

# IAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 110

## Minutes

Rovaniemi, Finland, April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Participants

#### *Executive Committee Members:*

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

#### *Secretariat:*

Maria Rosaria D'Antonio (Head of Administration)  
Lina Canas (Membership Coordinator)

#### *Division Presidents: (virtual)*

Daniel Hestroffer (France)	- Div. A
Gabriele Giovannini (Italy)	- Div. B
Richard de Grijs (Australia)	- Div. C
Isabelle Grenier (France)	- Div. D
Cristina Mandrini (Argentina)	- Div. E
Antonella Barucci (France), Irina Belskaya F4 (Ukraine)	- Div. F
Andrej Prsa (USA)	- Div. G
Monica Rubio (Chile)	- Div. H
Cristina Popescu (VP; UK)	- Div. J

**Tuesday April 23 13:00 – 18:15 (UTC+3) at Hotel Santa Claus**

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome by the President (DE) 5 min
2. Approval of the Agenda, review of actions (DE) 5 min
3. Membership matters
  - 3.1. Membership update, statistics (LC) 10 min
  - 3.2. Membership Committee report (Chair A. Subramaniam telecon)

**Uncertain membership applications were discussed and resolved.**

**ACTION: Add to the membership application guidelines that retirees may apply.**

- 3.3. National Membership applications (PB) 10 min
- 3.4. Honorary membership proposals (DE) 10 min

**PB will pursue a discussion with 2 possible NMs**

**The EC reviewed the 15 nominations for Honorary Membership.**

**VOTE: The EC unanimously approved the 15 nominations.**

4. Division Presidents matters
  - 4.1. Division Presidents reports (incl. Commissions, WGs, renewals) 70 min
  - 4.2. Annual Reports, Statistics and Elections (LC) 15 min
  - 4.3. Discussion of proposed Commissions 20 min

**The EC reviewed 2 proposed Commissions, and discussed how sometimes a WG that shows ongoing needs may submit a proposal to become a Commission.**

**VOTE: The EC unanimously approved C5: Cultural Astronomy, which incorporates 3 current WGs. It rejected another proposal, and advised that it start as a Working Group and coordinate with other WGs and Commissions and CPS that have related interests.**

- 4.4. Indigenous communities discussion (DE, GG, LF) 15 min

**The EC discussed a member's concerns about taking indigenous communities into account when building new facilities, and agreed that the subject was within the remit of the newly approved C5.**

**Break 15 min. 16:00 – 16:15**

**16:15 resume (EC and DPs meet separately)**

**EC Agenda – 120 min**

5. Financial matters
  - 5.1. Financial Report 2023 (PB)
  - 5.2. Accounting and external Auditing, Finance Committee report (PB, RD)
  - 5.3. Forecast 2024 and Triennium Budget Projection (PB)
  - 5.4. National Members dues update (RD)

**DP Agenda – 120 min**

1. PhD, at-large prize winners
2. Functioning of Commissions, WGs
3. Selection of Symposia; Kavli
4. Preparation for Division Days at GA
5. Matters to bring to EC

**18:15 end of day**

**Wednesday April 24 9:00 – 18:00 (EC+ DPs)**

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|--------------------------------------|------|--------|
| 6. General Discussion                |      | 35 min |
| 7. OAD                               |      |        |
| 7.1. Report from the SC              | (DW) | 5 min  |
| 7.2. Telecon with K. Govender        |      | 30 min |
| 8. OAE                               |      |        |
| 8.1. Report from the SC              | (DW) | 5 min  |
| 8.2. Telecon with M. Pössel/C.Liefke |      | 30 min |

**Coffee break 15 min 10:55 – 11:10**

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| 9. I-HOW telecon with M. Mendez |  | 15 min |
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- EvD: in future, perhaps consider having I-HOW under the OYA umbrella
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| 10. External Organizations     |          |        |
| 10.1. Report from ISC Meetings | (WB, DE) | 10 min |
- Continued discussion on whether it is worthwhile for IAU to be a member of ISC.
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| 10.2. Other external relations         | (PB, WB)  | 10 min |
| 11. Scientific meetings                |           | 30 min |
| 11.1. Regional Meetings, 2024 Symposia | (JW)      |        |
| 11.2. Symposium Selection 2025         | (DW, all) |        |
- Eight symposia were selected, out of 13 proposed; a 9<sup>th</sup> may be possible if virtual.  
There was some discussion about further cutting the number.
- VOTE: The EC approved the 8 symposia selections.**
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| 11.2.1. Kavli multidisciplinary symposium | (all) |  |
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- One of the 8 accepted symposia was approved as a Kavli-IAU symposium, pending approval by Kavli of leftover funds.

**Lunch 12:20 – 13:20**

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| 12. Prizes |  | 25 min |
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| 12.1. PhD Prizes 2023 | (DPs) |  |
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- The proposed PhD prizewinners, Honorable Mentions, and at-large were presented by the DPs. In future GAs, PhD prizewinners will just receive registration fees.
- VOTE: The winners were unanimously approved by the EC.**
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| 12.2. Gruber Fellowships 2024 | (WB) |  |
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- Three proposed TGF winners were presented by WB. Quality very high – perhaps ask Gruber to increase funding again in the future.
- VOTE: The TGF winners were unanimously approved by the EC.**
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| 12.3. ODE Prizes 2024, approval | (EvD) |  |
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- The Outreach, Diversity, and Education prizewinners were presented by EvD, who also suggested past presidents might be the SuperCommittee chair in the future.
- VOTE: The winners were unanimously approved by the EC.**

13. Discussion from DP meeting (all) 30 min

DPs suggested a number of changes. They requested to stagger elections for different Divisions, 3 each year, to help ensure institutional memory. The EC rejected the suggestion since that would make the leaders out of sync with the triennium schedule, and there are already VPs and past presidents to help with continuity.

Terms of service were WG and Commission leadership were discussed and agreed on.  
**ACTION: Update the Working Rules on WG and Commission elections.**

The DPs were concerned about the large number of applicants from some Divisions and small numbers from others, but agreed to leave the prizes as a maximum of one winner per Division and up to two Honorable Mentions.

The DPs suggested new language for the PhD at-large prize for the selection to be based on adverse conditions during the PhD rather than based on non-OECD countries;  
**VOTE: The motion for revised wording was approved by the EC.**  
**ACTION: Update the PhD prize announcement to reflect the new wording for the at-large prize**

The DPs requested that VPs/advisors be allowed to attend EC meetings virtually, which in the past was denied. The EC agreed that they could be accommodated.  
**ACTION: Invite Division VPs and Advisors to attend EC meetings virtually.**

The DPs requested that a VP be assigned as a liaison to each Division to forge a stronger connection between the DPs and the EC. The EC agreed, but noted also that the DPs are always welcome to write to the President.  
**ACTION: In the next triennium, consider assigning a VP as liaison to each Division.**

The DPs expressed concern about the large number of meetings beyond the IAU, and the burden on travel and our carbon footprint. The DPs requested that the IAU maintain a list of all meetings (including non-IAU meetings) to keep track of them all, and to consider further the future of meetings and whether more should be virtual. The EC noted that the CASC maintains a list of meeting. The EC does not have the expertise and contacts to keep track of all of the meetings, but suggested that is something each Division could post for its members.

DE noted that a previous FM on the future of meetings, to be held at the Busan GA, was canceled by the organizer, who had planned to send out a survey to members about meetings, but that never happened. The EC had also encouraged interested individuals to request to form a WG on the future of meetings. The DPs reported that the people involved instead have formed their own external group.

14. Changes to Working Rules (DE, all) 30 min

The EC approved changes to the terms of service for WG and Commission leaders. After discussion with the DPs, the EC approved changes to the Resolutions Guidelines so that WG or Commission proposals would need endorsement from associated Divisions before being submitted. Other minor word changes were approved.  
**ACTION: Update the Working Rules and Resolutions Guidelines with the approved changes.**

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| 15. IAU Publications                                      |         | 30 min |
| 15.1. Past Symposia                                       | (DW)    |        |
| 15.2. Report on the Publications                          | (DW)    |        |
| 15.3. CUP proposal on ceasing print copies of the Reports | (DW/PB) |        |

**Symposia proceedings will start being online only.**

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| 15.4. Status of post-meeting reports                    | (DW) |  |
| 15.5. GA-related Focus Meetings                         | (DW) |  |
| 15.6. Transactions 2018 and 2021/22, President's Manual | (DE) |  |

**Transactions 2018, prepared by DE and in press with CUP, and the draft version of Transactions 2022, started by JMRE and completed by DE and now with CUP, were presented.**

**Coffee break 15 min 15:15 – 15:30**

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| 16. Administrative Office matters     |                   | 40 min |
| 16.1. Personnel                       | (PB)              |        |
| 16.2. Database and webpages migration | (PB, DW, LC, all) |        |

**ESO will cease supporting the IAU webpages due to a new system; IAU will transition to a new vendor over the next several months.**

**ACTION: The EC approved iMIS as the new system to handle our website.**

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| 16.3. Press Office               | (PB, WB) |        |
| 16.4. Telecon with Guido Schwarz |          | 10 min |

**17. OYA**

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| 17.1. ISYA schools (16:20-16:25)       | (DW) | 5 min  |
| 17.2. Report from the SC (16:25-16:30) | (DW) | 5 min  |
| 17.3. Telecon with ISYA directors      |      |        |
| I. Aretzaga/ D. Mota (16:30-16:50)     |      | 20 min |

**18. WG Global Coordination, Equity & Inclusion**

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| 18.1 <del>Chairs R. Davies, R. Somerville</del>     |  | 10 min |
| 18.2 Kavli-IAU Global Coordination Workshop ( (EvD) |  | 10 min |

**EvD presented a summary of the Workshop on sub-mm and far-IR astronomy held in March 2024 in Pasadena.**

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| 18.3 EI chair <del>S. Deustua</del> , co-chair J. Noel-Storr |  | 10 min |
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**19. OAO**

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| 19.1. Report from the SC         | (DW) | 5 min  |
| 19.2. Telecon with K. Blumenthal |      | 30 min |

**Finish by 18:30**

**Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 18:00 (EC + DPs)**

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| 20. Joint Offices and EC telecon |  | 45 min |
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**The Office Directors expressed concern about the proposed triennium budget cuts to Office projects, and agreed that a fundraiser would be needed.**

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| 21. Telecons with ECWG chairs and CPS director            |  |        |
| 21.1. WiA chair <del>M. Pommier</del> , co-chair P. Hasan |  | 10 min |
| 21.2. JM chair C. Delgado-Correal, H. Stacey              |  | 10 min |

*Coffee break 15 min 10:30 -10:45*

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| 21.3. Brief general discussion                                      |  | 15 min |
| 21.4. Pro-am co-chairs A. Sule                                      |  | 10 min |
| 21.5. CPS Dir. R. Green/Co-Dirs. <del>C. Walker</del> , F. di Vruno |  | 30 min |

*Lunch 12:00 -13:00*

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| 22. Mid-term review of Strategic Plan (DE) |  | 30 min |
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- DE summarized how the IAU is meeting the Actions listed in the Strategic Plan for each of the 5 primary goals; this mid-term review was required by a 2018 Resolution.  
**ACTION: Include mid-term review in the EC triennial report.**

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| 23. General discussion                                    |  | 30 min |
| 24. Preparation for GA 2024 in South Africa               |  |        |
| 24.1. Update on preparations - w/K. Govender, C. Takalana |  | 20 min |
| 24.2. Resolutions, Changes to Statutes/Bye-Laws (PB, DE)  |  | 30 min |

The main concern is getting a sufficient number of paid registrants.

Proposed changes to Statutes (to be voted at GA) include allowing a new NM with Observer status to join at any time with NM approval, and introducing voting rights for NMs with interim status.

Resolutions were reviewed. Those on Dark Skies and on Lunar Time systems will move forward. Another was rejected when the WG that supposedly submitted it informed the EC that they did not know about it and hadn't approved it.

DPs, EC agreed that the Working Rules and Guidelines for Submission of a Resolution need to be revised so that DPs must endorse a WG or Commission proposal before it is submitted.

**ACTION: EC to work on new wording for the WRs and Guidelines for resolutions (see also agenda item 14)**

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| 24.3. Nominations for SNC (DE) |  | 30 min |
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- All agreed that one name nominated by the EC and 12 nominated by the DPs will be submitted for a vote at the GA, with the NMs to select 4 from the 12.
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| 24.4. Discussion (all)       |  | 15 min |
| 25. EC location – April 2025 |  | 10 min |
- Possible locations (Paris, Switzerland, other) were discussed but not yet decided.

*Coffee break 15 min 15:45-16:00*

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| 26. Reflections on specific tasks for Officers and VPs (PB, all) |  | 30 min |
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27. AOB

90 min

The bulk of the additional discussions was devoted to careful considerations of the triennium proposed budget, including cutting Office project support and whether to hire a fundraiser. Most thought a fundraiser was need, but there was considerable debate about the level of support that should be in the budget. WB, EvD noted the importance of developing and projecting a cohesive image from the main office in addition to fundraising efforts by the Offices.

TL noted that the triennium projection for 2021-2024 did not have such a large deficit, and that the CPS had not been part of the Strategic Plan. PB noted that the impact of satellite constellations had not been anticipated but now is an important effort of the IAU. HK introduced the possibility of charging registrants a small overhead for GA registration, which was discussed without a clear conclusion. HK also suggested having GAs every 2 years instead of every 3 years, but that idea was dismissed as impractical.

**VOTE: A line item for a fundraiser was approved, with a vote of 6 for, 2 abstain, and 1 against.**

**VOTE: The proposed triennium budget, with reduced support for Office projects, was approved by majority vote.**

The proposed budget will be sent to the FC for review and then to the NMs, and presented at the GA for a vote by the NMs.

Although there was a lot of time for discussion during the meeting, the EC in general felt that the large number of telecons (especially with ECWG chairs, many of whom did not show up for the telecons) was counterproductive for an otherwise in-person meeting.

**ACTION: Consider limiting telecons during EC meetings to the Office Directors.**

*Finish by 18:00*