

**INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**

**Executive Committee**

**75th Meeting**

**Astronomical Observatory, University of Copenhagen, Denmark**

**June 14–15, 2001**

**MINUTES**

Present:

R.D. Ekers	President-Elect
H. Rickman	General Secretary
O. Engvold	Assistant General Secretary
C. Cesarsky	Vice-President
N. Kaifu	Vice-President
N. Kardashev	Vice-President
K.A. Pounds	Vice-President
S. Torres-Peimbert	Vice-President
R.E. Williams	Vice-President
R. Kraft	Adviser
J. Andersen	Adviser

Absent:

F. Pacini	President
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In attendance:

M. Léger-Orine	Executive Assistant
J. Greenberg	Administrative Assistant

## **OPENING**

In the absence of the President, F. Pacini, who had to return to Firenze due to sad familial events, R. Ekers chairs the meeting on June 14, and C. Cesarsky on June 15. On behalf of the President, R. Ekers welcomes the members of the Executive Committee to its 75th meeting. The EC members are then welcomed by J.H. Jorgensen, University of Copenhagen Observatory Director and host of the EC meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda is adopted, with some minor re-arrangements and two new items:

Approval of the WG on Abundance in Red Giants  
Co-sponsorship of COSPAR meetings

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The minutes of EC 73 & 74, previously circulated by e-mail, are approved. A summary of decisions taken since EC 74 is attached to these minutes.

## **REPORT ON SPECIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The work of the Special Nominating Committee is progressing on schedule.

### **Report on Secretariat**

It is reported that in February the IAU Office have moved on the second floor of the building of the IAU, with a substantial gain of space and one extra office. The Xerox machine has been also replaced. The Executive Committee takes note of the fact that the Secretariat needs extra help and that a solution should be found. Initiatives of finding work assistance were being considered.

## **FINANCES**

### **AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2000**

The deficit of CHF 43000 corresponds to the « reserve » which had been transferred to UK for the General Assembly, and which has been refunded only in 2001, too late to be included in the accounts for 2000. ICSU grant income is less than budgeted as for 1999.

### **TRUST FUND**

The possibility to raise a Trust Fund is evoked. Legal aspects should be studied.

### **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

If no payment is received from Turkey, their membership will automatically terminate next year. The GS is requested to write them in order to try to find a solution.

Romania and Tajikistan are Associate members since 9 years. They will be reminded that they should ask for full membership starting in 2002.

A request has been received from the University of Baghdad, Iraq, asking for the restoration of their membership within the IAU, membership which has been terminated with the embargo and the direct consequence that no payment could be received anymore. Contacts will be made with ICSU in order to check about the status of Iraq, as their exclusion is in conflict with ICSU's principles.

### **STATUTES, BYE-LAWS AND WORKING RULES**

The Committee composed of H. Rickman (Chair), J. Andersen, N. Kaifu and R. Williams set up in Manchester has not started to work on the rewriting of these documents. It is agreed that the text they will prepare be discussed at EC 76, in order to be sent in due time to the Adhering Organizations for vote at the General Assembly.

## **DIVISIONS, COMMISSIONS & WORKING GROUPS**

### **IVS-FAGS AGREEMENT**

The EC is informed that IVS (International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astronomy) has become a Service of FAGS (Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services).

### **C 41/IUHPS INTERUNION COMMISSION**

The EC endorses the creation of the Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy, composed of members of the Division of the History of Science (DHS) of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS) and Commission 41 of the IAU, which remains a Commission of the IAU. The corresponding agreement is appended to these minutes.

### **WG PAP MEMBERSHIP**

This WG is in principle approved, under the chairmanship of M. Salvati who should confirm his willingness to do so. This WG is encouraged to propose a Joint Discussion at the XXVth General Assembly.

### **WG ON ABUNDANCE IN RED GIANTS**

The creation of this WG under Division IV is accepted, with J. Lattanzio as Chairman.

### **2000-2003 WORKING GROUPS**

The list will be posted on the Web.

## **SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS APPROVED**

### **SYMPOSIA**

IAU Symp. 211: Brown Dwarfs  
May 20-24 2002 in The Big Island, Hawaii, USA

IAU Symp. 212: Massive Star Odyssey: From Main Sequence to Supernova  
June 24-28 2002 in Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain

IAU Symp. 213: Bioastronomy 2002: Life among the Stars  
July 8-12 2002 in Hamilton Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia

IAU Symp. 214: High Energy Processes and Phenomena in Astrophysics  
August 5-10 2002 in Suzhou, China

IAU Symp. 215: Stellar Rotation  
November 11-15 2002 in Cancun, Mexico

### **COLLOQUIA**

IAU Coll. 186: Cometary Science after Hale-Bopp  
January 21-25 2002 in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

IAU Coll. 187: Exotic Stars as Challenges to Evolution  
March 4-8 2002 in Miami Beach, Florida, USA

IAU Coll. 188: Magnetic Coupling of the Solar Atmosphere  
June 11-15 2002 in Santorin, Greece

IAU Coll. 189: Astrophysical Tides: The Effects in the Solar and Exoplanetary Systems  
September 16-20 2002 in Nanjing, China

IAU Coll. 190: Magnetic Cataclysmic Variables (MCV3)  
December 8-13 2002 in Cape Town, South Africa

## CO-SPONSORED MEETINGS

IAU/COSPAR General Assembly, October 8-12 2002 in Houston, Texas, USA

IAU/COSPAR Workshop: Panel on Planetary Protection  
April 1-4 2002, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA

## REGIONAL MEETING

8th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting  
July 2-5 2002 in Tokyo, Japan

## MEETING RULES

Due to lack of time, the rules are not reviewed. Remarks circulated by e-mail as regards the text submitted will be taken into account and the new version will be posted on the Web.

The level of the registration fee is discussed and it is agreed that an amount of USD 200 could be acceptable, provided a thorough description of the items covered is given and that the proceedings volume be included in this amount.

## XXVTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### PLANNING OF GA XXV

The General Secretary visited Sydney in April. His conclusions are that the organisers have been proactive in most respects, that there is a great deal of enthusiasm and good spirit about the project and that the basic logistics seem to be very relevant. However, the main concern is the high level of the registration fee: USD 485, i.e. CHF 835, to compare with CHF 280 in The Hague (1994), CHF 415 in Kyoto (1997) and CHF 485 in Manchester (2000).

Consequently, the EC recommends that the NOC finds solutions to decrease the cost. A space meeting at the time of the GA could be a solution if we were ready to share the Exhibition Center. The issues of reduced registration fee for students and one-day registration fee are also evoked.

The suggestions made by V. Trimble and G. Valsecchi as regards the format of the General Assembly are also discussed. The proposal by V. Trimble to hold the first session of the General Assembly one day earlier (i.e. on Tuesday afternoon) and the second session one day later (i.e. Thursday afternoon) would ease the work of the different Committees. On the opposite, it means that the meetings with administrative bodies will have also to be held earlier. The EC agrees with this new format and recommends that all Adhering Organisations and Presidents of IAU bodies be informed well in advance.

### IDEAS AND PROPOSALS FOR GA XXV MEETINGS

Before taking any decision as regards the New-Zealand meeting, the EC prefers to wait until the proposal is received.

## XXVIITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Canada has renewed its invitation for the XXVIth General Assembly, competing thus with Brazil and China.

## PETER GRUBER PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS

### IAU/PGF AGREEMENT

The agreement has been signed by PGF and IAU. A copy is annexed to these minutes.

### FIRST SELECTION OF PGF FELLOWS

The fellows for the year 2001 are :

Anshu Gupta, age 30, from Chennai, India, to do research on rapidly rotating neutron stars and strange stars with high magnetic fields at the Dept. of Physics, Univ. of Pisa, Italy;

Dr. Sergey Sazonov, age 29, from Moscow, Russia, to do research on interaction of radiation with hot astrophysical plasmas at the Max-Planck Institut für Astrophysik, Garching, Germany.

It is suggested that the 2 fellows give a talk in Sydney.

### **Near Earth Objects**

#### IAU/SAO CONTRACT ON THE MPC

The General Secretary is pleased to report that the contract has been signed, with the immediate consequence that the observations which are at the MPC will be made public within six months of the signature of the contract (April 17, 2001). The EC thanks Hans Rickman and Johannes Andersen for their diplomacy in this matter. A copy of the contract is to be found as annex to these minutes.

#### AIAA MEETING REPORTS

Brief reports have been received and recommendations have been made to «create an executive body to coordinate international NEO activity.... under the auspices of the United Nations».

### **Educational matters**

#### TAD 2000 REPORT

D. Wentzel reports the progress of the 3 programmes under way: Central America, Vietnam & Morocco. Altogether, CHF 11835 has been spent out of an initial of CHF 30000 for 2000. Consequently, the balance, i.e. CHF 18165 is carried forward to 2001, the budget becoming thus CHF 58165.

#### ISYA 2001 REPORT

The 25<sup>th</sup> ISYA took place in Thailand at the University of ChiangMai, January 3–22, 2001. All the lectures and practical activities were at the Department of Physics (Faculty of Sciences) and the observations at the Sirindhorn Observatory.

36 participants attended the ISYA, 19 from Thailand (3 women, 16 men) and 17 from the Asian region [China (mainland): 2 (men), Hongkong (China): 1 (man), Taiwan: 1 (man), India: 3 (men), Indonesia: 3 (1 woman, 2 men), Laos: 1 (man), Nepal: 1 (man), Philippines: 3 (men), Vietnam: 2 (women)].

The subjects of the ISYA were: Stellar physics; Solar type atmospheres; Stellar high energy astrophysics; Stellar structure; Evolution of binary stars; Stellar atmospheres; Galaxies; Binary stars; Stellar observations; Stellar dynamics; Binary stars, Variable stars and Stellar pulsations.

Beside the lectures, several sessions were devoted to practical activities with computers. Sessions on stellar photometry data reduction and image processing took place, as well as specific analysis of the contents of some astronomical data bases.

Several observing sessions were organized at the Sirindhorn observatory using the two telescopes: the 40cm Cassegrain type and the 50cm Ritchey-Chrétien type. The first one is equipped with a spectrograph and a CCD; some of the spectra thus taken were used for practical activities. During this ISYA half the participants gave short talks on their current research work.

#### ISYA 2002 PROPOSAL

New input has been received from the proposers of the ISYA in 2002 in Argentina, which the EC decides to sponsor.

#### COMMISSION 46 REPORT

Commission 46 informs the EC of its wish to hold a 2-day Special Session in Sydney, as no such meeting on education has been yet organized by the IAU in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **PUBLISHING**

### **ASP LOSSES**

ASP has informed the IAU of the losses encountered in the sales of IAU volumes that they attribute to the small number of volumes produced and to the fact that participants to Symposia are not obliged to buy the proceedings.

The EC decides to encourage organizers of Symposia to include the price of these proceedings in the registration fee and to encourage Colloquium organizers to publish with ASP. The EC also would like to be informed of the number of books sold by ASP, in order to get objective information. It is also recommended to speed up the production process (3 months for submission of the manuscript, 6 months being an absolute maximum).

Due to important changes in the hardcopy publishing and also to the fact that new series of publications are contemplated by the EC, ASP should be informed that the contract cannot be renewed as it stands at the moment.

### **ABSTRACTING SERVICE**

The termination of A&AS by the end of 2000 makes more crucial the continuation of ADS, whose work could be recognized by the blessing of the IAU, allowing them, for example to add to their our logo. It is also recommended that the abstracts of IAU publications be published as soon as they are ready. Contacts with the EC WG on Publishing (see below) are recommended.

### **ICSU-UNESCO CONFERENCE ON "ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING IN SCIENCE"**

The EC takes note of the recommendations from the conference held in Paris February 19-23, 2001, where Michelle Storey was the IAU representative. The following points have been discussed: Journals subscription crisis; Knowledge gap; Open access scientific data; Changing role of Learned Societies in society and Open reviewing.

### **EC WORKING GROUP ON PUBLISHING**

It is agreed that the Task Group on Electronic Publishing of Commission 5 becomes the EC Working Group on Publishing, with M. Storey as Chair, F. Genova representing Commission 5 and O. Engvold the EC. The aim of this Working Group is to work out the IAU policy on publishing.

## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **ICSU GRANT PROPOSALS**

A request has been submitted for USD 50000 to initiate «Science Development and Capacity Building in Latin America».

The IAU co-sponsors the application for USD 45000 made by IUPAP for an «International Conference on Women in Physics».

### **CODATA MEETING REPORT**

R. Norris was the IAU representative at the CODATA meeting in Baveno/Stresa (Italy) in October 2000 where subjects such as management, data archiving, data standards were discussed. A Workshop on «Virtual Observatory» has been held, enhancing the advantage of such observatories, mainly wider spread of data. Legal aspects of database protection have been also reviewed, as inhomogeneities are the rule in this domain.

### **COPUOS/STSC MEETING REPORT**

A brief report has been provided by Johannes Andersen. Actions have been undertaken, mainly with sister Unions, in order to coordinate actions towards nations. A contact group within ESA to provide input from the IAU to any proposals the ESA countries might make to UN-COPUOS to promote protection of the sky for astronomical research has been set up.

## SRG-UTC REPRESENTATIVE

D.D. McCarthy has been nominated IAU representative to the Special Rapporteur Group on UTC.

## **MISCELLANEOUS: "THE IAU IN A CHANGING WORLD", POSSIBLE INITIATIVES**

### ROLE OF DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Discussions concerning the role of Division Presidents have indicated that they should be more involved in the affairs of the Union, and some thought has been given to substitute Division Presidents to IAU Vice-Presidents, although the EC is well aware of the problem of the geographical representation this new organisation may induce. A small committee, composed of H. Rickman, O. Engvold, R. Williams and J. Andersen will prepare a text regarding the role of Division Presidents, which will be discussed both by the EC and the DPs at EC 76, for inclusions in the documents submitted to Adhering Organizations. As a first step, it is decided to invite Division Presidents to EC 76 in order they contribute to the scientific programme of the General Assembly.

### VISIBILITY OF THE IAU

As the rules for membership are very strict, young astronomers are hardly informed of IAU activities. It is suggested a «junior membership», with sponsoring of 2-3 IAU members as a sufficient reference. No conclusion is drawn on this subject.

### 76<sup>TH</sup> EC MEETING

Upon invitation by N. Kardashev, the next EC meeting will be held in Saint-Petersburg, May 6-8, 2002.

### OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting ends on June 15 at 18.30. C. Cesarsky thanks the General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, and the IAU staff for preparing the meeting, and expresses the thanks of the Executive Committee to Dr. J. Andersen for his kind invitation and to Dr. J.H. Jorgensen and the Observatory staff for their kind hospitality.