

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION  
UNION ASTRONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE

FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Baltimore, U.S.A., July 31, August 1 & 9, 1988

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

J. Sahade	President
A.H. Batten	Vice-President
R. Kippenhahn	Vice-President
R.P. Kraft	Vice-President
P.O. Lindblad	Vice-President
M. Peimbert	Vice-President
Y.S. Yatskiv	Vice-President
J.P. Swings	General Secretary
D. McNally	Assistant General Secretary
R. Hanbury Brown	Adviser
R.M. West	Adviser

Invited:

J. Bergeron  
Y. Kozai

In attendance:

M. Orine	IAU Administrative Assistant
H. Gigan	IAU Secretary
D. Fraipont	Secretary, Liège
V. Soler	Secretary, La Plata

Welcome by the Co-Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Arthur F. Davidsen welcomed the members of the IAU Executive Committee to Baltimore.

I. OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE IAU

After thanking the members of the Executive Committee and especially the nominees, Drs Bergeron and Kozai for their presence at this 57th meeting, the President of the IAU opened the meeting.

II. INTERNAL MATTERS

II.1. **Approval of the minutes of the 56th Meeting of the Executive Committee**

The minutes were approved subject to minor corrections.

II.2. **The General Secretary reported on the two Officers' meetings held since EC 56**

The minutes of the 2 meetings (November 6, 1987 & April 10-11, 1988) were distributed (annexed).

II.3. **Approval of the Agenda for EC 57**

The agenda is approved, apart from minor changes in scheduling.

II.4. **Report on the Special Nominating Committee's (SNC) activities**

One of the concerns of the SNC was the geographical distribution of the members of the new Executive Committee -a satisfactory balance was obtained concomitant with a good spread of astronomical interest. It was noted with satisfaction that two ladies had been nominated, one as Vice-President and one as Assistant General Secretary.

II.5. **Report by the General Secretary on the IAU Secretariat**

- The present situation (following the reports in IB 59 and IB 60) was summarised without comment.
- The move of the secretariat is expected to take place in the fall of 1988 (it is hoped that it will lead to reduction in operational expenses).

II.6. **Statutes, By-laws and Working Rules**

The General Secretary outlines the letter sent to the IAU National Committees and Adhering Organizations, in which they have been informed of the changes proposed in the statutes of the Union, i.e. the nomination of a President-elect and the setting up of a new category of membership (Associate member).

A discussion took place concerning the suppression of the voting right of a country that has not paid its contribution. The following point was emphasized: individual members in a non paying country keep all their rights as IAU members.

## II.7. Fundraising

- Nothing positive could be reported at the moment: problems with national taxes were the most important obstacle.
- To set a positive example, however, R. West would be ready to make a private donation to the Union, if such a scheme were to be set up.

## II.8. IAU Membership (individual)

- The lists will be approved by the Executive Committee on August 9, and during the General Assembly on August 11, 1988.
- An annual updating of the membership\* list has to be published.

## II.9. IAU Membership (countries)

### Member countries

- Status of payment of contribution

The contributions of the following countries are overdue:

Iran	1 year in arrears
Nigeria	3 years in arrears
Rumania	7 years in arrears
Turkey	4 years in arrears
Uruguay	1 year in arrears

Due to particular political circumstances, the Executive Committee decided that the years 1981-1984 are no longer recoverable.

Venezuela	5 years in arrears
Yugoslavia	6 years in arrears.

- Badges for China

Following a question by the President of the National Committee for Astronomy of China, Peoples'Rep., it was confirmed that the correct wording of the badges of the nationals of China, Peoples'Rep. and of the Republic of China will be respectively: China, Nanjing & China, Taipei.

- Increase in level of contributions:

The contributions of Spain and possibly Japan may be raised.

\* It should be made possible for members from international organizations to be listed under the latter affiliation.

### Non member countries

- The following countries have requested admission to the Union as full (F) or associate (A) members
  - . Algeria (F)
  - . Iceland (F)
  - . Morocco (F)
  - . Malaysia (A)
  - . Peru (A)
  - . Saudi Arabia (F)
  - . Sri Lanka (A): probably to be postponed by 3 years.
- Formation of a Working Group on the "Promotion & Development of Astronomy":

The formation of this WG was decided (annex 1), the organizing committee of this WG being composed of A.H. Batten (Chairman), P. Lena, R. Kippenhahn & H. Uchida.

## II.10. Commission Matters

### Decisions on proposed Presidents and Vice Presidents

The proposals made by the retiring presidents were examined. Some recommendations were changed to achieve a better geographical balance before submission to the XXth General Assembly.

### Individual Commissions

#### . Commission 5

Colloquium 110: report by G. Wilkins (invited): the audience at this colloquium entitled "Library and Information Services in Astronomy", held in Washington, was large and came from a wide range of backgrounds. The participants showed a strong interest in the proposals made concerning the standardization of abbreviations.

Meeting with journal editors: A meeting was held on May 9-10, 1988 in Paris, which the General Secretary partly attended. Although some discrepancies remain to be resolved, the editors reached an agreement on abbreviations and standards using as a basis the IAU Style Manual prepared by G. Wilkins. The General Secretary insisted on his wish to see the Style Manual (or excerpts thereof) published, not only as an IAU publication, but also in important journals.

Style Manual: The Executive Committee warmly thanked G. Wilkins for the excellent work he has done. It was decided to dedicate this Manual to the memory of Dr. D.H. Sadler.

Possible resolution from EC: Following the report of G. Wilkins, President of Commission 5, invited for the discussion on the standardization of the abbreviations to be used by the astronomical community, he was asked to prepare a resolution either for the Resolution Committee or for the Executive Committee on this topic.

. Commissions 19 and 31

The Executive Committee thanked G. Wilkins for the role he played in the setting up of IERS. The future IAU representative on the IERS Directing Board will be Professor Ya. Yatskiv.

. Commission 27

Following a letter from B. Marsden, it was agreed that Commission 27 would deal with the designation of objects in other galaxies in order to reach a uniformity of nomenclature.

. Commission 38

The Executive Committee extended to the President and Vice-President of the Commission its warmest thanks for the work done during the triennium.

The E.C. wondered why funds allotted to this Commission have not been fully distributed, in spite of flexible rules for allocation. It was felt that this opportunity is not widely known among young astronomers. Advertising in the Information Bulletin is recommended.

. Commission 46

Rules for membership: The Assistant General Secretary proposed the creation of 3 categories of memberships on the basis of interest in the work of the Commission, namely:

- . National members
- . Individual members
- . Consulting members

only the first category is authorized to vote on financial matters.

The Executive Committee endorsed this proposal as well as the new rules drafted by the Assistant General Secretary.

Report on VLPs

- VLP in Peru:

See the report by the President: an agreement has been extended for three years (starting in 1988) in order to try to develop training and research in specialized fields.

In the frame of the extension of the Peruvian VLP (and also for personal reasons!) the INCA foundation continues its efforts to secure the donation of an astronomical instrument (from the Vatican) to Peru. A meeting took place with INCA during the Baltimore General Assembly: the outcome is that the role of the IAU in this venture will be very limited.

- VLP in Paraguay: The Executive Committee took the view that renewal of the contract for 3 years is premature, but authorized renewal for 1 year with an option to extend for 2 further years. Furthermore, it is suggested that Paraguay devotes some money to this programme.
- VLP in China: The Executive Committee strongly expressed its willingness to encourage such a programme and that the TWCA be converted into a form of VLP.

- . Commission 50

A resolution proposed by D. Crawford is to be submitted to the General Assembly.

- . WGPSN

The list of the new names of celestial bodies submitted by the Chairman of the WGPSN was endorsed by the Executive Committee.

- . Working Group on Computer Software

The formation of such a Working Group is proposed by Commission 5. It should include physicists, mathematicians and librarians.

## II.11. General Assemblies

### XXth GA

The following recommendations were discussed:

- . As tellers

R. Henri  
J. Narlikar  
V. Trimble

- . As interpreters

English to French  
French to English

R. Cayrel  
J. Lesh

- As Resolutions' Committee members

(Chairman)	(Vatican)	M. McCarthy
(EC Representative)	(Canada)	A.H. Batten
	(Belgium)	L. Houziaux
	(Chile)	H. Quintana

The deadline for submission of resolutions will be August 8th.

- As Finance Sub-committee

(Chairman)	(U.S.A.)	P. Boyce
	(Austria)	H. Haupt
	(Germany, F.R.)	M. Grewing
	(South Africa)	M. Feast
	(Czechoslovakia)	V. Vanysek

- Introduction of Invited Discourse Speakers

The following retiring members of the Executive Committee agreed to introduce the invited discourses:

Executive Committee Member	Speaker(s)
Ya. Yatskiv	R. West & V. Moroz
R. Kraft	M. Schmidt
M. Peimbert	M. Rees

- SNC: The rules for selection of members were briefly recapitulated by the General Secretary.
- EC report: The report has been published in IB 60

#### Future General Assemblies

- 1991

Dr. R. Mendez reported that the work has already begun in Argentina. The Ministry of Education has declared the XXIst General Assembly as a project of national interest. They have also received the support of the National Research Council, of the University of La Plata. The Local Organizing Committee, composed of 12 persons, has been established. The National Organizing Committee will take major decisions before the end of the year.

In order to allow interested astronomers to observe the 11 July eclipse, Dr. Mendez is requested to check if the dates of July 23-August 1, 1991 are convenient, as regards hotels, essentially and to check if these dates can be extended, if necessary.

. 1994

Invitations have been received from the following countries:

Germany, D.R.  
China, Beijing (renewal as of August 9, 1988)  
Japan

A decision as regards the place of the XXIIInd General Assembly has to be taken in 1990.

## II.12. Resolutions

From Countries:

Following advice from the General Secretary, the Swedish National Committee for Astronomy modified the resolution submitted. The revised resolution will be published in IAU Today.

From Commissions:

Commission 50, through D. Crawford, has submitted a resolution endorsed by the Executive Committee for transmission to the Resolutions Committee.

## II.13. Finances of the Union

### - Vérification des Comptes 1987

The Vérification des Comptes 1987 has been made and the accounts have been certified as a true record of the finances of the Union.

### - Situation for 1988

The financial situation at the end of the first half of the year indicates that the expenses were correctly estimated, and that the balance will meet the expenses of the second half of the year.

### - Projection for 1988-1991

The budget for the next triennium was submitted to Adhering Organizations in December 1987. The rate of inflation used is the same as for the previous triennium. The proposed unit of contribution is:

2075 SF for 1989  
2145 SF for 1990  
2220 SF for 1991.



- Contributions of Adhering Organizations

The countries in arrears will not be allowed to take part in the voting (applies to 7 countries).

- Savings account in U.K.

As an experiment, it has been decided to open a Savings account in U.K., where the rates are, for the time being, around 11%.

- Finance advisory committee

The setting up of a Finance Advisory as requested by the Assistant General Secretary: during the 2 years preceding a General Assembly, the accumulation of funds by the IAU is very important; advice as how best to invest them is needed. A decision was deferred to EC 58.

II.14. **IAU Publications**

- Symposia

Reidel, at the end of 1987, expressed their concern as regards the length of the proceedings of the Symposia, which in some cases reached in excess of 800 pages. It was agreed that instructions will be given to the editors to limit Symposia volumes to 500 pages: it is the responsibility of the Scientific Organizing Committee and the Editor(s) to decide the space given to the publication of contributed papers and discussions. Guidelines for IAU Symposium proceedings will be sent to the chairman of the Scientific Organizing Committee with the notification of acceptance of a symposium (annex 2).

III. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

III.1. **Guidelines for IAU travel grants**

The proposal by the Assistant General Secretary was accepted and will be published in the next Information Bulletin (annex 3).

III.2. **Guidelines for conference fee**

The proposals of the Assistant General Secretary were accepted and will be published in the next Information Bulletin (annex 4).

III.3. **IAU Symposia & Colloquia**

III.3.1. Symposia

The following symposia have been approved:

- No. 141: Inertial Coordinate System on the Sky, Leningrad, USSR, 1989 August, (Duration: 5 days, dates tbd).

- . No. 142: Basic Plasma Processes in the Sun, Bangalore, India, 1989 December 1-5.
- . No. 143: Wolf-Rayet Stars and Interrelations with Other Massive Stars in Galaxies, Denpasar, Indonesia, June 18-22, 1990.
- . No. 144: The Interstellar Disk-Halo Connection in Galaxies, Leiden, Netherlands, June 18-22, 1989.
- . No. 145: Evolution of Stars: the Photospheric Abundance Connection, Mostar, Bulgaria, September 1990 (tentative).
- . No. 146: Extragalactic Molecular Clouds: Dynamics and Relation to Star Formation, Paris, France, June 4-9, 1990.
- . No. 147: Fragmentation of Molecular Clouds & Star Formation, Grenoble, France, June 12-16, 1989.

### III.3.2. Colloquia

The following colloquia have been approved:

- . No. 120: Structure and Dynamics of the Interstellar Medium, Granada, Spain, 17-21 April 1989.
- . No. 121: Inside the Sun, Versailles, France, May 22-26, 1989.
- . No. 122: Physics of Classical Novae, Madrid, Spain, June 27-30, 1989.
- . No. 123: Observatories in Earth Orbit and Beyond, Greenbelt, MD, USA, first week of April 1989.
- . No. 124: Paired and Interacting Galaxies, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA, December 4-9, 1989.

### III.3.3. Co-sponsored Scientific Meeting

It was agreed that IAU would co-sponsor a colloquium (the first of a possible colloquium series) proposed by COSPAR, on Outer Heliosphere to be held 19-22 September, 1989, in Warsaw (Poland).

### III.3.4. Future Regional Astronomy Meeting

The following Regional Astronomy Meeting has been approved:

11th European Regional Astronomical Meeting, New Windows to the Universe Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, July 3-8, 1989 (with EPS).

### III.3.5. Young Astronomers' Schools

- Cuba

It was noted that the dates of the XVth International School for Young Astronomers from Central and South America, initially scheduled from 11 to 23 July, 1988, will take place from 1 to 20 August, 1989, in Havana.

- Malaysia

This school, initially foreseen for 1989, is likely to take place in 1990.

- Morocco

This school is not yet settled. The topic suggested is "Signal Processing in Astronomy". S. Kadiri has been asked to enlarge the subject. The date has yet to be fixed.

- Turkey

A request for IAU support has been received for a NATO School to be held in Turkey. This request was declined.

- Secretary of ISYAs

Deferred to EC 58.

## IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### IV.1. ICSU (International Council of Scientific Unions)

#### ICSU's allocation

It was recalled that the President of the IAU has expressed to ICSU the disappointment of the Union over the reduced allocation. However, due to changes at UNESCO, it is hoped that this allocation will increase in the near future.

#### The International Space Year (ISY)

R. West reported on the activity of the ICSU Coordinating Committee for the Planning of the International Space Year (ISY) (annex 5).

### IV.2. ICSTI (International Council for Scientific & Technical Information)

Following a discussion at the 56th Executive Committee, the IAU officers decided that the Union would, for the time being, withdraw from ICSTI, because of the ever increasing importance of commercial services within ICSTI and since the activities relevant to the IAU are likely to decrease (in any case there is overlap with similar activities in CODATA).

IV.3. COSPAR (Committee for Space Research)

See § III.4.

IV.4. FAGS-IUCAF (Federation of Astronomical & Geophysical Services-Inter-Union Commission on Frequency Allocation for Radio Astronomy & Space Science)

The report sent by J.W. Findlay, justifying a request for an increase in IAU contribution was accepted. The Executive Committee agreed to increase the IAU yearly contribution from \$ 1250 to \$ 4000.

IV.6. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization)

Dr. Raither, representing UNESCO and invited for this item of the agenda, indicated that his organization has received with a great interest the proposal made by the General Secretary of a joint UNESCO/IAU programme in astronomy. While, in the past, UNESCO had not exploited the role of astronomy, it was hoped that this could be achieved in the future.

The General Secretary was requested to prepare a detailed proposal as soon as possible, in order to forward this enterprise.

IV.7. IUPAP (International Union of Pure & Applied Physics)

The General Secretary was asked to protest to IUPAP regarding the choice of the dates for the Fifth Marcel Grossmann meeting, scheduled on 8-12 August 1988, during the period of the General Assembly, involving several key members of the IAU.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Committee n° 58: August 11.

The President closed the meetings of EC 57 by thanking all its members and by wishing good luck to the new team.