

IAU Executive Committee Meeting EC90, 18-20 April, 2012, Paris

Draft Minutes

Present:

Officers:

Robert Williams, President
Norio Kaifu, President-elect
Ian Corbett, General Secretary
Thierry Montmerle, Assistant GS

Vice-Presidents:

Matthew Colless
Martha Haynes
George Miley
Jan Palouš
Marta Rovira
Giancarlo Setti

Catherine Cesarsky, Advisor
Karel A. van der Hucht, Advisor

IAU Secretariat

Vivien Reuter, Executive Assistant

1. Welcome by the President of the IAU, *Bob Williams*

The President welcomed the Committee members to Paris and, to applause from the Committee, congratulated George Miley on the recent award of a Dutch knighthood.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved. The President thanked the Secretariat for the efficient production of the papers and the organisation of the meeting.

3. Executive Committee

3.1 Draft minutes EC89

The minutes were approved.

3.2 Officers' Meeting, January 2012

The minutes were noted

3.3 Action Items

The action items were reviewed and where necessary carried forward.

4 Report on the Secretariat

4.1 Personnel

The General Secretary reported that the Secretariat was performing very well at an extremely busy time with GA preparations in full swing. He introduced the Executive Assistant's letter of resignation and the need to start a recruitment process as soon as

possible. The Committee praised Vivien Reuter for her outstanding contribution and agreed that a Vacancy Notice (VN) should be prepared and widely publicised as soon as possible. The Committee invited the General Secretary to coordinate an EC consultation on a revised job title before preparing the final vacancy notice.

EC90 AI_1 on IFC: draft vacancy notice with job title to be agreed with RW, TM and NK. (DONE)

EC90 AI_2 on IFC: publicise agreed VN as widely and as quickly as possible.

4.2 Data base and web site

VR summarised the situation following the departure of Lars Holm from ESO to CERN. This had caused various problems and delays which were being managed but which had given the Secretariat additional work, and had delayed some desirable updates to the website. The Committee agreed that the current arrangements with ESO had worked very well and should be continued as providing a very high quality service at very reasonable cost.

5 Division Structure

5.1 New Divisional Structure

The Committee re-confirmed its commitment to the revised structure proposed by the Task Group and agreed that it should wait until after the GA before publicising any ideas about reviewing and changing the Commissions etc.

5.2 Resolution for the GA

The Committee agreed changes to the wording of the draft Resolution.

EC90 AI-3 on TM: the Task Group should finalise the names of the proposed new Divisions before the end of June for EC agreement.

5.3 Transitional Process for Commissions and WG *oral*

It was agreed that this should be carried out by the new Divisions, if approved, with guidance from the new EC.

5.4 New DPs and V-Ps *oral*

EC90 AI_4 on TM: the Task Group should solicit names for Division Presidents and Vice-Presidents in the new structure for the EC to consider before the end of June, and then review at EC91.

5.5 Projected timeline(s) *oral (TM)*

The proposed timeline was agreed. It was agreed that at least one lunchtime 'town meeting' should be organised at the GA to explain the proposed structure and implementation to process to members before the GA vote.

EC90 AI-5 on IFC: publicise the proposed time-line in IB110 (due early July)

6 Strategic Development Plan / OAD

6.1 SDP-OAD and Division C

GM presented his paper with the recommendation that Division C should be an 'operational' division which would incorporate the Astronomy for Development (AfD) activities and the OAD. It would therefore be fundamentally different to the other divisions. The oversight arrangements would follow directly from the current situation with the EDOC, with the majority of Steering Committee members either *ex officio* or appointed directly by the EC. Given the activities within the proposed Strategic Plan Task Groups now being established by the OAD, which included all the responsibilities of Commission 46, it was hard to see how Division C would function at a true divisional level.

In the discussion which followed a majority of the EC declared itself in favour of keeping the new Division C separate from the AfD/OAD and retaining the current oversight arrangements essentially unchanged. If, after time, it was clear that Division C had no division level activities or responsibilities, the situation could be reviewed.

The Committee unanimously agreed that George Miley should be appointed a Vice-President Emeritus for the next triennium, with special responsibility for the AfD/OAD activities of the IAU.

7 Educational Programmes of Div XII /Commission 46

7.1 Reports

ISYA Triennial Report

WWDA Report

7.2 NASE Summary

7.3 ISYA 2012 Cape Town

The above reports were noted.

7.4 Transitional arrangements for Comm.46

This item had essentially been addressed under Item 6. Commission 46 would continue to exist until the new divisions had completed their plans for new structures, and the current activities of Comm. 46 would continue as part of the Task Groups being set up by the OAD.

8 POC Progress

MC gave a status report. There had been a good response to the advertisement, a short list had been drawn up and interviews would be arranged in the first week of May.

9 Preparations for / status report on XXVIII GA

The Committee noted the reports from IFC and VR, and the report from the LOC.

10 Agendas of business Sessions at GA

The Committee suggested that the 'Tribute to Franco Pacini' should be after the listing of the deceased members. They also noted that the date and time of the XXX GA 2018 had been omitted from the agenda of the 2nd Session. Various other minor corrections were noted.

EC90 AI_6 on IFC: make corrections to agendas on GA business Sessions and send to National Members and National Committees of Astronomy. (DONE)

11 Changes to Statutes and Bye-Laws for GA

These had been widely circulated in accordance with the Statutes and Bye-Laws and no comments had been received from National Members.

12 Resolutions for GA

Changes and corrections to Resolutions B3 and B4 were agreed. The Committee noted that the Resolutions Committee had not commented on the original drafts.

EC90 AI_7 on IFC: make the agreed corrections to resolutions B3 and B4 and resend to the EC and Resolutions Committee for comments. (DONE)

12.1 E-voting on New Divisional Structure Resolution?

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of doing this, and decided that it was too early to implement an as yet unapproved change to the Statutes and Bye-Laws. The vote on the new structure would be by those Individual Members present at the GA second Session.

13 Changes to Working Rules

The GS proposed some additions to the proposed changes to the Working Rules as already circulated. These changes would be formally adopted by EC92 after the votes on changes to the Statutes and Working Rules.

EC90 AI_8 on IFC: revise proposed changes to the Working Rules and circulate to EC for comments. (DONE)

EC90 AI_9 on IFC: write to all DPs and EC members soliciting nominations to the Special Nominating Committee (SNC), to be decided at EC91 and put to the GA for approval. (DONE)

14 Scientific Meetings - proposals for 2013

The Committee agreed the list of selected proposals as put forward by the DPs and V-Ps.
EV90 AI-10 on TM: write to DPs and Symposia proposers informing them of EC decision.

15 Accounts and Auditor's Report 2011

The Committee noted the Accounts for 2011 and the Auditor's report, and thanked VR for her work on the finances of the Union.

16 CBAT Funding

The Committee declined the request by Dan Green to fund half his salary.

EC90 AI_11 on IFC: inform Dan Green of EC decision. (DONE)

17 Budget for 2013-2015 and FSC report

The Committee noted the Budget 2013-2015 (previously circulated according to Statutes and Bye-Laws). It noted that the GS had budgeted for a 2% per annum increase in the unit of contribution and for a planned 4% underspend over the triennium.

17.1 IUCAF

17.2 Astronomy Heritage

The Committee noted these two reports and the funding requested, included in the draft budget.

18 Report on Electronic Voting

VR reported that the Mi-Voice electronic voting system was being widely and successfully used by Divisions and Commissions for elections.

19 Preparations for XXIX GA in Hawai'i

The Committee noted the report by Kevin Marvel (AAS) and the considerable progress already made in preparations for the 2015 GA.

EC90 AI_12 on IFC: write to Kevin Marvel to thank him for the update report and remind the AAS of the sensitivity and importance of visa issues and suggest the possibility of a letter to the National Academy.

20 Proposal(s) to host 2018 XXX GA

The Committee welcomed the proposal by Austria to host the XXX 2018 GA in Vienna.

EC90 AI_13 on IFC: invite Gerhard Hensler to present the Austria, Vienna proposal to host the XXX GA 2018 to the EC on 23 August, during the Beijing GA. (DONE)

21 IAU Publications

The Committee noted the status of publications and expressed concern over the continued lateness of a few Proceedings.

21.1 CUP accounts 2011

The Committee noted with satisfaction the continued success of the Proceedings and the financial benefit accruing to the Union. It was accepted that 2010 was a rather exceptional year.

The Committee confirmed that it wished to continue publishing the Proceedings as at present, but would monitor developments in publishing very carefully in concert with CUP.

22 National Membership

22.1 New members and Change of Status

The Committee agreed that the candidates (Kazakhstan, North Korea DPRK and Ethiopia) should go forward to the General Assembly for admission, and that Vietnam should be re-classified as a 'prospective member'.

EC90 AI_14 on IFC: inform candidate National Members that they will be put forward to the General Assembly for admission, and inform Vietnam that it would be re-classified as a 'prospective member'.

22.2 NM Dues overview

The Committee re-affirmed that the Statutes should be rigorously applied to defaulting members.

EC90 AI_15 on VR: inform Peru that its membership is suspended. (DONE)

23 Possible New Categories of Individual Membership

The Committee confirmed the position reached by the Officers concerning "Associates" and endorsed the decision not to have a category of "Junior Members".

24 ICSU matters

The Committee expressed serious concern over the 'value for money' of ICSU membership and a significant number of members proposed that the IAU should withdraw from membership. It was agreed that IFC should seek to negotiate better treatment and 'vmf' for the IAU with the new ICSU Executive Director.

EC90 AI_16 on IFC: arrange meeting with new Executive Director of ICSU and convey sentiments of EC. (DONE)

25 Pacini memorial in IB110 and at GA

Giancarlo Setti agreed to provide suitable text for IB 110 and to give a short oration at the GA.

EC90 AI_17 on G Setti: prepare memorial address on Franco Pacini for IB110 and GA.

26 KAVLI / PPGP/PPGF

26.1 Gruber Foundation Fellowship 2012

The Committee noted the award of the 2102 Fellowship to Anna Lisa Varri. The next Gruber Fellowship selection committee should be appointed at EC92.

26.2 Kavli Prize Report

The President gave a short report. Both he and the GS will be present at the award ceremony and symposium in Oslo immediately after the G.

26.3 Membership of Kavli Prize Selection Committee

– IAU input

The IAU will be invited to offer names from those put forward by the Academy of Science, the Royal Society and the Max Planck Society.

27 EC91 and EC92 at GA.

EC91-1 on Sunday 19 August 8.30-17.00 in the NAOC, **with DPs**

EC91-2 on Thursday 23 August 8.30-10.00 for presentation(s) on XXX GA

EC91-3 on Wednesday 29 August 10.30-12.30 to decide on XXX GA and A.O.B.

EC92 on Saturday 1 September 8.30-17.00 in the NAOC – **New EC and DPs**

28 AOB

There being no AOB, the President thanked the members for productive discussions and declared the meeting closed at 15.45 on Thursday 19 April 2012.

ACTION ITEMS

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EC90 AI_2 on IFC: publicise agreed VN as widely and as quickly as possible. (DONE)

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