

3. Executive Committee
3.1. Draft minutes EC81

3.1

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee – 81st Meeting

August 13-23, 2006

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (August 13)
Prague Congress Center (August 14, 15, 23 and 24)
Prague, Czech Republic

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ronald D. Ekers | President |
| Catherine Cesarsky | President-Elect |
| Oddbjørn Engvold | General Secretary |
| Karel A. van der Hucht | Assistant General Secretary |
| Beatriz Barbay | Vice-President |
| Cheng Fang | Vice-President |
| Kenneth A. Pounds | Vice-President |
| Silvia Torres-Peimbert | Vice-President |
| Brian Warner | Vice-President |
| Robert E. Williams | Vice-President |
| Franco Pacini | Adviser |
| Hans Rickman | Adviser |

DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Francesco Bertola | Division VIII |
| Jørgen Christensens-Dalsgaard | Division V |
| Dainis Dravins | Division IV |
| John E. Dyson | Division VI |
| Toshio Fukushima | Division I |
| Haruyuki Okuda | Division XI |
| Luis F. Rodriguez | Division X |
| Christiaan Leo Sterken | Division IX |
| Virginia Trimble | Division XII |
| David F. Webb | Division II |
| Patricia Ann Whitelock | Division VII |
| Iwan P. Williams | Division III |

INVITED:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Owen Gingerich | Chair Planet Committee |
| Richard Binzel | Planet Committee |
| Jan Palous | Chair NOC |
| Lars Lindberg-Christensen | IAU Press Office |

In attendance:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Monique Léger-Orine | Executive Assistant |
| Marie Noel-Giraud | IAU Grant Office |

Absence:

Vice-President Brian Warner was absent for the sessions on August 13th.

Vice-President Robert E. Williams was absent for the sessions on August 13th and 15th. Division Presidents David F. Webb and Iwan Williams were absent for the joint EC/DP session of August 13th.

The IAU Division Presidents were invited to attend the afternoon session of August 13th, 14:00-17:30. The EC81 sessions on Monday August 14th 09:00-12:30, and Wednesday 23rd were open for attendance of the Division Presidents.

Dr. Ian Corbett was invited to attend the EC81 session on Tuesday August 15th 09:00-10:30 for the meeting with representatives of countries that wish to host the XXVIIIth IAU General Assembly.

OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

The IAU President, Ron D. Ekers welcomed the members of Executive Committee (EC) to the 81st Meeting of the EC held at the Czech Academy of Science. He thanked the President of the Academy for the invitation to hold this first session of the EC81 meeting in the historic building of the Czech Academy of Science.

EC81-1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Since it was recently agreed to postpone that start of the joint session with the Division Presidents from 11:00 to 14:00 it was agreed to shift agenda items 10. *Financial Matters* and (DPs), 13. *Status of Scientific Meetings* and 14. *IAU Publications* from Monday August 14 to Sunday August 13, 11:00 – 12:30.

The suggested modifications of the agenda were approved.

EC81- 2.1 & 2.2. MINUTES OF EC80 and EC80-T1

The minutes of EC80 in Rome were approved.

At its telephone meeting of April 24, 2006, the EC accepted unanimously the Division Presidents' recommendations for nine IAU Symposia in 2007.

EC81-2.3. BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY CORRESPONDENCE SINCE EC80

The GS reviewed a number of major issues that had been conducted by correspondence since the previous meeting of the EC in Rome in April 2006.

EC81-2.4. DRAFT REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2003-2006

The Draft Report of the IAU Executive Committee 2003-2006 was presented by the GS. The report was accepted.

EC81-2.5. PLANET COMMITTEE REPORT

The work of the Planet Definition Committee was reviewed by the chair of the Planet Definition Committee, Dr. Owen Gingerich. This report was given in the afternoon of Sunday August 13 in the presence of the IAU Division President. A more complete discussion on resulting IAU Resolution was given before lunch the same day (Item 5.1).

EC81-2.6. STATUS REPORT OF 2009 YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

Franco Pacini reviewed the status of the 2009 Year of Astronomy program and stressed the need to follow through with the application to the UN. The EC recognizes that the UN endorsement will enhance the prestige of the 'year' arrangement, but one is prepared to move forward with the program also without endorsement of the UN. Ron Ekers pointed out the need to identify national cultural/scientific delegates to the UN who may be willing to support the IYA program and that these may be reached via the ministry of foreign affairs in IAU member countries.

The official name of the 'year' shall be '2009 International Year of Astronomy (2009 IYA).

One foresees, tentatively, the following three major events in the 2009 IYA program; (i) an official Opening Ceremony organized by UNESCO, (ii) Worldwide events associated with the IAU General Assembly in Rio, and (iii) a Closing Event in Italy with particular focus on Galileo.

One expects that the plenary session of the 2009 IYA on Friday, August 18, 2006, will provide ideas and recommendations on the over all program and organization.

An EC Working Group for the 2009 IYA will be created by EC82. This Working Group is expected to establish a network of active contacts in all countries that are willing and ready to launch national 2009 IYA programs.

EC81-2.7. EC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON "IMPACT THREATS TO THE EARTH"

The EC agreed to create a small committee on "Impact Threats on the Earth" to enable the IAU President and General Secretary to respond quickly to media and the public, as well as to governmental and international organizations, on incidents of Near-Earth asteroids and comets. Given the rapidly increasing capabilities in detection of potential Near Earth Objects the number of such reports is expected to increase substantially. The proposed Terms of Reference and composition of this Advisory Committee were accepted.

It was resolved that the Director of IAU Minor Planet Center is a member of the Advisory Committee.

The following Operation Plan for the Committee was reviewed and accepted at the session on Wednesday August 23rd:

1. Committee members will keep each other informed and will share information.
2. Non-urgent communications to the IAU will be based on committee consensus.
3. Urgent communications should represent a committee consensus, but can be initiated by a minimum of 2 (two) committee members .
4. The committee will establish a public webpage to be used for both general and urgent information. The site will cross-link to the official IAU website and to the primary NEO website (JPL, Pisa, MPC, etc.).
5. Urgent statements on behalf of the IAU can be posted by a minimum of 2 committee members. All urgent messages will also be sent by e-mail to the IAU GS, President and Press Officer.
6. The NEO webpage will provide a historical record of IAU statements, including, for example, both original statements and subsequent modifications.
7. The Committee will not issue IAU press releases or hold press conferences, but it will assist IAU in such press statements, if requested.
8. *Interaction with governments on issues of impact threats is under the sole control of the IAU President and General Secretary.*

EC81-2.8. APPOINTMENT OF AN IAU PRESS OFFICER

This issue was deferred to EC82.

EC81-2.9. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2006-2012

This issue was deferred to EC82.

EC81-3. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Special Nomination Committee, the IAU President Ron D. Ekers, presented the following nominations for the IAU Executive Committee 2006-2009:

OFFICERS:

Catherine J. Cesarsky, President, France
Robert Williams, President-Elect, USA
Karel A. van der Hucht, General Secretary, the Netherlands
Ian F. Corbett, Assistant General Secretary, Germany

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Beatriz Barbuy, Vice-President, Brazil
Cheng Fang, Vice-President, China
Martha P. Haynes, Vice-President, USA
George K. Miley, Vice-President, the Netherlands
Giancarlo Setti, Vice-President, Italy
Brian Warner, Vice-President, South Africa

ADVISERS:

Ronald D. Ekers, Past President, Australia
Oddbjørn Engvold, Past General Secretary, Norway

EC81-4. REPORT ON THE IAU SECRETARIAT

The General Secretary presented his report on the IAU Secretariat in Paris. The two employees of the IAU Secretariat and the General Secretary have dealt with a steadily increasing workload during the past triennial. The GS stressed the necessity to strengthen the Secretariat with part time personnel and by outsourcing of various financial function.

EC81-5.1. PLANET COMMITTEE REPORT

The IAU President reviewed the process of the EC's Resolution on Definition of Planet as earlier agreed at the telephone meeting of the EC on July 24th. Members of the EC expressed concern of the fact that the planetary scientists of Division III would not have a chance to discuss the Resolution's text before it become known to the media and public at large. The first meeting of Division III has been scheduled for Friday, August 18, and members of the EC concluded that it will not be possible to keep the Resolution text secret until end of the first week of the GA, and that one therefore may prefer to publish the proposed Resolution text already the day after the Opening of the GA. It was subsequently decided to prepare three articles for the Wednesday August 16 issue of the GA26 daily newspaper Nuncius III, which would describe the EC's decisions and recommendations on the planet definition issue (Ron

Ekers), the work of the Planet Definition Committee (Owen Gingerich) and the process of making a Resolution (Bob Williams).

It was resolved that the meeting of Division III on Friday August 18 should be followed by an open lunch session on Tuesday, August 22nd.

The matter was re-visited in the afternoon session, in the presence of the Division Presidents (DPs). The Chair of the Planet Definition Committee, Owen Gingerich, presented an overview of the work and report of the Committee.

EC81-5.2. AGENDAS FOR GA SESSIONS 1 AND 2

The proposed agendas for Sessions 1 and 2 of the General Assembly were reviewed.

The agenda for Session 1 was accepted as already published in the Program Book of the General Assembly.

An offer by the NOC to open the 2nd Session by cultural contribution (15 minutes) was gratefully accepted.

Given the great interest for the announced voting on the IAU Resolution that concerns the planet issue, and for the announcement of the place and date for the XXVIIIth IAU General Assembly in 2012, it was decided to schedule agenda items 13 *Resolutions* and 16 *Place and Date of the XXVIIIth General Assembly*, before the coffee-break.

It was later realized that in order to enable the new Individual Members of the Union to take part in the voting on IAU Resolutions, the announcement of these had to be made the first issue on the agenda of the 2nd GA Session. At the opening of the 2nd Session and announcement of the new Individual Members they were asked to rise and they were each subsequently given a voting card.

EC81-5.3. COUNTRIES IN ARREARS, VOTING RIGHTS

The following 12 National Members are in arrears of payments their dues for two years and more, and thereby have no voting rights at the XXVIth IAU General Assembly; Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia, Cuba, Egypt, Lithuania, Morocco, Peru, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay. Given the three new National Members accepted at the first session of the General Assembly, the total number of National Members become 65, out of which 53 enjoy voting rights at this GA. A 2/3rd quorum thereby corresponds to 35 National Members.

The IAU Secretariat had received letters from the National Representatives of Lithuania and Ukraine asking that their unpaid dues up to 2006 be waived. The EC agreed to waive the arrears of these two National Members on the condition that the dues for 2007 and onwards are paid on time.

EC81-5.4. RESOLUTIONS (TYPE B)

Resolutions 1-4 had been reviewed by the Resolutions Committee and recommended for voting at the 2nd session of the General Assembly.

The final text of Resolutions 5 and 6 would be prepared after input from the meeting of Division III, Friday, August 18 and the open meeting Tuesday, August 22.

EC81-5.5. DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

The available funds for IAU grants to the XXVIth IAU General Assembly were based on budgeted funds and external funding, as follows:

| | CHF |
|---|---------|
| Budgeted for IAU Symposia | 280,000 |
| Budgeted for IAU grants | 235,000 |
| Funds from ESO | 77,000 |
| Office of Naval Research – Global (earmarked for S240) | 23,000 |
| UN-OOSA. (earmarked for SPS5) | 6,400 |
| “Russian funds” | 10,000 |
| | ----- |
| Sum | 629,400 |
| | |
| Budget for 3 IAU Symposia outside the GA | 75,000 |
| | ----- |
| Available for GA26 grants | 554,400 |
| | ===== |

In addition, special grants (registration fee and free board) for 62 young astronomers and attendees from economic developing countries, were offered by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

The distribution of IAU grants were based on recommendations from the 29 individual event organizers, and in accordance with the IAU rules, (see http://www.iau.org/Rules_Guidelines.200.0.html#Grants)

The GS presented, for information, the resulting distribution of IAU grants by event and country.

The EC took note of the American Astronomical Society’s most helpful contributions to the Women in Astronomy’s luncheon and for the Young Astronomers session of, respectively, US\$ 5, 130 and US\$ 4,672.

EC81-5.6. PRELIMINARY NOC REPORT

The Chair of the National Organizing Committee presented a preliminary report on the preparation for the General Assembly. He was pleased with the work of the Conference Organizers and he expressed his satisfaction with the attendance of more than 2400 astronomers. This relatively high attendance was, in his opinion, partly due to the over all fine and attractive scientific program that was offered.

Some sessions seemed to get more attendees than the allocated meeting rooms would hold. However, the Local Organizers would be able to move these sessions to larger rooms.

EC81-6.2. SUSPENSION OF NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Cuba, Egypt and Lithuania, are all five years in arrears and, consequently, their National Memberships are suspended.

The EC81 decided in its session on Wednesday August 23rd to waive the unpaid dues of Lithuania and the suspension of Lithuania's membership was thereby lifted.

EC81-6.1. APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE IAU

The IAU Secretariat had received applications for National Memberships from Lebanon, Mongolia and Thailand. Lebanon and Mongolia applied for interim membership while Thailand asked for full membership in Category I. All three applications were strongly recommended by the IAU Program Group on World Wide Development of Astronomy, and the Lebanese application was in addition strongly supported by the International School for Young Astronomers (ISYAs).

EC81-7. MODIFICATIONS OF STATUTES AND BYE-LAWS

The EC had by correspondence agreed to add two more membership Categories to Bye-Laws VII §25, which would allow a National Member to pay annual dues up to 80 units of contributions. This change was added to the modification of the IAU Statutes and Bye-Laws that were agreed to at the EC80 in Rome. The modified text was published in the Information Bulletin No. 98 and in the first issue of the GA26 daily newspaper.

EC81-8. MATTERS CONCERNING THE PETER GRUBER FOUNDATION

Matters concerning the Cosmology Advisory Board and the Fellowships of the Peter Gruber Foundation were deferred to the meeting of the EC82 on Friday, August 25th.

EC81-9.1. CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES OF DIVISION

In accordance with the IAU Working Rules the Term of Reference for Commissions, §43, the Division Presidents had been asked to review and recommend necessary changes in the Division structure for the next triennial. The 12 Division Presidents were invited to present their recommendations in the joint EC/DP session on Sunday, August 13, and EC81 agreed to the following amendments of the Division structure:

Division I - Fundamental Astronomy

The following Working Groups of Division I are discontinued:

- *Redefinition of Universal Time Coordinated (UTC)*
- *Nomenclature for Fundamental Astronomy*
- *Precession & the Ecliptic*
- *Future Development of Ground-Based Astrometry.*

The Working Group on *General Relativity in Celestial Mechanics, Astrometry & Metrology* is changed to Commission. The new name is *Relativity in Fundamental Astronomy*

The following two new Working Groups are created

- *Second Realization of Celestial Reference Frame*
- *Numerical Standards in Fundamental Astronomy*
- *Astrometry by Small Ground-Based Telescopes*

The Working Group on *Natural Satellites* under Commission 20 of Division III becomes an Inter-Division Working group of Divisions I and III.

Division II - Sun and Heliosphere

No changes.

Division III - Planetary Systems Sciences

- a) Commission 51 *Bioastronomy: Search for Extraterrestrial Life* changes its name to Commission 51 *Bioastronomy*
- b) Working Group on *Extrasolar Planets* (WGESp) becomes a Commission
- c) Inter-Division Working Group on *Cartographic Coordinates & Rotational Elements* becomes a Working Group of Division III
- d) The Working Group on *Natural Satellites* under Commission 20 of Division III becomes an Inter-Division Working group of Divisions I and III.

Division IV - Stars

No changes.

Division V - Variable Stars

The following two Working Groups were discontinued

- *Variable & Binary Stars in Galaxies*
- *Accretion Physics in Interacting Binaries*

Division VI - Interstellar Matter

No changes.

Division VII - Galactic System

A new Working Group on the *Galactic Center* was created.

Division VIII - Galaxies and the Universe

No changes

Division IX - Optical and Infrared Techniques

- a) Commission 9 *Instrumentation and Techniques* is discontinued
- b) A new Commission on *Optical/Infrared Interferometry* is created
- c) Four new Working Groups were created
 - Adaptive Optics
 - Site testing instruments
 - Large telescope projects
 - Small telescope projects
- d) The Working Group "Astronomy from the Moon, which earlier resided under the auspices of Division XI is changed to an Inter-Division Working Group under Division IX and Division X(*)

(*): This change was decided by EC82 (Friday, August 25, 2006), but it is included here for completeness.

Division X - Radio Astronomy

No changes

Division XI - Space and High Energy Astrophysics

Working Group on "Astronomy from the Moon" is changed to an Inter-Division Working Group (see above)

Division XII - Union-Wide Activities

Division Working Group on *Communicating Astronomy with the Public* becomes a Commission of the Division(*).

(*): This change was accepted by EC82 (Friday, August 25, 2006), but it is included here for completeness.

EC81-9.2. NEW PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF DIVISIONS

Division I - Fundamental Astronomy

President *Jan Vondrák* Czech Republic
Vice-President *Dennis D. McCarthy* USA

Division II - Sun and Heliosphere

President *Donald B. Melrose* Australia
Vice President *Valentin Martinez Pillet* Spain

Division III - Planetary Systems Sciences

President *Edward L.G. Bowell* USA
Vice President *Karen Meech* USA

Division IV - Stars

President *Monique Spite* France
Vice President *Christopher Corbally* Vatican State

Division V - Variable Stars

President *Alvaro Gimenez* Netherlands
Vice-President *Steven D. Kawaler* USA

Division VI - Interstellar Matter

President *Thomas J. Millar* UK
Vice-President *You-Hua Chu* USA

Division VII - Galactic System

President *Ortwin Gerhard* Germany
Vice President *Despina Hatzidimitriou* Greece

Division VIII - Galaxies and the Universe

President *Sadanori Okamura* Japan
Vice President *Elaine Sadler* Australia

Division IX - Optical and Infrared Techniques

President *Rolf-Peter Kudritzki* USA
Vice President *Andreas Quirrenbach* Netherlands

Division X - Radio Astronomy

President *Rendong Nan* China Nanjing
Vice President *Russell A. Taylor* Canada

Division XI - Space and High Energy Astrophysics

President *Günther Häsinger* Germany
Vice President *Christine Jones* USA

Division XII - Union-Wide Activities

President *Malcolm Smith* Chile
Vice-President *Françoise Genova* France

NEW PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF COMMISSIONS

A large number of IAU Commissions had not by the last session of the EC81 submitted to the IAU Secretariat the names of their new Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Organizing Committees.

EC81-9.3. NEW MoA ON THE MINOR PLANET CENTER.

The EC was pleased to note that a MoA for continued operation of the IAU Minor Planet Center had recently been signed by the Director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the IAU GS.

Drs. Mike A'Hearn, Steve Chesley, Hans Rickman and Giovanni Valsecchi, who have assisted the GA in his negotiation with the SAO Director that led to the MoA, will constitute the MPC Committee.

Pending the IAU Resolutions 5 and 6 one may later agree on an addendum to the MoA concerning the name of the service.

The EC took note of the fact that Dr. Brian Marsden stepped down as MPC Director after GA26 and that Dr. Tim Spahr is appointed interim MPC Director till a new Director is in place.

EC81-10.1. PAYMENTS OF DUES

The EC was pleased to note a positive trend in payment of dues for 2006. The Finance Sub-Committee may assist the GS in his efforts to make National Members pay their dues in time.

EC81-10.2. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee (FC) had reviewed the preliminary report prepared by the Finance Sub-Committee (FSC) for the period 2003 – 2005 and made recommendations on the budget for 2007 – 2009.

The Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee, Robert Milkey presented the final report of the IAU Finance Committee, which concluded that “the IAU is financially sound and the General Fund has reached an adequate level to serve as a stable reserve for the Union. The accounting procedures in place provide an accurate record of the financial transactions of the Union and the annual independent audit provides an important check on this.

The budget for the coming triennium is adequate for the programs currently planned and the risks, while not negligible, are manageable.”

It is recommended that the IAU Secretariat seeks external with the aim to establish a more profitable investment policy.

EC81-10.3. AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2003-2005

The EC took note of the Audited Accounts 2003-2005

EC81-10.4. BUDGET 2007-2009

The Finance Committee accepted the proposed Budget for 2007-2009, and agreed with a late motion by the IAU President to re-allocate the contingency (excess of Income over

Expenditure) for 2007-2009 of CHF 110 370 to strengthen the operation of the IAU Secretariat.

EC81-11. THE XXVIIIth IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

The IAU Secretariat had received invitations to host the XXVIIIth IAU General Assembly from China (Beijing), France (Paris), Germany (Hamburg) and Greece (Thessaloniki). Representatives from all four countries met with the IAU Executive Committee for discussions of their bids.

The EC evaluated the bids from all four invitees with regard to the over all quality of the conference facility, the potential for national and other financial support, and the expected national impact in the hosting country from hosting of an IAU General Assembly.

With reference to IAU's Guidelines for Hosting of IAU General Assemblies; http://www.iau.org/Instructions_for_Hosting_GAs.322.0.html the EC decided by ballot voting that Beijing (8 votes for Beijing and 2 votes for Paris) would be its first choice, and decided subsequently that Paris (10 votes) shall be the alternative in case the IAU fails to reach a satisfactory agreement with the first choice.

The EC decided that name of the alternative candidate shall not be announced.

EC81-12. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Triennial reports were received from the Program Group of Worldwide Development of Astronomy (PG-WWDA) and of International Schools for Young Astronomers (PG-ISYA).

The requested report from the Program Group for the Teaching Astronomy for Development (PGTAD) is missing.

EC81-13. STATUS OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The AGS made a comprehensive statistical overview from IAU meetings 2005, including a most instructive distribution of grant allocations to attendees from various countries. The EC was pleased to receive Post Meeting Reports from Symposia, Colloquia and Regional Meetings in 2005 of which many set good examples for organization of IAU meetings.

EC81-14.1. REPORT ON EDITORIAL BOARD

The IAU Editorial Board (EB) was established by the EC79 in 2004. The interaction of the Proceedings Editors, who constitute the major membership of the EB, has led to a substantial shortening in the average production time of the Proceedings.

The proposed membership of IAU EB for 2007 was accepted.

EC81-14.2. STATUS OF IAU PUBLICATIONS

The EC was pleased to note that the average production time of the IAU Proceedings has become less than 7 months after the meetings.

It was requested that the IAU Proceedings adopts the current standard for referencing that is used by other relevant journals.

IAU Transactions is a rather obscure name for many people. It was asked that a more descriptive name be considered.

EC81-14.3. COST OF PROCEEDINGS FOR 2007

Soon after the program for IAU Symposia for the following year has been selected, the AGS and GS meet with the IAU Publisher to decide the cost of the corresponding IAU Proceedings. The resulting costs of Proceedings for 2007 was accepted.

EC81-14.4. FREE BOOKS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In accordance with the contract between the IAU and Cambridge University Press (CUP) the CUP provides up to 25 copies to the IAU for free distribution to developing countries. Eighteen astronomical libraries in developing countries are currently receiving free copies of IAU Proceedings. The Program Group for *Exchanges of Books, Journals, etc.* under Commission 46 shall be asked to supervise the distribution of these Free Books with the aim to ensure that the beneficiaries of this service are astronomical milieus under development which otherwise cannot afford to by the subscriptions. The mailing of these books is done from CUP.

EC81-15. ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ICSU

The Executive Committee was pleased to invite Professor Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director, International Council for Science (ICSU) for a presentation of ICSU's new Strategic Plan, which is being implemented in this year of ICSU's 75th anniversary.

Matters concerning ICSU's interaction with its member Unions, such as the IAU, were discussed. Catherine Cesarsky observed that ICSU seemed less focused on basic research. Members of the EC expressed some concern about the fact that the current GeoUnions, as well as the IAU, find that ICSU appears to show modest interest for involving these Unions in matters where their expertise ought to be of notable relevance and value.

EC81-15.2. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

The IAU Secretariat acknowledged the receipt of reports from IAU Representatives to the following organizations: ICSU, CODATA, COSPAR, FAGS, IUCAF, IUPAP, SCAR, SCOSTEP, URSI, ISES, IHY, YVS and UN-COPUOS.

EC81-15.3. NOMINATIONS OF IAU REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Executive Committee appointed the following IAU representatives to other scientific organizations for 2006-2009:

| Organization | Representative(s) |
|--|--|
| ICSU International Council for Science | Ian Corbett icorbett@eso.org |
| BIPM Bureau International des Poids et Mesures | |
| CCTF Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency | Toshio Fukushima Toshio.Fukushima@nao.ac.jp |
| CCU Consultative Committee for Units | Nicole Capitaine |

| | |
|---|---|
| CIE Compagnie Internationale de l'Eclairage | <u>nicole.capitaine@obspm.fr</u> |
| CODATA Committee on Data for Science and Technology | Syuzo Isobe <u>isobes@cc.nao.ac.jp</u> |
| COSPAR Committee on Space Research Councill | Raymond Norris <u>Ray.Norris@csiro.au</u> |
| SC B Space Studies of the Earth-Moon System Planets and Small Bodies of the Solar System | Jean-Claude Vial <u>jean-claude.vial@ias.u-psud.fr</u> |
| SC D Space Plasmas in the Solar System, including Planetary Magnetospheres | Mikhail Marov <u>marov@spp.keldysh.ru</u> |
| SC E Research in Astrophysics from space | Marek Vandas <u>vanda@ig.cas.cz</u> |
| SC E1 Galactic and Extragalactic Astrophysics | G. Srinivasan <u>srini@rri.ernet.in</u> |
| SC E2 The Sun as a Star | Arnold Benz <u>benz@astro.phys.ethz.ch</u> |
| FAGS Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services | Nicole Capitaine <u>nicole.capitain@obspm.fr</u> Ray Norris <u>Ray.Norris@csiro.au</u> |
| IAF International Astronautical Federation | Henk Olthof <u>Henk.Olthof@esa.int</u> |
| IERS International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service | Nicole Capitaine <u>nicole.capitaine@obspm.fr</u> |
| IGBP International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme | Richard G. Strom <u>strom@astron.nl</u> |
| IHY International Heliophysical Year | David F. Webb <u>David.Webb@hanscom.af.mil</u> |
| ISES International Space Environment Service | Helen Coffey <u>helen.e.coffey@noaa.gov</u> |
| ITU International Telecommunication Union ITU-R Radiocommunication Bureau | William Klepczynski <u>wklepczy@comcast.net</u> Tomas Gergely <u>tgergely@nsf.gov</u> Masatoshi Ohishi <u>ohishi@nao.ac.jp</u> |
| IUCAF Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations FOR RADIO ASTRONOMY AND SPACE SCIENCE | Wim van Driel <u>wim.vandriel@obspm.fr</u> Willem A. Baan <u>baan@astron.nl</u> Darrel T.Emerson |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <u>demerson@nrao.edu</u> |
| IUPAP International Union of Pure and Applied Physics | Ian F. Corbett <u>icorbett@eso.org</u> |
| C4 Commission on Cosmic Rays | Heinrich Voelk <u>Heinrich.Voelk@mpi-hd.mpg.de</u> |
| C 19 Commission on Astrophysics | Virginia Trimble <u>vtrimble@uci.edu</u> |
| IVS International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry | Patric Charlot <u>Patrick.charlot@obspm.fr</u> |
| SCAR Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research | John Storey <u>j.storey@unsw.edu.au</u> |
| SCOPE Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment | Derek McNally <u>dmn@star.herts.ac.uk</u> |
| SCOSTEP Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics | Nat Gopalswamy <u>gopals@fugee.gsfc.nasa.gov</u> |
| UN COPUOS UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space | Karel A. van der Hucht <u>K.A.van.der.Hucht@sron.nl</u> |
| URSI Union Radio-Scientifique Internationale | Luis Rodriguez <u>l.rodriguez@astrosmo.unam.mx</u> |

EC81-16. PLANNING FOR GA XXVI (2nd SESSION)

The EC81 decided to meet for an extra session on Thursday August 24th (12:45-13:45) in order to take into account the recommendations from the IAU Nomination Committee, IAU Finance Committee and National Members which all met in the afternoon of Wednesday, August 23rd.

AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2003-2005 AND BUDGET 2007-2009

The EC took note of the Finance Committee's endorsement of the Audited Accounts 2003-2005 and the proposed Budget 2007-2009.

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL NOMINATION COMMITTEE 2006-2009

In accordance with the IAU Statutes § 13.e and 13.f, IAU Bye-Laws § 9 and 10, the IAU Nominating Committee nominated the following four individuals from a list of 12 that were recommended by the IAU Division Presidents, to serve on the Special Nomination Committee 2006-2009:

Phil Charles, South Africa
Eva K. Grebel, Switzerland
Julieta Fierro, Mexico
Grazina Tautvaisiene, Lithuania

In accordance with the Bye-Laws referenced above, the EC nominated

Sadanori Okamura, Japan for the SNC 2006-2009

IAU Ex Officio members of the SNC 2006-2009:

Catherine Cesarsky, France (Chair)

Ron D. Ekers, Australia

and

Karel van der Hucht, the Netherlands

Ian Corbett, Germany

who shall serve as advisers.

The nominations were later accepted by the General Assembly.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE IAU

The IAU Secretariat had received a total of 891 nominations from 48 National Committees of Astronomy (List A) and 34 nominations from Division Presidents (List B). The IAU Nomination Committee recommended that all nominations on List A be accepted, and it recommended 32 of the nominees of List B be accepted. Two nominees (Canadian citizens) were not found qualified for IAU membership. These two had previously also been reviewed and not found qualified by the Canadian National Committee of Astronomy.

Based on these recommendations of the IAU Nominating Committee the Executive Committee was pleased to welcome 923 new Individual Members of the Union. The total number of Individual Members then becomes 9783.

Given that some IAU Commissions were discontinued at this meeting of the EC, several Individual Members are thereby no longer associated with a Commission, as foreseen in the current structure of the IAU database. It is asked that individuals can formally become members of a Division.

The nominations were later accepted by the General Assembly.

MEMBERS OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE 2006-2009

EC81 nominated the following members of the IAU Resolutions Committee 2006-2009:

Jocelyn Susan Bell Burnell, chair, UK

Rachel L. Webster, Australia

Brian Warner, South Africa

Michel Dennefeld, France

The nominations were later accepted by the General Assembly:

CLOSING OF THE 81ST MEETING OF THE IAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An extra and final session of EC81 were held Thursday, August 25, 12:45-13:30 in order to discuss the recommendations received from the IAU Finance Committee and the Nomination Committee whose meetings were held in the afternoon of Wednesday, August 24.

The IAU President thanked the three outgoing Vice-Presidents for their invaluable contributions to the Union during the past 6 years.

Oddbjørn Engvold, GS
Oslo, 12 September 2006