

IAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 107
Minutes
Paris, IAP Saille Henon, April 26th-28th, 2022

Participants

Executive Committee Members:

Debra Elmegreen (President; USA)
Jose Miguel Rodriguez Espinosa (General Secretary; Spain)
Willy Benz (President-elect; Switzerland)
Diana Worrall (Assistant General Secretary; UK)
Daniela Lazzaro (Vice-President, 2nd term; Brazil)
Laura Ferrarese (Vice-President, 2nd term; Canada); *virtual*
Junichi Watanabe (Vice-President, 2nd term; Japan); *virtual*
Hyesung Kang (Vice-President, 1st term; South Korea)
Solomon Tessema (Vice-President, 1st term; Ethiopia)
Ilya Usoskin (Vice-President, 1st term; Finland)
Ewine van Dishoeck (Past President, Advisor; Netherlands)
Teresa Lago (Past General Secretary, Advisor; Portugal)

Secretariat:

Head of Administration: Maria Rosaria D'Antonio
Database Manager and Assistant: Madeleine Smith-Spanier

Division Presidents: (virtual only, part time)

Daniel Hestroffer (France)	- Div. A
VP Bonnie Steves (UK) Tues.	- Div. A
Gabriele Giovannini (Italy)	- Div. B
Richard de Grijs (Australia)	- Div. C
VP Edward Gomez (UK) Tues.	- Div. C
Isabelle Grenier (France)	- Div. D
Cristina Mandrini (Argentina)	- Div. E
Antonella Barucci (France)	- Div. F
Andrej Prsa (USA)	- Div. G
Monica Rubio (Chile)	- Div. H
VP Cristina Popescu (UK)	- Div. J
substituting for Kim-Vy Tran (USA)	

IAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 107

Tuesday, April 26th, 9:30 – 12:45 CEST Saille Henon (EC + DPs)

1. Welcome by the President
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Membership matters
 - 3.1. Membership update, statistics

MSS announced 11765 members, including 883 JMs.

There is still a question of what options to use for the gender category; the WG for Equity and Inclusion provided two different possible lists.

ACTION: MSS - create with WG for Equity and Inclusion a full list on what gender categories they wish to propose for the membership applications – check with EC before implementing.

ACTION: MSS - inquire with ESO to see if it's possible to create a separate form on membership application with gender only accessible to IAU Secretariat and not to the NMs.

3.2. Membership Committee report (telecon with MC chair)

Discussion about new member and junior member applications. Some applications that were approved by the MC but not by the NM.

ACTION: JME, MSS - write NMs highlighting 6 applications that were rejected which the MC accepted, to resolve the issue and see if they will reconsider and decide to accept. MSS will send to JME the MC comments and JME will write to the NCA

3.3. National Membership – Georgia

Discussion about the special case of having an online vote during the GA on Georgia membership; the GS previously alerted NMs, following IAU rules.

Discussion about allowing NMs to apply every year, rather than just for GA, as we now do for individual members. To be considered further.

Online vote on Georgia during the GA:

APPROVED by EC (DL abstain, LF absent)

ACTION: JME send letter to the NMs reminding them of the online vote during GA2022

4. IAU Publications
 - 4.1. Past Symposia
 - 4.2. Report on the Publications

DW: currently sending post meeting reports to be saved in the Secretariat and posted on line.

DL: we should also send them to the WG for Equity & Inclusion

ACTION: MSS to send statistics from post meeting reports to the WGEI

- 4.3. Status of post meetings reports
- 4.4. GA-related (Symposia, Transactions)

5. Division Presidents matters
 - 5.1. Division Presidents reports (incl. Commissions and WGs reports)

Several Divisions have monthly newsletters, telecons, youtube seminars and zoom colloquium series

Div F would like to have 1 liaison from their division on the nomenclature WGs; DE notes they already do

ACTION: DE follow up with WG on Exoplanet Nomenclature to see who's chair

ACTION: DPs send **MSS** their list of PhD Prize winners as well as honourable mentions.

ACTION: MSS, Lars work on announcement of PhD Prize winners, early June

HONORABLE MENTIONS: The DPs would like to add to the PhD prizes by awarding up to 2 honorable mentions in each Division (certificates only)

APPROVED unanimously by the EC

ACTION: DPs to discuss and return with a decision on their 'at-large candidate' for the PhD Prize for the final day of EC107

- 5.2. Statistics

Two Divisions are still missing their triennial report 2018-2021

ACTION: DPs, MSS: reminders to all Divisions, Commissions and WGs who have not updated their webpages or are missing their annual reports from 2021-2022.

- 5.3. Additional DP comments

13:45 resume (EC only)

6. OAD
 - 6.1. Report from the SC
 - 6.2. Telecon with Kevin

ACTION: DW, ST discuss during the SC the official role of Vanessa McBride as deputy director

ACTION: DE contact NRF, DSI for high level meeting (at Busan or online) regarding OAD reviews

ACTION: JME to issue a press release for signed agreement, check with DE

7. OAE

7.1. Report from the SC

DW: different from the other Offices, some issues to consider

7.2. Telecon with M. Possel/C.Liefke

4th Shaw-IAU Workshop will be on Astro Curricula
Staff will be virtual for Busan

EvD: we must renew the Shaw IAU agreement, which expires after 2023

ACTION: JME,DE contact the Shaw Foundation to renew the Shaw-IAU agreement

8. OYA

8.1. ISYA schools – Grants

8.2. Report from the SC

8.3. Telecon with ISYA director I. Aretzaga/ D. Mota

IA: proposed schools for 2023-24 in Egypt, Nepal and South Africa

All the staff will be in person at GA in Busan

TL: As discussed with NASL about the possibility to have a partime OYA Secretary at NASL, the current GS should continue these negotiations. **ACTION: JME** should contact Oyvind; consider secretary at say 30% level

Michelle Gerbaldi: from the 70s there are paper documents in the IAU archives that provide a wealth of historical information. They should be digitized.

FUTURE TASK/ACTION: - Michelle Gerbaldi: Search for volunteers that can take care of this task.

8.4. I-HOW

EvD: Committee selection of first two I-HOW done, Chile and Iran.

Who approves these selections? EC/Officers or OYA SC?

DECISION: This is an EC matter since I-HOW has separate selection committee already

EC APPROVED these I-HOWs

Mariano Mendez (I-HOW chair) notes COSPAR will cosponsor a third I-HOW if IAU contributes 15k.

EC APPROVED 15k for 3rd I-HOW jointly with COSPAR

9. External Organizations

9.1. Report from ISC Meetings

ACTION: EC reconsider ISC membership before the end of the year as we're not getting much out of our membership considering the high dues and lack of including astronomy in many of the ISC activities, even when requested by us.

9.2. IYBSSD, other relations

WB notes Int. Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development was approved by UN; summer 2022-2023. Opening Ceremony July 8, UNESCO in Paris. IAU gave 5k for it; will be on logo

WB made guidelines for IAU representatives of external organizations

APPROVED by **EC**

10. Discussion as needed

Wednesday April 27 9:00 – 12:15 Saille Henon (EC + DPs)

11. Preparation for GA in Busan

11.1. Report by LOC

11.2. Discussion of options

HK: Regular registration ends May 31. So far about 800-1000 in person, about 11% virtual. Fraction of remote talks varies from 5-35% in different symposia, FM, ECWG, Offices. 1440 abstracts. Will have meeting platform for livestream + recorded talks (1-2 days after session).

12. Scientific meetings

12.1. Regional Meetings, 2022 Symposia

Egypt (2022) and Japan (2023) confirmed

ACTION: JME contact Gonzalo Tancredi regarding LARIM in Uruguay.

12.2. Symposium Selection 2023

Some DPs received no communication with their coordinating divisions on a proposed Symposium. Suggest modifying the call for symposia in the future to mention explicitly that proposers should contact Divisions for coordination before proposing. Divisions might consider having a session when the next call for symposia is issued, to stimulate interest in proposing and to clarify procedures

Future ACTION: DW: modify the next call for symposia to state that proposers should contact Divisions for coordination.

Some concern that 2 of the top 9 proposed symposia are non-science
Should we consider a different category of symposia?

EC APPROVED: List of new proposed Symposia recommended by DPs and EC
ACTION DW: Inform Symposia proposers and send details for website and meeting pages, and announcement.

ACTION DW, MSS & Lars announcement on newly selected Symposia.

12.2.1. Kavli multidisciplinary symposium

Discussion of which proposals would qualify as Kavli-IAU symposia.

ACTION: Expand discussion of intent of Kavli-IAU Symposium in next call for symposia.

Top Kavli-IAU Symposia candidates for 2023: Proposals 227, 224, 219.

VOTE: Proposal 227 – 10 PRO / 1 abstain

Proposal 224 – 8 PRO / 2 abstain , Proposal 219 – 2 PRO

ACTION: DE to contact Chris Martin of Kavli Foundation to seek approval to designate 227 and 224 as Kavli-IAU Symposia. If one rejected, put forward 219.

13. Prize and Grants

13.1. TG Fellowship 2022

WB: 34 applications received.

DECISION: TG Fellowships selected, 3 winners to share the prize money equally

ACTION JME: Inform the Gruber Fellowship Recipients who have won and ask for photos for the announcement.

ACTION: WB, MSS, Lars: announcement of TG fellowships.

13.2. PhD Prizes 2021

EC APPROVED the proposed list of PhD Prize winners for 2022 honourable mentions.

Division E AT LARGE CANDIDATE proposed

EC APPROVED the at-large winner

13.3. ODE Prizes

EvD announced the new Outreach, Diversity, and Education prizes, to be awarded every 3 years at the opening ceremony of the GA, with 5k plus expenses to attend the GA. She presented the 3 proposed ODE winners for 2022: Michelle Gerbaldi (development), Rosa Doran (education) and the 2 members of the “picture astronomy of the day” Robert Nimeroff, Jerry Bonnell (outreach)

EC APPROVED

ACTION: EvD and Lars Announcement of ODE winners

14. Discussion as needed

DPs mentioned phasing problem regarding electing people to Steering Committee; would like 6.

ACTION: EC consider change Bye-Laws regarding SCs in time for GA2024

RdG: Div C wants an ECWG to support OYA to identify free graduate-level textbooks. DE suggests a Div C WG, which could draw on members from other divisions as well; not the subject for an ECWG.

DPs: for symposium selections, would like guidelines for hybrid vs. in-person symposia, fraction online, etc.

ACTION: EC can think about creating guidelines for proposers of virtual symposia so they know how to submit successful proposals with hybrid or virtual component.

13:15 resume (*EC only*)

15. Financial matters

15.1. Accounts and Budget 2021, 2022

Budget for 2021 presented; was approved by the Audit Committee and presented to the Finance Committee, which submitted its report.

WB, DW: Respond to some comments the FC made, in order to clarify our report.

TL: listed several mistakes in the final document, these should be corrected

DW: notes that latest documents need to be available; need better filing system; mark as “final” those that are to be used for comparison. Put more in narrative.

ACTION JME and RD: Check figures with Budget Committee. Explain to FC that not all fundraising flows through the Paris account; some are regional. The fundraiser raised much more than the fundraising salary. Use the revisions in responding to FC report.

TL recommends that documents be uploaded sooner (note: there was a delay due to awaiting the FC report). She would like stated in the minutes:

“I regret that I was not involved in or informed about the 2021 financial report even though most of that year was spent during my tenure as Secretary General. It was an incorrect and unacceptable procedure, and I want it to be recorded in the minutes.”

Vote on approving 2021 budget postponed pending further discussion

15.2. Accounting and external Auditing, Finance Committee report

Triennial (2022-2024) budget projection presented.

Following TL’s suggestion, all agree that it is necessary to explain in detail the increase of the contributions for the OAO and the new Dark Skies (CPS) center. Increase to OAO: agreement signed in March 2021 to allow for a third person for Communications in the OAO.

ACTION JME and RD: add explanations to budget description about OAO and CPS; I-HOW be included under training or science; make sure categories of budget are clear in 2022

EC APPROVED 2022 budget proposal (2 abstain: DL and HK)

15.3. National Members dues update

Some NMs in arrears. Some NMs seem reluctant to increase their individual membership, thinking it would place them in a higher NM category and increase their dues. Should we revisit the categories and cost of membership?

EvD: They were considered in Pune and Mexico; see EC99. TL suggests we reconsider.

ACTION RD: check in the future about what to do for those not paying dues

ACTION EC: consider whether to re-examine membership categories

15.4. Donations and fundraising status

EvD: Shaw 200k for 5 years, need to renew.

Kavli 220k for multidisciplinary symposia, training, CAP; Global Coordination workshop 1 every 3 years, 25k-80k. Need new workshop 2023

Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation 296k I-HOW, 2/yr for 2 yrs

Heising-Simons 126k 3yr. Junior Members support to GA; Women and Girls in Astronomy Week (in coordination with Timothy Spuck, NA-ROADS)

Visegrad student exchange 48k, just announced.

ACTION: DE to arrange Global Coordination meeting in Busan with Chris Martin, Global Coordination chairs (Roger Davies, Rachel Somerville), etc.

15.5. Telecon with fundraiser Kateryna Frantseva

EvD will step down as fundraising leader in Sept. 2022, Katya will end in Oct.

Look for the future fundraising leadership in September.

Pedro Russo: carry on with Officers; need to prepare now.

DE: working with Tim Spuck (NA-ROADS) to identify possible North American fundraiser, perhaps in addition to an EU or other regional fundraiser.

WB suggests a plan in details that can show the milestones, assessment. Perhaps group of “ambassadors” to talk with different types of donors. DL comments about a different contract in which we pay considering what we receive.

16. Telecons with ECWG chairs

16.1. WiA chair Momta Pommier, co-chair Priya Shah

Lots of activities; training programs reaching 500 people so far, 10 hr/week prep.

ACTION: Consider if there could be a certificate to award to those hosting the programs?

Could there be a scholarship program to support? DE: that would be difficult. EvD: regional support more likely. DL: WiA should connect more with OAO

16.2. JM chairs Camilo Delgado-Correal, Hannah Stacey

Discourse series; VR in connection with future meetings. Young astronomers joint meeting between GA weeks.

16.3. DQS Centre Dir. P. Benvenuti/ WG Chair C. Walker

Well underway, with UN COPUOS participation and affiliated, coordinating members signing on

17. Discussion as needed

Thursday, April 28th, 9:00 – 12:30 Saille Henon (EC only)

18. OAO

18.1. Report from the SC

18.2. Telecon with L. Canas

10-year celebration being planned. Proposal to WG for a NameExoworlds contest.

18.3. Press Office/Communication at OAO

LC says that the triennial report will show in details the big changes, the arrival of a third person and all the new tasks for the communication that all the EC members agree is crucial.

19. Joint Offices and EC telecon

Sense of urgency regarding fundraising. Joint booth in Busan.

ACTION: EC should try to be present for joint Offices session Mon. Aug. 8, 5:30 pm in Busan

20. Telecons with EC WGs, continued

20.1. Pro-am chair John Hearnshaw

Making database, conducting survey. 1 session in Busan. Should establish website by end of year to bring Pro, Am together

20.2. Equity and Inclusion chair Susana Deustua, co-chair, Jake Noel-Storr

Virtual conference planned later this year; 10 sub-WGs, inc. surveys & data

ACTION WG CHAIRS: send a preferred list of genders to include in membership application forms

ACTION: JNS (WG Co-Chair) should communicate to members on why we collect these data

21. Administrative Office matters

21.1. Personnel

21.2. Database, webpages

Question of internal, external websites. Some external ones have many layers. WB, DW, DE : Eventually would be good to have all under IAU but takes time, money.

DECISION: Approved by EC to support annual domain name fees for external Commission websites for several years (not indefinitely).

ACTION MSS: confirm to Commission C4 that we can pay for their domain name and for the Portal to the Heritage of Astronomy for the time-being.

DECISION: Approved to inquire and receive quotes of what it might cost to archive webpages of past IAU projects.

ACTION: Lars, Lina, MSS to investigate costs to archive webpages of past IAU projects

22. GA 2027 selection procedure

22.1. Bid books submitted April 1

22.2. Site visits by EC member

22.3. GA presentations, Sat. Aug. 6 at hotel in Busan; decision by EC vote

22.4. Announced by President at Closing Ceremony in Busan, Thurs. Aug. 11

DE: Plan the site visits to Canada, Israel, Italy in advance of the GA. Russia proposal was denied due to the current circumstances.

DECISION: 3 OFFICERS visit the sites. Canada WB, Italy DW, Israel JME

ACTION RD: send e-mails and plan site visits for GA2027

23. Executive Committee review of actions

24. Discussion, AOB

DE: EC2023 will be in Washington, DC since the one scheduled there for spring 2020 became a virtual meeting due to the pandemic.

DECISION: EC 2023 in Washington. April is better for rates in DC

DE regarding Busan EC meetings:

August 1st EC meeting at BEXCO, EC plus DPs invited.

Saturday 6th GA 2027 Westin Hotel, EC only.

August 11th reception after closing ceremony as thanks to the LOC, with select invitees

HK: DPs may not have flights for August 1st

ACTION: Ask DPs if they're coming to the EC meeting on August 1st and adjust hotel reservations as needed

Finish by 13:00