

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee – 82nd Meeting
August 25, 2006, 09:00 – 17:30 hr
Prague Congress Centre, Prague, Czech Republic

DRAFT MINUTES (*dd. 16 October 2006*)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Catherine J. Cesarsky	President
Robert Williams	President-Elect
Karel A. van der Hucht	General Secretary
Ian F. Corbett	Assistant General Secretary
Beatriz Barbuy	Vice-President
Cheng Fang	Vice-President
Martha P. Haynes	Vice-President
George K. Miley	Vice-President
Giancarlo Setti	Vice-President
Brian Warner	Vice-President
Ronald D. Ekers	Adviser
Oddbjørn Engvold	Adviser

DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

Jan Vondrak	Division I
Donald B. Melrose	Division II
Edward L.G. Bowell	Division III
William I. Hartkopf	Division IV, C26 OC member
Alvaro Gimenez	Division V
Thomas J. Millar	Division VI
Patricia A. Whitelock	Division VII, OC member
Sadanori Okamura	Division VIII
Andreas Quirrenbach	Division IX, VP
Rendong Nan	Division X
Günther Hasinger	Division XI
Françoise Genova	Division XII

INVITED:

Michèle Gerbaldi	YA-Lunch Debate, chair
Daniela Lazzaro	NOC IAU GA XXVII, chair
Robert W. Milkey	Finance Sub-Com, past chair
Paul G. Murdin	Finance Sub-Com, chair
Jan Palous	NOC IAU GA XXVI, chair
David Webb	IHY-2007, IAU liaison

In attendance:

Monique Léger-Orine	Executive Assistant
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EC82-1. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE IAU.

The IAU President, Catherine J. Cesarsky, welcomed the members of Executive Committee (EC), the Division Presidents, and the invited guests to the 82nd Meeting of the EC, held in the Prague Congress Centre. She invited all to a roll call.

EC82-2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA. The agenda was approved.

EC82-3. INTRODUCTION OF EC MEMBERS. (EC82-Doc 3)
Taken care of in agenda item 1.

EC82-4. INTRODUCTION OF DIVISION PRESIDENTS. (EC82-Doc 4)
Taken care of in agenda item 1.

EC82-5. MINUTES OF EC81: MAJOR DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS.

- The EC agreed to waive the arrears of the National Members of Lithuania and Ukraine, on the condition that their IAU dues for 2007 and onwards will be paid on time (EC81/5.3).
- The EC agreed on changes in the structure of some of the Divisions (EC81/9.2).
- The EC agreed to re-allocate the contingency (excess of Income over Expenditure) of the IAU budget of 2007-2009 of CHF 110 370, to strengthen the operation of the IAU Secretariat (EC81/10.4).
- The EC appointed IAU representatives to scientific organizations and unions for the period 2006-2009 (EC81/15.3).
- The EC appointed an EC Advisory Committee on *Hazards of Near-Earth Objects*, chaired by David Morrison (EC81/2.7).
- The GS reported on the distribution of IAU grants for GA XXVI (EC81/5.5).
- Vice-President Bob Williams reported of the modifications of Statutes and Bye-laws (EC81/7).
- The EC agreed with the appointment of a Press Officer for GA XXVI: Lars Lindberg Christensen. (EC81/2.8).
- Past-President Franco Pacini reviewed the status of “2009 International Year of Astronomy”: approved by UNESCO, approval by the United Nations to be obtained. The GA plenary session on Friday 18 August provided ideas and recommendations (EC81/2.6).
- The EC selected by vote the offer by the Chinese Astronomical Society to host the IAU XXVIIIth GA in Beijing (China), 20-31 Aug 2012. Paris (France) is second choice (EC81/11).

EC82-6. PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON IAU GA XXVI.

EC82-6.1. REPORT BY NOC/LOC CHAIR Jan Palous.

The Chair of the GA XXVI National Organizing Committee Jan Palous presented an oral report on some aspects of the General Assembly:

- Jan was pleased with the excellent scientific programme. His IAU S235 had the largest number of abstracts, 477.
- 2412 astronomers registered at the GA, including 540 students and 115 seniors. They were accompanied by 208 registered guests, including 38 children under 11.
- Is a two-week GA too long? Many participants attended only the first or the second week.
- Parallelism: conflict of scientific interest at some time.
- Registration fee: to keep this at an acceptable level a principle sponsor is needed, e.g., the government of the host country. Unfortunately, the Czech government did not sponsor. For consideration: a time/reduced fee, could bring in less money but more people.
- Data base: a better link with the IAU data base in Paris would have been desirable.
- The Oxford Abstracts server used an obsolete data base. Its template should not have been in Word but in LaTeX, like the CUP proceedings style file. Too many and complicated

preparation menus. Producing the Abstract Book was very troublesome. It should not have been handled by Oxford Abstracts.

- The deadline schedule for grants, registration fee and abstract submission could have been better arranged.
- 600 pages per Symposium Proceedings volume is not enough to include also the posters.

Zuzana Teserova of CBT added to this:

- CBT had data base problems in checking whether participants were member of the IAU.
- Web pages: it would be nicer to have one template for all science sessions rather than links to individual web sites around the world. Then search functions could be added.

The EC expressed in praise its contentment with the performance of NOC/LOC and CBT.

EC82-6.2. REPORT BY SYMPOSIUM SOC CHAIR PERSONS.

EC82-6.2.1. REPORT ON IAU S235 and S237 by SOC chairs Françoise Combes and Bruce Elmegreen.

Huge participation for S235: 810 registered. Keynote speakers have to be invited at least half a year ahead. More coordination is desired with other SOCs to prevent overlap.

EC82-6.2.2. REPORT ON IAU S236 by SOC chair Giovanni B. Valsecchi.

Large participation (~400), some 200 present in most sessions. Excellent local assistance. High quality of science presentations. Minus points: On abstract server: why separate files for text and authorship; why Word in stead of LaTeX? On proceedings: expensive, too few citations. On registration fee: off-GA IAU Symposia have much lower fees and include proceedings therein.

EC82-6.2.3. REPORT ON IAU S240 by SOC co-chair William I. Hartkopf.

On abstract server: he could not check whether an abstract had been reviewed already by somebody else.

EC82-6.3. REPORT ON YOUNG ASTRONOMERS LUNCH DEBATE by chairperson Michèle Gerbaldi.

(EC82-Doc 6)

EC82-6.4. REPORT ON IAU PRESS OFFICE by Lars Lindberg Christensen.

Due to the planet issue, the IAU is now much better known by the public at large. The press was well treated by the office. But a longer planning before the GA would have been beneficial (only in July 206 Lars was introduced to Jan Palous). The interface with CBT was perfect. The interface with Icarus did not work well. The Abstract Book arrived two weeks too late to read all 2400 abstracts. The GA was too much in meetings. The IAU website was off-line during the GA. A budget for the next GA could be Euro 8.000,- to 10.000.-. Some journalists attended science and/or business sessions.

EC82-7. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON GA XXVI RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions 5 and 6 on planet definition:

With the rejection of the name "plutons" for the category of Pluto-like objects, the IAU EC will initiate a process for finding a better name for this category. Various procedures were suggested, like re-activating the Planet Definition Committee, deferring it to Division III, consulting Planetary Societies, electronic voting by IAU members, and involving the public via a web site. President Catherine Cesarsky argued that a name for this category has to be announced by June 2007, if not earlier. In EC83 (15-17 May 2007) the EC could come to decision. The President suggested creating a new EC Working Group for this purpose: with members from Division III and members to be selected by the EC from Division I and Division XII. On electronic voting: the President notes that a majority of those present does not want electronic voting for this issue, because this issue requires much discussion first; nevertheless, a discussion is warranted, and should take place once the Pluto issue has calmed

down. Electronic voting (probably needed at least for other purposes) will require changes in Statutes and Bye-laws to be approved at GA XXVII in 2009, and acquisition of a dedicated software package.

EC82-8. PREPARATIONS FOR PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO GA XXVI.

EC82-8.1. PROCEEDINGS IAU SYMPOSIA Nos. 235, 236, 237, 238, 239 and 240.

AGS Ian F. Corbett reported that the editors of the proceedings of those Symposia have been provided with the necessary style file and have been informed of the 1 December 2006 deadline for submitting their proceedings to CUP.

EC82-8.2. HIGHLIGHTS OF ASTRONOMY, Volume 14.

GS Karel A. van der Hucht reported that the editors of the proceedings of the Joint Discussions and Special Sessions, as well as the speakers of the Invited Discourses, have been provided with a style file and have been informed of the 1 November 2006 deadline for submitting their proceedings/articles to the GS.

EC82-8.3. IAU TRANSACTIONS XXVIB.

The GS reported that the organizers of GA XXVI Business Meetings have been provided with a style file and have been informed of the 1 November 2006 deadline for submitting their reports to the GS.

EC82-9. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON IMPRESSIONS OF GA XXVI. Successes and problems, outlook for GA XXVII.

Apart from the overall favorable comments, the following reservations were mentioned:

- problems with overlap of scientific interests (scheduling);
 - non-ideal poster location and coordination;
 - occasional room-size problems;
 - the Hot Topics session did not work out in organization and attention. It should not be organized by the IAU President, who is much too busy at that stage, but should involve Division Presidents. There was no consensus as to whether Hot Topics papers have to be on subjects not already addressed in the ordinary sessions. Perhaps, in 2009 there could be Hot Topics and Invited Discourses as brown-bag lunches, or in any case during lunch time.
- The EC is asked to provide further comments on this topic to the GS by email (!).

EC82-10. DISCUSSION ON RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, AND DRAFT MoU. (EC82-Doc 10)

The EC agrees with the Rules and Guidelines. The AGS is asked to write a draft MoU between the IAU and the Chinese NOC/LOC for GA XXVIII in Beijing, 20-31 August 2012.

EC82-11. PREPARATIONS FOR GA XXVII, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 2-15 AUGUST 2009. Report by NOC/LOC Chair Daniella Lazzaro.

NOC/LOC chair Daniella Lazzaro handed out a Rio 2009 GA flyer and a report.

The flyer invites the IAU membership to Rio and lists the IAU XXVII GA NOC members:
Chair:

* Daniela Lazzaro < lazzaro@on.br >, Observatório Nacional, Rio de Janeiro

Co-Chair:

* Beatriz L.S. Barbuy, IAG - Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo

Members:

* Eduardo Janot Pacheco, IAG - Universidade de São Paulo

* Francisco X. de Araújo, Observatório Nacional, Rio de Janeiro

* José Renan de Medeiros, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Natal

* Kepler de S. Oliveira Filho, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre

* Licio da Silva, Observatório Nacional, Rio de Janeiro

* Luiz Paulo R. Vaz, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte

* Miriani G. Pastoriza, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre

* Walter J. Maciel, IAG - Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo.

The report, showing the new Rio 2009 GA logo on its cover, presents the Agreement between the Sociedade Astronômica Brasileira and the PCO JZ Congressos dd. 24 July 2006 (in Brazilian; English translation requested), signed by J.A. de Carvalho Filho, Diretor Executivo JZ Congressos and Dr. Licio da Silva, Presidente Sociedade Astronômica Brasileira; a page on Rio de Janeiro; a chapter on the venue with the room layout of the Riocentro; a page on JZ Congressos; a page on Blumar Tourism, the official travel agency; the Preliminary Budget with as Registration fee US\$ 500.-; and finally the home page of the official Rio 2009 GA URL: < www.astronomy2009.com.br >.

On the location of the conference center: the selected RioCentro is 40 minutes by bus from the center of Rio de Janeiro. Although a new conference center is being built in the center of Rio, that is not being considered because of security issues. Hotels to be used are mainly in suburb beach town Barra. A new convention hall near the hotels in Barra could be used for specific events. Cheap accommodation is not yet available; perhaps it will after the Pan-American Games in 2007. The EC recommended on the issue of the GA registration fee: seek sponsorship from government and take insurance against low participation; on the science programme: organize lunch talks in biggest convention hall.

EC82-12. PROPOSAL FOR AN EC WORKING GROUP ON IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLIES. Members to be selected from past and future GA NOC/LOCs. (Doc EC82-12)

The EC accepted this proposal unanimously. Therefore, an EC Working Group *On IAU General Assemblies* has been created, with as members Jan Palous (GA26, chair), Dick Manchester (GA25), Daniela Lazzaro (GA27) and Shuang Nan Zhang (GA28). In 2009 Dick Manchester will rotate off and a representative of GA29 will be added.

EC82-13. PREPARATIONS FOR IAU SYMPOSIA AND REGIONAL MEETINGS in 2007 and 2008.

AGS Ian Corbett reported that the following meetings have been scheduled and are in advanced state of organization:

- IAU S242, Astrophysical Masers and their Environments, 12-16 March 2007, Alice Springs, Australia;
- IAU S243, Star-Disk Interaction in Young Stars, 1-5 April 2007, Grenoble, France;
- IAU S244, Dark Galaxies and Lost Baryons, 25-29 June 2007, Cardiff, UK;
- IAU S245, Formation and Evolution of Galaxy Bulges, 16-20 July 2007, Oxford, UK;
- IAU S246, Dynamical Evolution of Dense Stellar Systems, 5-9 September 2007, Capri, Italy;
- IAU S247, Waves and Oscillations in the Solar Atmosphere: Heating and Magneto-Seismology, 17-21 September 2007, Porlamar, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela;
- IAU S248, A Giant Step: from Milli- to Micro-arcsecond Astrometry, 15-19 October 2007, Shanghai, China;
- IAU S249, Exoplanets: Detection, Formation and Dynamics, 22-26 October 2007, Suzhou, China;
- IAU S250, Massive Stars as Cosmic Engines, 10-14 December 2007, Kauai, Hawaii, USA;
- 2th Latin-American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM-2007), 26-30 November 2007, Isla Margarita, Venezuela;
- 10th Asian-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM-2008), 1-4 August 2008, Kunming, China.

Letters of Intent for IAU Symposia in 2008 have been solicited; proposals for the same are due in the IAU proposal server before 1 December 2006.

EC82-14. DATE AND PLACE OF OFFICERS' MEETING IN 2007.

The GS confirmed that the 2006 IAU Officer's Meeting will take place from 30 January through 1 February 2007, at the IAU Secretariat in Paris, France.

EC82-15. DATES AND PLACES OF EC83 AND EC84 MEETINGS.

EC82-15.1. EC83.

Vice-President Brian Warner invited the EC to Cape Town (South Africa) for its EC83 meeting, 15-17 May 2007. Details will be provided in the course of February 2007.

EC82-15.2. EC84 (with Division Presidents).

President-Elect Bob Williams extended a standing invitation to host a future EC meeting at Space Telescope Science Institute, in Baltimore (MD, USA).

Past-GS Oddbjorn Engvold proposed to host the EC (with DPs to select the scientific programme for GA XXVII in Rio de Janeiro, 2009) for EC83 on a cruise-ship for the coast of northern Norway, June 2008. He will investigate possibilities and inform the EC later.

EC82-16. THE IAU EDITORIAL BOARD 2007-2009.

IAU Editorial Board advisers Karel A. van der Hucht (chair, ex officio), Oddbjorn Engvold (ex officio) and Patricia A. Whitelock will rotate off at the end of 2006. Van der Hucht is already succeeded by the new AGS; Engvold is succeeded by the new GS. The EC appointed Mrs. Uta Grothkopf (ESO Librarian) as new adviser for the period 2007-2009. Therefore, as of 2007 the members of the EB are: Ian F. Corbett (chair 2006-2009); Eugène J. de Geus (adviser 2004-2007); Uta Grothkopf (adviser 2007-2009); Karel A. van der Hucht (ex officio, adviser 2007-2009); Michelle C. Storey (adviser 2004-2008); and, as working members, the chief editors of the IAU Symposia for the year of their symposium.

EC82-17. THE IAU AND THE PETER GRUBER FOUNDATION. (Doc EC82-17)

EC82-17.1. PGF Cosmology Prize. IAU members on the Advisory Board.

The EC is delighted that the 2006 PGF Cosmology Prize has been awarded to John C. Mather (Greenbelt, MD, USA) and his Cosmic Background Explorer Team.

The EC proposed to ask Jocelyn Bell Burnell to serve on the Advisory Board also for the 2007 PGF Cosmology Prize selection. The present IAU members on the PGF Cosmology Prize Advisory Board thus are: Jocelyn Bell Burnell (2004-2007); James E. Peebles (2005-2008); Ronald D. Ekers (2006-2009).

The EC determined that the GS is the IAU point of contact with the PGF. The PGF has appointed its own media person, Niall Byrne. Joint announcement of the PGF Cosmology Prize 2006 by the PGF and the IAU did not work well this year, because the PGF wanted no announcement before the GA Opening Ceremony.

Ron Ekers will propose to the PGF Advisory Board to award the 2007 PGF Cosmology Prize in Cape Town (south Africa), during EC83, 15-17 May 2007.

EC82-17.2. PGF Fellowship Program. Selection Committee 2009.

For the two 2006 PGF Fellowships eight applications have been submitted to the IAU. The two recipients are Inma Martinez-Valpuesta (Spain) and Hun Chand (India).

The GS will communicate with the PGF on possible increase of Fellowship grants, on the number of Fellowships per triennium, and on compensation for IAU overhead costs for the PGF Cosmology Prize and Fellowships.

EC82-18. PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HELIOPHYSICAL YEAR 2007. (Doc EC82-18)

IAU liaison to IHY 2007 David Webb informed us.

EC82-19. PREPARATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009

The IAU resolved in 2003 in Sydney to celebrate 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy.

In Fall 2005 UNESCO supported that in a resolution. A similar UN resolution may follow in November 2006. Goals are outreach and education. Events should be mainly on national level, while the IAU serves as catalyst and coordinator. Needed are a dedicated web site, flyers, brochures, and booklets. The Opening Ceremony could take place in January 2009 at UNESCO in Paris. The Closing Ceremony could take place in December 2009 in Italy, possibly in Florence. World-wide events could include Public Nights at observatories; promotion of the use of small telescopes to observe the moons of Jupiter from the backyard on the same night all over the world; UNESCO cultural heritage activities for observatories (Commission 41). Google could be asked to sponsor 2009 IYA.

The EC voted unanimously positive on the proposal to create a EC Working Group on 2009 IYA. Members will be sought at a later stage. The IAU President will provide a time-line.

EC82-20. IAU FINANCES AND BUDGET PROJECTION. (Doc 20)

Past chair of the IAU Finance Sub-Committee Bob Milkey remarked in his attached report 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."

He made the following reservations:

- When adding funds to the administration, do show that it reflects to improve science.
- The EC should consider an investment policy for its reserves: analyze what the Union needs and determine acceptable investment risks. The budget allows for the status quo. But what about plans for the future, for the next decade. New sources of revenue will be necessary.
- When the US increases its dues, then also other (large) countries should be pushed to move. But only for good scientific reasons, like adding support for astronomy education in third world countries.
- Collection of dues: perhaps FC/FS-C could help towards approaching problem countries, by contacting local FC members.
- Recognize the substantial financial contributions from the home countries of GS and AGS by making their man-hours available free of charge; and that of the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris which hosts the IAU Secretariat.
- The AGS should have a formal role in the planning for the next budget of the IAU.
- Develop a standard template for GA budget planning to assist organizers.
- Dues categories should be reviewed every three years, to improve proportionality of dues to membership.

The President thanked Robert W. Milkey for his invaluable service to the IAU as member and chair of the IAU Finance Sub-Committee for nine years. The EC welcomed the new Finance Sub-Committee chair Paul G. Murdin.

EC82-21. IAU WORKING RULES.

Bob Williams advised that all EC members should read the IAU Statutes, Bye-laws and Working Rules, and make suggestions for improvement. The Working Rules are directly under the Executive. Suggestions should be submitted well before the 2007 Officers Meeting, in order to be discussed there.

EC82-22. A.o.b.

1. Discussion on registration fees of IAU meetings should be on the agenda of EC83.
2. Oddbjorn Engvold will work on his document for IAU long term strategy planning.
3. The EC agreed to continue the appointment of Lars Lindberg Christensen as IAU Press Officer, preliminary for one year. He will be asked for a financial proposal.
4. Relevant IAU bodies (Divisions, Commissions, WGs) should be asked to prepare for a resolution on the definition of exoplanets, to be voted on in 2009 at GA XXVII.
5. The EAS has requested to be allowed to consider their annual meeting (JENAM) as an

European Regional IAU Meeting. The EC considered that the concept of Regional IAU Meetings is to be reserved only for regions developing in astronomy. New regions could be considered, but not developed regions.

6. Anne Green provided her report on the WiA GA XXVI lunch meeting (**attached**). She lists two action items: (a) increased visibility for women at conferences; and (b) childcare facilities at conferences.

EC82-23. List of actions items.

Action items EC81, see agenda point 5.

Action Items EC82:

- **82/7:** A new EC Working Group on naming the category of Pluto-like objects has to be created.
- **82/9:** The EC members are asked to send their comments on GA XXVI to the GS.
- **82/10:** The AGS is asked to write a draft MoU between the IAU and the Chinese NOC/LOC for GA XXVIII in Beijing, 2012.
- **82/17.1:** Ron Ekers will propose to the PGF Advisory Board to award the 2007 PGF Cosmology Prize in Cape Town (South Africa), during EC83, 15-17 May 2007.
- **82/17.2:** The GS will communicate with the PGF on possible increase of Fellowship grants, on the number of Fellowships per triennium, and on compensation to the IAU for overhead costs for the PGF Cosmology Prizes and Fellowships.
- **82/19:** The President will appoint members for the new EC Working Group on IYA 2009, and provide a time-line of activities.

*Karel A. van der Hucht, GS
Utrecht, 16 October 2006*