth Objects Working Group (WGNEO)

This inter-commission WG has been established by Commissions 4, 7, 9, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 22. The proposed membership list has been approved by the EC. It is composed of A. Carusi (Chairperson until 1994 -President of Commission 20), Y. Kozai (Commissions 7, 15 and 20), P.V. Seidelmann and Tong Fu (Commission 4), B.G. Marsden and A. Milani (Commission 7), G. Lelièvre (Commission 9), A.W. Harris and G. Schoemaker (Commission 15), D. Morrison and A. Bazilveski (Commission 16), A.G. Sokolski (Commission 20), B.A.S. Gustavson and A.C. Levasseur-Regourd (Commission 21) and D. Steel and J. Stohl (Commission 22). The Chairperson should communicate the terms of reference of this Working Group to the EC.

- Astronomical Data Centers and Services Working Group (WGADCS)

This is a WG of Commission 5. The proposed membership list and the goals of this WG are approved by the EC. The membership is composed of: (i) the directors or their representatives of the data centers of Argentina, China, France, India, Japan, USA and USSR, (ii) consulting members from NASA and ESA (one each), (iii) the President of Commission 5, B. Hauck (Chairperson).

World Astronomy Days (WADS)

The EC decided that the IAU would support the World Astronomy Days, activities planned in the context of the International Space Year (1992), but without IAU funding since the WADs are sponsored by COSPAR. The IAU Information Bulletin will be available for information of the WADs. However the WADs must not use the IAU logo for information published elsewhere than in the IB.

IV. Scientific Matters

Decisions pending from EC61 (proposed meetings for the period 01.01.1992 to 30.06.1993).

The proposed SMP 13 "Developments in Astrometry and their Impacts on Astrophysics and Geodynamics" was approved after consideration of the additional information communicated by Dr. Ye Shu Hua (Chairperson).

The newly submitted COSPAR meeting for IAU sponsorship, SPON 16 "Space Sciences with particular emphasis on High Energy Astrophysics" was approved.

Proposed meetings for the period 01.07.1993 to 31.12.1993.

The EC granted the IAU sponsorship to the symposium SPM 12 "Active Galactic Nuclei across the Electromagnetic Spectrum" (Chairperson: T. Courvoisier) and to the colloquium CLM 22 "Solar Coronal Structures" (Chairperson: P. Heinzel). The EC did not approve the proposal for the symposium SPM 14 "VLBI Technology, Progress and Future Observational Possibilities" (Chairperson: M. Morimoto), in part due to the large number of proposals on High spatial resolution in the radio and submillimeter range for 1992/1993, and felt that a main sponsoring by URSI with IAU co-sponsorship was more appropriate for meetings in conjunction with the URSI General Assembly.

Level of IAU grants for symposia/colloquia/co-sponsored meetings and financial summary for 1992 and 1993.

The EC has agreed to raise the level of the IAU grants for meetings in 1992 and 1993 to 14 kSF per symposium and 8 kSF per colloquium, while the IAU grant for co-sponsored meetings would remain at the level of 3 kSF per meeting.

The budget for scientific meetings in 1992 is 133 kSF. For 1992, have been approved: 5 symposia, 7 colloquia and 2 co-sponsored meetings, which led to an expected cost of 140 kSF, thus a deficit of 7 kSF. For 1993, the budget is 138 kSF, of which 52 kSF have been committed for 2 symposia and 3 colloquia.

Level of registration fees.

There was no clear consensus within the EC on a specific maximum level of the symposia/colloquia registration fees. Since for 1992, the registration fees had already been fixed at a maximum level of 150 SF, it was agreed that for 1993 additional items over 150 SF could be accepted if they were described and justified. Suggestions were made to modify the official proposal forms with mention of these possible additional items.

Regional Meetings.

The EC felt that the available information on the proposed VIIth Latin-American Regional Meeting, in particular as regards its scientific level, was not sufficient to then accept this proposal. It was agreed that the General Secretary should ask for additional information with a deadline of October 1st, 1991, and that this information would be mailed to all EC members who would then give individually their approval/refusal also by mail to the General Secretary.

Complement of information should also be obtained by the General Secretary from the main organizer of the VI Asian Pacific Regional Meeting, J. Narlikar, before final approval of this RM at the 63rd meeting of the EC.

V. XXIInd General Assembly

Format

After a lively discussion on the proposal for a new format of the XXIInd GA presented by the General Secretary, the following decisions were adopted:

- the Conference Center in The Hague, The Netherlands, is reserved for the IAU for two full weeks from August 14 to 27, 1994;
- the General Assembly will take place within these two weeks; its format, duration and dates will be decided at the 1992 meeting of the EC;
- in 1994, other IAU sponsored Symposia/Colloquia (about 4 to 6) can be held anywhere in the world but outside a period of +/- three months of the General Assembly, i.e. prior to May 13 and after November 28, 1994.

The EC agreed to set up a sub-committee of three members, composed of L. Woltjer, J. Smak and the General Secretary, to further prepare the format of the XXIInd GA.

Extra Information Bulletin

The EC also discussed the possibility for an additional issue of the Information Bulletin in 1993 dedicated to the announcement of the scientific programme of the XXIInd GA.

VI. Trust Fund

At the XXIst GA, a substantial majority of the membership indicated their support for the motion on the establishment of an IAU Trust Fund. The EC should then consider the question of such a Trust Fund and for that purpose set up a sub-committee composed of D. McNally, M. Roberts and the General Secretary.

VII. Commissions: merging or new system

The EC meeting coming to its end, there was not much time to discuss in depth the important issue of merging commissions or of a possible new system. During the last triennium, 1988-1991, the suggestions of merging made by the General Secretary, D. McNally, to several commissions did not meet the approval of the commission Presidents/Organizing Committees.

This important point of the future of the IAU Commissions will be on the Agenda of the 63rd meeting of the EC.

VIII. Information Bulletin

One EC member strongly recommended that the presentation of the

IAU Information Bulletin be modified and made more attractive to read.

IX. Date and place of the 1992 EC meeting

The EC gratefully accepted the invitation by the vice-President Radhakrishnan. In order to avoid conflict/overlap with the World Spce Congress (August 28-September 9, 1992, Washington DC, USA) at which the President, A.A. Boyarchuk, will be one of the two IAU representatives, the chosen dates of the 63rd EC meeting in Bangalore, India, were September 11, 14 and 15, 1992.

X. The President closed the meeting, August 1st, 1991 at 5.30 pm.