

## EC96, Honolulu, 2 August 2015

### Minutes

#### **EC96-1**

The meeting took place in the Room "Honolulu 1" of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, from 9:00 to 16:30, 02 August 2015.

#### **Present:**

- Officers:* Norio Kaifu, *President*  
Thierry Montmerle, *General Secretary*  
Sylvia Torres-Peimbert, *President-elect*  
Piero Benvenuti, *Assistant GS*
- Vice-Presidents:* Matthew Colless  
Jan Palouš  
Marta Rovira  
Renée Kraan-Korteweg  
Xiaowei Liu  
Dina Prialnik  
George Miley (*EC Adviser for OAD & OAD-SC member for IAU*)
- Advisers:* Robert Williams (*arrived in the afternoon due to the flight trouble*)  
Ian Corbett
- Division Presidents:* Sergei Klioner (*Div. A President*)  
David Silva (*Div. B President*)  
Marry Kay Hemenway (*Div. C President*)  
Diana Worrall (*Div. D President*)  
Lidia van Driel-Gresztelyi (*Div. E President*)  
Giovanni Valsecchi (*Div. F President*)  
Ewine van Dishoeck (*Div. H President*)  
Françoise Combes (*Div. J. President*)
- IAU Secretariat:* Muriel Besson, *Head of Administration*  
Madeleine Smith-Spanier, *Assistant & Database Manager*
- Guest:* Kevin Marvel (*AAS Executive Director*)

#### **0. TMT crisis briefing (08:00 – 09:00)**

The formal EC meeting was preceded by a briefing on the TMT protests in Hawaii by Kevin Marvel, AAS Executive Director, and Andrea Lum, representative of the Bennet Group, in charge of the communication with the public about this issue and subcontracted by the AAS, the Hawaiian Observatories, and the IAU upon their recommendation. A few person from Bennet group presented also.

Two main issues were presented and discussed; (i) the security in and around the Hawaii Convention Center (HCC); (ii) the plan for communicating with the public via the local press, and with the GA participants via the GA Newspaper *Kai'aleleika*.

In preparation of the GA, N. Kaifu and P. Benvenuti would be official IAU spokespersons to respond to press enquiries. A letter from the President had been communicated to all GA Participants in advance, informing them about the TMT crisis, the Hawaiian background and various opinions expressed, and about the IAU position on the matter.

The letter was generally very well received. The discussion then focused on the preparations to be ready to react to a planned Press Conference organized by the protesters, and due to take place on Tuesday, Aug.4, in front of the HCC. A plan for a mutual welcome and exchange by N. Kaifu and P. Benvenuti to take place during the Press Conference as proposed by protest groups, was presented to the EC. [Update: this "welcome ceremony" did not happen due to the objection raised by several protest groups.]

## **1. Welcome by the President of the IAU**

After the briefing was concluded, N. Kaifu welcomed and opened the EC96-1 meeting.

## **2. Approval of the Agenda.**

The Agenda was approved.

## **3. EC95 in Padova (Italy), Apr.15-17, 2015**

### ***3.1. Draft Minutes***

The draft minutes (doc EC96-3.1) were approved. The EC thanked I. Corbett for his help in writing these complex minutes.

### ***3.2. Action Items***

The actions (doc EC96-3.2) were all closed, except for the revision of the Working Rules for Commissions and Divisions, which were discussed in Padova, but not formally approved.

**Decision:** The EC, upon the recommendation of the Division Presidents, approved the Working Rules, subject to minor revisions to be suggested by DPs or EC members. The final version of the WRs is expected to be formally approved by EC97.

## **4. Division and Commission Reform**

### ***4.1 Approval of new DPs, DVPs, CPs and CVPs***

TM reported that the elections of the new Division Steering Committee Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and "at-large" members, and of the Commission Organizing Committee Vice-

Presidents and at-large members (the President being non-elected this time as being a proposer of the Commission), took place successfully in only a few weeks.

In all nearly 400 candidates stood for electronic election in 9 Divisions and 35 Commissions. For the first time in the history of the IAU, the candidates had to provide a statement (and a photo) explaining their motivation. Having at least two candidates for the position of Division Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Commission Vice-presidents, a condition specified by the Working Rules was fulfilled in most cases, but not always. The high participation rate in the Commission OC elections (ranging from nearly 60% up to nearly 90%) testified to the success of the Commission Reform and its adoption by the community.

The full Mi-Voice results of the electronic voting for the 35 Commission OC elections are given in doc. EC96-1\_4.1.

**Decision:** The EC approved the election of the new Division P and DPs, and the current DPs confirmed the new Commission Presidents and approved the Commission Vice-Presidents.

#### ***4.2 Division Working Groups***

##### **a) Existing Working Groups**

The Division Presidents were invited to report on the status of their Division Working Groups (as listed in the IAU web site), and reasons for continuing or terminating these WG.

The resulting list is given in Appendix A [in preparation –ongoing consultations with the respective DSCs for confirmation].

The Secretariat will keep the web site updated accordingly.

##### **b) Future Working Groups**

At EC95 in Padova a number of Commission proposals were not approved by the EC but recommended to become Division WG in the next triennium. Some of these WG were discussed, but the real decision to create the corresponding WG with the approval of the EC is left to the incoming DPs and incoming EC.

The Division Presidents thanked the secretariat for the smooth running of the Division and Commission elections.

#### **5. First and second Business Sessions of the GA.**

N. Kaifu presented and discussed the main items of the planned Business Sessions of the GA, as sent to the National Members after EC95 (docs EC96-1\_5a and 5b).

#### **6. Resolutions submitted to the GA**

I. Corbett, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, commented on the Resolutions submitted to the GA (docs EC96-1\_6). There were slight modifications in wording of B2 and B3, following intensive discussions at the GA. The updated versions have been put on the IAU and AAS web sites.

## 7. Membership Committee Report

C. Henkel, Chair of the Membership Committee, sent his report on the admission of new IAU individual members (doc EC96-1\_7). Nearly 1200 new members will be admitted at the Second GA Business Session, a record number and an 18% increase over that in the Beijing GA. This increase is certainly due in part to the "natural" growth of astronomy worldwide, but also to the creation of Commissions in fields not present in the IAU previously, as a sample look at the list of new members shows.

The main conclusion of the report is that many Member countries did not provide enough information in the applications, and a lot of verifications had to be conducted. Several important points to improve the nomination process were raised by MC, including more firm role of National Committees for Astronomy, and will be considered by the Next EC. The AGS also argued in favour of revamping the form to make it more "modern" and rigorous in the information data being accepted, in particular about publications.

**Decision:** The EC endorsed the report for transmission to the National Representatives.

## 8. National Membership

### 8.1. New Members

*Colombia* will be admitted as a new National Member at the first GA Business Session. Twenty-four Colombian individual members have been recommended by the Membership Committee, and will be presented at the second GA Business Session. After negotiations with the GS, they will become Full Member, Category I.

*Iran* has paid its dues for 2014, but remains suspended because of arrears (18 k€ for the period 2007-2014). Discussions continue and it is expected that the situation will be resolved. A reason for delay is for Iran to decide which will be the Adhering Organization responsible for paying the dues.

### 8.2. NM dues overview and updates

As already mentioned at EC95, the calendar year 2014 ended with a severe drop in income from the dues (660 k€ vs. 800 k€ the two preceding years in round numbers). Owing to much effort from the Secretariat, and with the GA vote in sight, the situation has improved, with an amount of 830 k€ received since Jan.1 to the end of July (doc. EC96-1\_8.2a).

Some countries remain chronically in debt, and new countries are beginning to have problems (Argentina, Belgium, Greece, etc.) (doc. EC96-1\_8.2b). **[Update:** since EC96-1, Serbia and Ukraine have paid their arrears to be able to vote at the GA.]

I. Corbett pointed out that an addition to the Working Rules could be put in place to state that a NM that had been suspended for a significant number of years would be treated as a new NM if it applied to rejoin. This means that any arrears would be cancelled.

## **9. Status of National Representatives**

The list of National Representatives was presented to the EC, for both weeks at the GA (doc. EC96-1\_9).

In total 60 representatives were listed for 40 countries so far. The GS reported on several difficulties to secure nominations from a number of National Members: cases of confusion between Adhering Organizations and NCAs, miscommunication of documents, late nominations, etc. It is clear that the present system, allowing for nominations in three categories ("General Assembly and SNC", "Membership Committee Nominations", "Finance Committee Nominations"), with the possibility for countries to nominate up to six representatives (3 categories x 2 weeks) is complex to manage, and now unnecessarily, as the "Finance Sub-Committees" and "Membership Sub-Committees" were simplified in Beijing, it is time to consider further simplifications during the next triennium.

On that point, I. Corbett pointed out that, for instance, some countries may want a representative more familiar with finances (to vote on the budget), and another one more familiar with the national community to vote on other issues. This condition will be taken into account in the above simplification.

## **10. GA-related matters**

A few concerns were expressed by EC members:

### **a) Opening ceremony**

The opening ceremony program appears nowhere in the web site.

The situation was described by the GS and AGS, who attended a meeting with Roy Gal (LOC Chair) on Saturday 1 afternoon. The main obstacle to organizing the Opening Ceremony seems to have been to try to be "culturally correct" with respect to Hawaiian culture, and not to risk offending TMT protesters. At the time of the EC meeting, new developments included welcoming speeches by Hawaii Governor David Ige, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, and UH President David Lassner. The "LOC event" (typically a performance by a hula school) was however not yet decided, because of cultural sensitiveness.

### **b) Information of administrative meetings**

The IAU administrative meetings of the GA are not announced in the Guidebook. The Guidebook does not allow for meetings on week-ends, and EC meetings are considered "private" by the AAS, who refused to publish them in spite of repeated requests. The National Representative Preparatory Meetings are however included.

### **c) Feedback on the TMT situation**

A feedback discussion was held about the TMT situation, and more details were presented about the Tuesday 4 Press Conference organized by the protesters, and about the IAU strategy as advised by the Bennet Group.

## **11. OAD: Status and revised agreement between IAU and NRF**

P. Benvenuti summarized the situation that evolved very quickly since EC95 (multiple docs EC96-1\_11).

N. Kaifu and P. Benvenuti visited Cape Town for a high-level meeting with NRF to negotiate a new Agreement. The main issue was the establishment of a new Steering Committee, with better defined roles and simpler organizing structure, and to establish a more visible role for IAU.

The negotiation went smoothly. As regards the increased funding recommended by the OAD Review Committee, as agreed at EC95 the IAU decided to increase its contribution (not defined at the moment) by 20 kE/yr, and during the meeting PB announced that on its side the NRF has agreed to fund a PhD-level position to help managing the OAD projects. Thus most of the recommendations raised in the OAD Review Report were followed.

**Decision:** the EC approved the revised Agreement (including a minor amendment by G. Miley on the possible contribution of South Africa to fund raising).

## **12. OAO: Status of projects (NameExoWorlds, Cosmic Light)**

### **a) NameExoWorlds**

The project suffered a severe blow with Zooniverse not being able to produce the naming proposals (by clubs and associations) of the 20 "ExoWorlds" (= exoplanetary systems + host stars) in their entirety. In essence, a bug in their software prevented the naming justification to be recorded (see the report to the EC-WG "Public Naming of Planets and Planetary Satellites": EC96-1\_12).

A "Plan B" was devised, with the OAO (Sze-leung Cheung) becoming the owner of the existing data, and re-collecting the proposals from the clubs. In this way 250 proposals were retrieved, and now the "ExoWorlds ceremony" at the GA will take place as planned, the only (important) difference being that, instead of announcing the results of the worldwide public voting on the names proposed by the clubs for the 20 ExoWorlds, the ceremony would in fact be the launching of this vote (announced via an ISS recording).

### **b) Cosmic Light**

The activities of the "Cosmic Light" EC-WG are present at the GA, with public events such as Stargazing parties, and lectures and exhibits at the Bishop Museum.

***End of the joint session with Division Presidents.***

## **13. Report on the Secretariat**

The GS summarized the activities of the Secretariat since EC95, concentrating on the Division and Commission elections (MSS) and on preparations for the GA (MB).

The preparations for the GA mostly concerned the ~ 350 grants allocated by the IAU after a selection process conducted by PB and TM (cash, for a total amount of over 200 k\$; and bank transfers, for an amount of ~ 70 k\$). Other activities included repeated contacts with the AAS on various issues.

The GS expressed his full satisfaction about the work accomplished (doc EC96-1\_13.1).

#### **14. Finance Committee Report**

*Decision:* The final report by FC Chair B. Barbuy (doc. EC96-1\_14) was endorsed by the EC for transmission to the National Representatives.

#### **15. Budget for 2016-2018 submitted to the GA**

*Decision:* The budget forecast for 2016-2018, unchanged from EC95 (doc. EC96-1\_15), was endorsed for transmission to the National Representatives.

#### **16. EC Report and Accounts**

The Draft EC Report presented by the GS was briefly discussed. M. Colless and R. Kraan-Korteweg expressed their satisfaction with the report and on the actions accomplished by the EC over the past three years.

*Decision:* EC endorsed the draft EC Report for transmission to the National Representatives.

#### **17. ICSU Matters**

A brief report was presented orally by PB. Due to a recent change in the ICSU leadership, fruitful contacts were established with the new ICSU Executive Director (H. Hackmann), new ICSU Treasurer (B. Erazmus) and new Head of Science Programs (L. Spini). Possible areas of closer collaboration are the World Data System (WDS), and programs for development (ICSU has a Regional Office in Pretoria; H. Hackman recently visited the OAD).

#### **18. Kavli/TGF**

The 2015 Gruber Cosmology Prizes and the TGF Fellowship will be awarded as usual during the Opening Ceremony.

An increased role of the IAU in the choice of the Kavli Cosmology Prize selection committee is mentioned in a special section at the end of the OYA Agreement.

#### **19. EC 96-2**

EC96-2 is scheduled for Friday, Aug.7. A discussion took place about the criteria to adopt, in preparation for the final vote (see the Minutes of EC96-2).

**End of EC96-1**

## **EC96-2**

EC96-2 took place in the Ka'ahumanu Suite A room of the Hawaii Convention Center, from 9:00 to 15:30, 07 August 2015.

### **Present:**

*Officers:* Norio Kaifu, *President*  
Thierry Montmerle, *General Secretary*  
Sylvia Torres-Peimbert, *President-elect*  
Piero Benvenuti, *Assistant GS*

*Vice-Presidents:* Matthew Colless  
Jan Palouš  
Marta Rovira  
Xiaowei Liu  
Dina Prialnik

*Advisers:* Robert Williams  
Ian Corbett

*Invited in Person:* Canada: René Doyon (U. Montréal)  
Chile: Patricio Rojo (U. Chile, Santiago)  
Korea: Hyesung Kang (Pusan National University)  
South Africa: Patrick Woudt (U. Cape Town)

*Observer:* Teresa Lago (incoming AGS)

Vice president R. Kraan-Korteweg was excused because of conflict of interest since she is on the LOC of the South Africa bid.

The meeting started at 9:00, but the room had been made available for presenters to practice their presentations since 8:00.

Only two presenters were allowed in the room for each country: the LOC Chair, and a representative of the Conference Organization.

## **1. Welcome by the President of the IAU**

N. Kaifu, president of IAU welcomed EC members and Invited guests, and opened the EC96-2 meeting.

## **2. Selection of the GA 2021 venue**

The main tasks of EC96-2 was to select the venue for the XXXIst GA in 2021, among four candidates:

- Canada (Montréal)

- Chile (Santiago)
- Korea (Rep. of., Busan)
- South Africa (Cape Town)

**a) Order of presentation**

A draw was organized to select at random the order of presentation.  
Result: Canada, South Africa, Korea, Chile.

**b) Criteria of evaluation**

A list of criteria had been agreed in advance, presented as mark sheets, and ranked from A to E by all EC members:

- venue
- accommodation and transportation
- accommodation for students
- cost of living
- security
- local support
- strategic interest of the IAU

**c) Presentation and Q&A**

30 minutes were allocated to each presentation, followed by 20 min. of questions. Then 10 min. were given to fill one's personal mark sheet and to free discussion.

**d) Discussion**

Discussion was conducted for each evaluative criterion for all candidate venues, and finally for the exchange of general feelings and/or evaluations.

**e) Voting**

After an extensive discussion, each EC member (excluding the Advisors) was requested to rank the 4 venues: 1 for the best, 4 for the last. The mark sheets were then handed to the Secretariat and compiled. The results was presented on the screen immediately.

**f) Result**

The result was a very clear-cut vote in favour of Korea, and this result was unanimously accepted by the EC.

The result is expected to remain 100% confidential until officially announced at the Second Business Session on Thursday 13th.

**Decision:** The XXXI IAU General Assembly will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 16 to 27 August, 2021.

**3. Addendum: "Women in Astronomy" EC-WG**

A new item was added to the agenda, noting that the "Women in Astronomy" EC-WG had not been discussed at EC96-1. This WG has been tentatively approved at EC95 in Padua, on the condition that it would produce a final report for EC96.

The report has been received. Consequently:

***Decision:*** The WiA WG is confirmed for continuation. Details will be discussed by EC97 (doc. EC97\_12b).

**Closure of EC96-2.**