

Minutes EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (EC95)  
15 - 17 April 2015, Padova

*Bo' Palace, Storione Bldg, and Specola, in the University of Padova*

**Attendees:**

***Officers:***

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

***Advisers:***

Robert Williams, *Past President*  
Ian Corbett, *Past General Secretary*  
George Miley (*EC*  
*Adviser: Astronomy-for-Development &*  
*OAD-SC member for IAU)*

***Vice-Presidents:***

Matthew Colless  
Jan Palouš  
Marta Rovira  
Renée Kraan-Korteweg  
Xiaowei Liu  
Dina Prialnik

***Guests:***

Kevin Marvel (*AAS Executive Director*)  
Kim Earle (*AAS Director of Meetings Services*)

***Participating by Telecon / Video:***

Jocelyn Bell Burnell (Co-Chair, OAD Review Board)  
Clive Ruggles (World Heritage in Astronomy)  
Lee Anne Wilson (for Finance Committee)  
Francesca Primas (EC WG Women in Astronomy)  
Kevin Govender (Director, OAD)  
Sze-leung Cheung (Director, OAO)  
Khotso Mokhele (Chair, Steering Committee for OAD, as observer)

***Division Presidents:***

Sergei Klioner (*Div. A President*)  
Pietro Ubertini (*Div. B Vice President*  
*Replacing David Silva*)  
Marry Kay Hemenway  
(*Div. C President*)  
Diana Worrall (*Div. D President*)  
Lidia van Driel-Gresztelyi  
(*Div. E President*)  
Giovanni Valsecchi (*Div. F President*)  
Ignasi Ribas (*Div. G President*)  
Ewine van Dishoeck (*Div. H President*)  
Françoise Combes (*Div. J. President*)

***IAU Secretariat:***

Muriel Besson, *Head of Administration*  
Madeleine Smith-Spanier,  
*Database Manager*

## EC + DPs Joint Meeting

1. The meeting started at 9.00 on Wednesday 15 April with a welcome address by President Norio Kaifu.

2. The draft agenda as circulated was approved.

### 3. **Executive Committee and Officers Meeting**

#### 3.1. **Draft minutes EC94**

The draft minutes had been circulated for the first time some 5 days before EC95. They were displayed section by section.

Ian Corbett made the following comments:

6.1 Issuing an indefinite contract to Madeleine requires the explicit approval of the President in advance. It was not clear that this had been done, and retrospective approval should be given;

9. Ron Eker's name is mis-spelled;

15.3 The minutes should record an extensive discussion which led to the suppression of Transactions A and its replacement by something published after the General Assembly in a format yet to be decided.

22. The report on ICSU GA should be corrected to make it clear that the reason no IAU representative attended the ICSU GA in 2014 was that Ian Corbett, who had intended to attend, was unable to do so because of a family commitment, and that the EC, after a discussion, decided not to send a replacement.

**Action: EC95-1 on Secretariat.** Reissue the minutes with the agreed corrections.

**Decision:** Subject to the changes being completed, the draft minutes were approved.

#### 3.2. **Minutes OM2015**

Noted.

#### 3.3. **Action items, EC94/OM2015**

Progress in implementing the actions was noted.

#### 3.4. **Special Nominating Committee**

Norio gave a report of the SNC deliberations and the recommended slate of candidates, noting the strong response from the National Members which had resulted in an excellent slate of candidates for all positions. The Committee was reminded that the names remained confidential until the GA. Norio reminded the Committee of the process for nominating the members of the SNC which would have to be approved at the GA.

### 4. **New Commission Structure**

#### 4.1. **"Expression of Interest" voting and final proposal**

The General Secretary outlined the process followed and the final conclusion to form 35 Commissions, with an additional 9 Divisional Working Groups which could re-apply to be given Commission status. He noted the very strong response from the Division Steering Committees,

and paid tribute to the thorough and constructive way the final list had been agreed. This is attached to these minutes as an Annex. The transition to the new Commissions will take place after the GA.

It was suggested that the proposed Commissions which were accepted as Divisional Working Groups should submit reports, and perhaps re-applications, to the EC through their Divisions in time for consideration at the April 2016 EC.

The GS mentioned that proposed changes to the Statutes and Bye-Laws would be suggested in Item 11. It was noted that changes to the Statutes and Bye-Laws required six months' notice to Members and that this deadline had been passed.

#### 4.2. **Brief reports from DPs**

The Division Presidents in turn gave individual oral comments and further details on the selection of the Commissions. They were unanimous in their support for the set of new Commissions.

#### 4.3. **Discussion and action items for DPs separate meeting**

The Committee decided that the DPs should discuss the common message that should now be sent to Commission proposers, with the emphasis on how they should address the next three years. They would report back under Item 11.

**Action EC95-2:** GS to write to IAU members with details of new Commissions.

**Decision:** The new Commissions were approved.

### 5. **GA XXIX in Honolulu**

#### 5.1. **General Information**

Kevin Marvel (AAS) gave an update presentation. They are 'ready to go'. The electronic 'Guidebook' is being prepared; IAU can use the license at low cost for other meetings if it wishes. There are 1117 registrants at present, and 3746 abstracts have been received. Frances Cordova will give the welcoming address. There have been no visa problems to date.

#### 5.2. **GA meetings**

The block schedule was noted.

#### 5.3 **Grants**

The AGS reported that 691 applications had been received, of which 78% were from non-members and 39% from women. He gave further breakdowns by country and session. The selection of awardees was on schedule.

#### 5.4. **Resolutions**

IFC reported that three proposed resolutions had been received. They had been sent to the members of the Resolutions Committee and it had been agreed that one on SN transients was more appropriate for Divisional administrative action, that one on 'nominal conversion constants'

needed further verification work before it could be put to the GA, and one on recommended zero points for the absolute and apparent bolometric magnitude scales was suitable for the GA.

**Action EC95-3:** IFC to seek further input from Division Presidents and Commissions on proposed resolution on nominal conversion constants, and iterate with Resolutions Committee and EC, with a due date of the end of June.

### 5.5. Other activities

No speaker had been arranged for the Opening (Inaugural) Ceremony. After discussion, with several possible speakers suggested, it was agreed that the President would select a speaker.

**Action EC95-4:** EC members to send suggestions for a speaker to the President by 24 April.

## 6. IAU Symposia in 2016

### 6.1. Report of selection and decision of IAU Symposia for 2016

The AGS described the process and the final selection of Symposia, noting that it was a very strong field. He suggested that in view of the fact that only 7 Symposia will take place in 2015 (6 at the GA) there should be 10 Symposia in 2016. The Committee agreed to this and the final list of selected Symposia is given below.

#### Decision: the IAU Symposia 2016

ID	Proposer	Title	Start	End	Location	Country
255	Recio Blanco	Astrometry and Astrophysics in the Gaia sky	05/12/16	09/12/16	Nice	France
254	Crocker	The Multi(Messenger Astrophysics of the Galactic Centre	25/07/16	29/07/16	Cairns	Australia
258	Gil de Paz	Formation and evolution of galaxy outskirts	14/03/16	18/03/16	Toledo	Spain
259	Gomboc	New Frontiers in Black Hole Astrophysics	12/09/16	16/09/16	Ljubljana	Slovenia
248	Feigelson	Astroinformatics (AstroInfo16)	29/09/16	04/10/16	Sorrento	Italy
253	Nandi	Living around Active Stars	17/10/16	21/10/16	Maresias	Brazil
251	Vargas Dominguez	Fine Structure and Dynamics of the Solar Atmosphere	09/10/16	13/10/16	Cartagena de Indias	Colombia
247	Eldridge	The lives and death throes of massive stars	28/11/16	02/12/16	Auckland	New Zealand
261	Bretones	Research in Astronomy Education: Far Reaching Impacts and Future Directions	04/10/16	07/10/16	Heidelberg	Germany
257	Stanghellini	Planetary nebulae: Multiwavelength probes of stellar and galactic evolution	22/8/16	26/8/16	Beijing	China Nanjing

### EC Meeting without DPs

## **7. Secretariat Report**

### **7.1. Personnel: status and evolution**

The GS reported on the current status, noting that both Muriel Besson and Madeleine Smith-Spanier had indefinite contracts, the latter after a job advertisement and interview. It was noted that the formal approval of the President (as required by the Working Rules) had not been obtained before Madeleine's contract had been concluded, and that this would have to be obtained retrospectively.

The GS reported that Muriel Besson was competent and reliable in her administrative role and in dealing with the French system, and was rigorous in day-to-day bookkeeping aspects of income by national members and various expenditures, but was less familiar with the detailed accounting system and the more scientific activities of the IAU. Madeleine Smith-Spanier had done an excellent job in bringing the IAU database up to date and in organizing electronic voting. Ginette Rude continues her role as part-time Archivist (two days/week) and provides invaluable help with the "IAU Archive" project with CUP (see item 17.7).

The Committee noted the GS report.

### **7.2. Database**

Madeleine Smith-Spanier gave a presentation in which she showed the new access facilities to the database and addressed the following topics:

#### **7.2.1. Individual Member status in countries**

There are 11350 members on the database, of whom 9253 are defined as 'active' and 2097 'inactive'.

#### **7.2.2. Follow-up: Missing / inactive members**

Of these, 56 have apparently left the IAU, 47 are completely unknown, and 1135 are deceased. It has been a lot of work to follow up on all the 'inactive' members

#### **7.2.3. Electronic Voting**

This is working well and is increasingly used within the IAU.

### **7.3. Manpower: Website and IT support for Commissions and Divisions**

The GS proposed an increase in the outsourcing provision to help Divisions and Commissions. This will require improvements to the ESO system and careful planning. The AGS will discuss with the ESO IT support team.

## **8. Financial Matters**

The discussion was somewhat fragmentary because of problems making a connection to Lee Anne Wilson reporting from the Finance Committee. As a result the topics were taken out of order.

### **8.1. MBM lawsuit**

IFC reported that the IAU action against the previous auditors MBM had been dismissed (to his surprise and disappointment) by the Court and that it had been decided not to appeal. This action is therefore terminated.

## 8.2. National Member Dues (overview)

Muriel Besson presented tables showing the current status. It was noted that a number of NM were in arrears with 2014 payments, so that the income for 2014 was some 150k EUR below expectations. The Secretariat was pursuing follow-up action for 2015.

## 8.3. Accounts 2014

The GS and Muriel Besson presented the accounts for 2014. The Committee noted the excess of expenditure over income of 21k EUR and the previously mentioned shortfall in dues received.

## 8.4. Report to Financial Committee

The GS presented the report to the Finance Committee which covered the period 2012-2014, comparing actual income and expenditure with the budget presented at the 2012 GA.

## 8.5. 2012-14: Report from Financial Committee

Lee Anne Wilson reported by telecon that the FC had reviewed the report and the proposed budget for 2016-2018. The FC recommended that the budget for 2016-2018 should be approved.

## 8.6. Budget 2016-2018

The GS presented the proposed budget for 2016-2018 and explained various features, such as the increased funding for the OAD and OAO. He also noted that the funding for CBAT was reduced to zero (see Item 18 below).

It was noted that the draft budget had not been sent to NM by the deadlines set out in the Bye-Laws and that it should be sent out as soon as possible.

**Decision:** The Committee approved the draft budget for 2016-2018.

**Action EC95-5:** GS to send draft budget 2016-2018 to NM immediately.

**Action EC95-6:** GS to remind NM that dues do not depend on the number of Individual Members when sending out draft budget.

## 9. National Members

### 9.1. National Members' Dues (details: 2010-2015)

Muriel Besson gave a detailed summary of the situation with NM dues over the period 2012-2015. The situation can be summarised in the following table:

k EUR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Dues received	918	799	807	790	661	460
Dues budgeted	766	788	812	833	848	866

The receipts for 2010 include some arrears. Further payments are expected in 2015.

### **9.2. Dues small countries (EC Task Group)**

The GS reported that three cases had been discussed, leading to positive outcomes. Vietnam has been restored to 'interim' membership, Uruguay would have its arrears waived and would return after paying the regular dues as an 'interim' member, and Iran would nominate new Individual Members (it already has 31) in the hope that this would put pressure on the bureaucratic obstacles to paying the dues.

It was noted that waiving arrears would require NM approval at the GA.

### **9.3. Membership: Colombia**

The GS reported that Colombia wished to re-join as 'interim' after having membership suspended. The community is active and the GS has received written confirmation of their intentions.

## **10. Individual Members**

### **10.1. Proposals of new individual members from national member countries**

Madeleine Smith-Spanier reported that there had been 1275 applications from 49 NM, of which 1189 (93.3%) had been accepted. She gave more detailed breakdowns of the figures.

### **10.2. Report of Membership Committee**

C Henkel had submitted a written report. This repeated the numbers quoted above and remarked that a large number of applications was incomplete. It is very hard to judge the quality of a deficient application. For example, checking the missing publication list with ADS always implies the danger of including people with the same last name and initial of the given name. Furthermore, quite often, topics or titles were given, while a detailed reference, including year, journal, volume and page number were all absent. We need to consider just how such incomplete applications should be treated in the future.

## **EC + DPs Joint Meeting**

### **11. New Commission structure**

#### **11.1. Report from DPs discussion**

Ewine van Dishoeck gave a presentation on behalf of the DPs. She reported that the DPs were content with the selection of the new Commissions, and had decided to devote time to the question of DP succession, Division Meetings at the GA, and the publication of their proceedings.

The DPs proposed the following process for selecting Steering Committee (DSC) members:

- Ask DSC for 3 members to stay; those rotating off cannot be re-elected for DSC but could stand for Division President (DP) or Vice-President (DVP);
- If more than 3 want to stay, DP + DVP decide;
- If less than 3 want to stay, elect more new members but try to persuade at least 2 to stay;
- Ask entire Division for self-nominations for new DSC members and for DP and DVP;
- DVP normally becomes DP in 3 years
- Response in 2 weeks with max 150 word statement + photo;

- DSC can encourage candidates to apply;
- DSC vets/narrows down list of nominations to ensure balance, where needed;
- Nominations are put up for election to entire Division;
- Vote separately for DP, DVP and DSC via Mi-voice organised by Secretariat;
- In close calls, need second vote or select on balance;
- New DSC selects secretary among its members.

The EC agreed to this process.

**Action EC95-7:** GS to consult further and then update Working Rules to incorporate recommended procedures for election of Division Presidents and Vice-Presidents, for approval at EC96.

The Divisional Meetings at the GA have well developed programmes with a mixture of invited and contributed talks, but generally suffer from a lack of funding for invited speakers.

There is no enthusiasm amongst Divisions to produce ~60 page proceedings for publication, but short 3-6 page summaries would be feasible. .pdf files of all presentations should be posted on the IAU web site as a record of the meetings.

There followed a discussion of the future of Transactions A (abandoned at EC94). There would be no Transactions A before Hawaii but the GS suggested that he would like to produce a 'legacy' Transactions A after the Hawaii GA. Meanwhile, Transactions XXVIII B (Beijing) should be produced as soon as possible.

**Action EC95-8:** GS to publish Transactions XXVIII B.

**Action EC95-9:** GS to evaluate a possible "legacy" Transactions A for publication after the Hawaii GA and report to EC96.

**Action EC95-10:** Following this, and the decision to hold 10 Symposia in 2016, GS or AGS should negotiate revised publications plan with CUP.

## 11.2. Decision of new Commissions for acceptance by GA XXIX

The new Commissions were approved, as was the nomenclature 'Division name' followed by numbering from 1 (e.g. C.A1, C.C3), and X followed by numbering for Cross-Divisional Commissions (e.g. C. X1). The full list of the new Commissions can be found at <http://www.iau.org/submissions/newcommissions/list/>.

**Action EC95-11:** GS to inform IAU membership of new Commissions immediately and invite them to sign up to no more than three Commissions by 15 May.

## 11.3. New Rules for Divisions and Commissions

The GS had wished to propose changes to the Statutes and Bye-Laws but had missed the deadline. The changes would be made to the Working Rules under Action EC95-7.

## 11.4. Next triennium



It was suggested that there should be a telecon of EC+DPs at all EC meetings, and one joint meeting per triennium. After discussion it was agreed that the decision on which EC meeting(s) would be joint should be left to the next EC at EC97, to which the new DPs would be invited. It was suggested that the optimum for the future would be EC+DP meetings at the EC immediately at the end of each GA and at the April meeting prior to each GA.

## **12. Report of Ongoing Activities of OAD and OAO**

### **12.1. Ongoing activities of OAD**

Kevin Govender, participating by telecon, gave a comprehensive presentation on the current status of OAD activities. This is too long to summarise here and a copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

### **12.2. Ongoing activities of OAO**

Sze-leung Cheung, participating by telecon, gave a presentation on OAO activities which is attached to these minutes.

## **13. GAXXX in Vienna, 2018**

Gerhard Hensler was unable to participate in a telecon so the AGS reported on the current status. The contract with the venue is now fixed, the logo has been designed and posters will be ready in June, with a promotional video following in July. The web page has been reserved but is not yet open: that will follow after Honolulu, where there will be a promotional booth. In summary, preparations are on track.

*At this point items were taken out of order, with 18 being followed by 16, and then 14, 15 and 17. These minutes follow the original order.*

## **14. OAO: Future**

### **14.1. Appointment of Assistant Outreach Coordinator**

Sze-leung Cheung reported by telecon on the selection process: 3 good candidates were interviewed and after the first choice candidate declined the offer Lina Canas from Portugal has been appointed and has taken up the position. She was present during the telecon.

### **14.2. Remaining discussion**

The EC expressed satisfaction with the activities of the OAO to date (see Item 12.2) and the increased funding proposed, but wondered if there should be an oversight body reporting to the EC. The GS suggested that a Vice-President could do this and invited the EC to consider this further.

## **15. OAD: Future**

### **15.1. Mid-term review of OAD**

After some communication difficulties Jocelyn Bell-Burnell presented the main conclusions and recommendations of the OAD Review by telecon, joined by Khotso Mokhele and Kevin Govender. She stressed that its performance has been outstanding, particularly given the very limited resources that have been made available to an organisation with such ambitious terms of reference.

In particular, she noted that apart from setting up from scratch its administrative structures, it has set up three task forces and six regional nodes, overseen allocation of 68 developmental projects, and hosted 5 international workshops and meetings. This was impressive by any standards.

There were six recommendations in the report, summarised below:

- continuation of the OAD as a joint project of the IAU and NRF for a further 6 years, based at the SAAO in Cape Town, with Kevin Govender continuing as Director.
- the IAU General Assembly makes clear its intention to continue the OAD beyond the period of the 10 year agreement currently in place.
- increased funding for the OAD to enable its work to expand, including two appointments: a PhD level astronomer to link with the task forces; and a part time fundraiser.
- reporting lines need clarification and improved terms of reference are needed.
- the work of the OAD in this next period should be focused on consolidating the initiatives currently under way.
- an annual high level meeting between the IAU president and General Secretary and the NRF president and Deputy CEO:astronomy.

Khotso Mokhele gave the Steering Committee response and George Miley elaborated on his points in a short presentation. The SC was broadly in agreement with the main points of the review and concluded by saying that the OAD staff needed clarity on the situation by September 2015 at the latest. They saw the following points as needing discussion

- Renegotiation of agreement before 31 December 2015
- Simplify oversight structure
- Appointment of new SC members (stagger + continuity)
- Possible resolution at GA
- Fund raiser recommendation

The EC discussed and generally agreed with all these points. They would present a Resolution to the Hawaii GA on the continuation of the Strategic Plan 2010-2020 to 2021, a motion to authorise the completion of a new Agreement to 2021, there was increased funding foreseen in the budget 2016-2018, and they would propose a simplified oversight structure. On the composition of the Steering Committee, the EC felt that the Hawaii GA gave the opportunity to synchronise the IAU nominees with the triennial GA cycle, and would propose to the NRF, South Africa, that

1. The IAU nominees to the current SC step down at the GA in Hawaii
2. The EC appoints three new members at the Hawaii GA,;
  - a. The new GS, to be replaced after one year by the new AGS for a period of 3 years (during the 3rd year he/she will have become GS at the 2018 GA). After the 3 year term he/she will be replaced by the newly appointed AGS.
  - b. One of the 6 VPs to whom a specific task of monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be assigned. The term could be of 3 or 6 years.
  - c. One additional IAU member, possible belonging to Division C. The term could be of 3 or 6 years (and could be staggered with the term of the VP).

## 15.2 Extension of OAD agreement

The EC decided that the revised IAU-NSF Agreement would run until the 2021 GA, and an appropriate motion would be put to the Hawaii GA to authorise its signature by the GS.

**Action EC95-12:** AGS to contact NRF to open discussions on review recommendations and a new Agreement.

**Action EC95-13:** IFC to draft Resolution for Hawaii GA for continuation of the IAU Strategic Plan 2010-2020 to 2021.

**Action EC95-14:** IFC to draft a motion to approve extension of Agreement with NRF to August 2021.

**Decision:** Increased funding for OAD and preparation of new Agreement with NRF approved.

## **16. Scientific Meetings 2014 and 2016**

### **16.1. Post meeting reports**

The AGS gave a report on the symposia in 2014. There had been 1325 participants, of whom more than 25% were women. All symposia had been judged successful, with participation from a wide range of countries, presented in detailed graphs for each symposium.

### **16.2. Regional Meetings in 2014**

- APRIM2014 in Daejeon, Korea, August. The GS and the President attended this meeting, which drew over 500 participants and was very successful. The next APRIM will be in Taipei in 2017.

- MEARIM2014 in Beirut, Lebanon, September. The AGS reported that he had received very little information on this. Apparently there had only been ~60 attendees. Renee Kraan-Korteweg reported that South African attendees had considered it a success. There seems to have been no decision on the next MEARIM.

## **17. IAU Publications Status**

### **17.1. Proceedings of Symposia 2014**

The AGS reported on the publication status. Essentially all symposia are publishing their proceedings on the desired timescale.

### **17.2. Proceedings of Regional IAU Meetings 2013-14**

These are published by the local organisers.

### **17.3. Highlights of Astronomy 16**

This was published in March 2015.

### **17.4. Transactions XXVIII A/B**

EC94 decided not to produce Transactions XXIX A, and Transactions XXIIB has yet to appear, held up by difficulties over the lists of members normally included. It would be possible to publish TrB without the lists and to archive them on the IAU website – the GS is in discussion with the ESO IT team as to how this could be done. As raised under Item 11, the GS suggested that he

would like to produce a 'legacy' Transactions A after the Hawaii GA.

### 17.5. Publications of Honolulu GA

The daily newspaper will be digital. "Highlights" will be replaced by "Astronomy in Focus". Transactions XXIXB will appear as usual.

### 17.6. CUP Accounts for 2014

The CUP accounts were presented and showed a payment to IAU of 92k GBP (~126k EUR).

### 17.7. CUP Status of IAU Book Archive & Documents Archive

There are two distinct ongoing projects with CUP: one is the "IAU Book Archive", which consists in digitizing past IAU Publications (some back to 1922, like the Transactions; Colloquia and Symposia). This project should be essentially completed by the next GA, with about 150 volumes put on-line. The other project is the "IAU Document Archive", which consists in digitising selected IAU internal documents (correspondence, EC meeting minutes, etc.) with the help of a professional historian. It is planned that this project will be completed for the GA2018 in Vienna, in time for the IAU Centennial celebrations.

On the Book Archive project, agreement has not yet been reached on copyright with Springer (which owns part of the marketing rights as a result of having acquired Dover and Kluwer, two previous IAU publishers, and has digitised previous IAU publications under its own Book Archive project). The proposal is that the IAU will grant Springer non-exclusive digital rights for the relevant volumes but the IAU will retain subsidiary rights, and Springer should not publish the relevant volumes under an open access licence. When all this is completed astronomers will have free access to the IAU archive.

## 18. Minor Planet Center / CBAT / Astronomical telegram

### 18.1. Status of MPC

Giovanni Valsecchi reported on the current situation. MPC is funded through a NASA grant but the Director has recently resigned in frustration at the lack of support from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) in Harvard. NASA has requested a review of the MPC (G. Valsecchi is a member of the review panel). It will meet in May; there will be a workshop on a new format for asteroid and comet astrometry immediately afterwards. There is a general opinion that the MPC should take over the work of the CBAT in the area of monitoring minor bodies of the solar-system, and the MPC is ready for it (see item 18.2).

### 18.2. Status of CBAT

CBAT is regarded as slow and unresponsive, and must be replaced, perhaps by transferring responsibilities to a new Commission (the CBAT people proposed a new Commission in Div.C which was not accepted). The solar-system activities would be transferred to the MPC (see item 18.1). CBAT also has a responsibility in reporting and naming transient events (in particular Supernovae), and this role could be transferred to the proposed Commission/WG on Supernovae.

Meanwhile, the IAU should cease funding CBAT.

**Action EC95-15:** GS to open negotiations with MPC and CBAT on the transition to a new structure.

**Decision:** IAU should cease funding CBAT in next triennium.

## **19. Status of EC Working Groups / Task Groups**

### **19.1. Report from EC Task Group for “IAU Branding & Patronage”**

This group had not had to do anything and it was recommended that it be disbanded, with the IAU relying in future on the good judgement of a small group advising the GS, thereby building experience that could lead to well-established procedures in the future.

### **19.2. Report from EC WG “Women in Astronomy”**

Francesca Primas reported by telecon. Her basic message was that the most recent results of national studies show that despite the fact that the initial pool of PhD female graduates in astronomy has continued to increase, the research/academic career pipeline has not been fixed yet! The fact that women still feel discriminated in terms of pay, recognition, visibility and awards (just to mention a few of the most common aspects) is telling us that we are far away from solving the problem. There is more work to be done, but changing attitudes and aspirations is difficult and requires more than just collecting statistics. The EC suggested that a program should be prepared by the WG for the GA lunch on Women in Astronomy.

The WG Organizing Committee unanimously recommends the IAU EC to maintain this advisory WG with its current, but also slightly expanded mandate. Finally, she remarked that gender issues concern men as well as women, and men were welcome to engage with the work of the WG.

### **19.3. EC-WG Cosmic Light**

Richard Green submitted a comprehensive report.

The mission of this Executive Committee Working Group is to promote the astronomy community's voice in the UN declared International Year of Light (IYL) 2015. Because astronomy was brought into the mix less than a year in advance, the main roles of the WG have been facilitating communications, participation in key events, endorsements, and provision of seed money for selected Cornerstone Projects with potential for worldwide impact.

Astronomy outreach events were conducted worldwide for Pi Day, and for the solar eclipse in March. Events are also being planned in connection with Earth Day, CIE's Global Open Lab Days in May and IYL 100 Hours of Light in September. There are many Cornerstone projects planned and the group will have a strong presence at the Hawaii GA. Its work is strongly focussed on the importance of light to discovery and the need to protect dark skies.

This group will be disbanded once the IYL is finished.

### **19.4. EC-WG Planet Naming**

The GS had submitted a written report which he presented to the meeting. This WG had been established to combat recent initiatives that were improperly targeted towards the public about the naming of planets and planetary satellites in the solar system. These openly challenged the mission of the IAU to name celestial objects.

The EC--WG started the "NameExoWorlds" contest to name exoplanetary systems and their host stars in cooperation with Zooniverse. It started in September 2014 by posting a list of 304 well--characterized exoplanets, grouped in planetary systems of 1 to 5 members, appearing under a joint IAU--Zooniverse umbrella. Clubs and associations willing to participate were asked to and vote for their favourite 20 "ExoWorlds" to be named (as a whole: host star + members).

The vote (cast by over 300 clubs worldwide) was closed on Feb. 15, and a list of 20 exoplanetary system obtained, displaying a remarkably wide range in properties. The general public will be called to vote on the names proposed by using the Zooniverse platform, with the winners being announced at the Honolulu GA. A concern was that communication with Zooniverse had been less than optimal.

The WG is in close touch with NASA about recent public naming campaigns of planetary surface features. These campaigns have been started by NASA, and the IAU will sanction the winning names. Three campaigns are in progress.

The EC noted the activities of the WG and agreed that it should continue.

**Decision:** the "Women in Astronomy" and "Planet Naming" WG should continue beyond the Hawaii GA, the "IAU Branding and Patronage" WG should cease, and the "CosmicLight" WG would end at the end of the International Year of Light.

## 20. TGF / KAVLI

### 20.1. TGF Fellowship

The GS reported that experience over recent years had suggested that targeting the Fellowship on very young candidates was a specific niche that could help distinguish the TGF Fellowship from other post-docs or post-doc related positions. With the agreement of the Gruber Foundation changes were introduced in the application, including moving deadline from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. of the previous year, to March 15 of the year of the award. The response has been overwhelming, with 26 applications. Out of these, 24 corresponded to finishing PhD students, and first-year post-docs. A preliminary look at the applications shows their overall excellent quality, and therefore confirms that the new, "rejuvenated" Fellowship has found its niche.

The results will be communicated on May 15, and this year's award will presented during the opening ceremony at the GA.

### 20.2. Kavli Prize and Gruber Prize

These are proceeding as normal. The Gruber Prize winners will be announced in June and the award ceremony will take place during the Opening Ceremony in Hawaii.

## 21. New Office for Young Astronomers in Oslo, with NASL

### 21.1. Proposal of extension of the IAU-NASL agreement

The GS presented this proposal to extend the existing Agreement between the IAU and the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters (NASL) to establish the new Office for Young Astronomers in Oslo. The OYA will run the IAU program on International Schools for Young Astronomers (ISYA). The OYA will be a virtual office with no permanent staff. It will establish a Steering Committee with the overall responsibility

for the OYA. The Steering Committee, chaired by an IAU Vice-President, will support the Director of ISYA and will work with the Local Organizers of each ISYA.

In response to a question, the GS confirmed that there had not been any contact with the OAD or its Task Force 1 (Universities and Research) on this initiative.

**Decision:** the EC strongly endorsed this new Office and agreed that the GS could sign a revised Agreement with NASL.

**Action EC95-16:** GS and AGS to complete negotiations with NASL on an extended Agreement

## 21.2. IYSA report

Jean-Pierre De Greve submitted a comprehensive report. The 35th International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA 2013) took place on 25 August until 14 September 2013 in Bandung West Java – Indonesia, commemorating 50th anniversary of Indonesia National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN). The IAU covered travel expenses of the participants and of the lecturers and offered a School Reception to participants and collaborators. The airfares of the participants were minimized as all were bought directly from Indonesia through a local travel agency. All the other expenses including boarding and lodging were covered by Lapan. There were 39 participants, 41% women. Based on the comprehensive feedback, the school was judged a success.

## 22. Collaboration with UNESCO - World Heritage in Astronomy

Clive Ruggles reported by telecon. He noted that the AWHI has been one of very few of UNESCO's Thematic Initiatives to survive cuts in the past year brought about by financial pressures at the World Heritage Centre (WHC) and that the formal Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the IAU currently runs until April 2016. The Director of the World Heritage Centre has suggested that the MoU should be renewed for an indefinite period. In 2014, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) acknowledged that the IAU could now work directly with government bodies in UNESCO member states to encourage and help them develop potential World Heritage List nomination projects. A number of preliminary contacts have been made on an informal basis. For heritage sites with an astronomical connection, the IAU's representatives will, after due process within UNESCO, work directly with the government concerned to assign "expert" advisors and arrange budgets and logistics.

An International Steering Group was established last year, consisting of national "Focal Points" nominated directly by the authorities of UNESCO member states. Some are government officials, some are heritage professionals, and some are astronomers or academics from other disciplines. Clive Ruggles is joint Chair.

The second ICOMOS–IAU Thematic Study on astronomical heritage contains 13 extended case studies and focuses particularly on dark-sky issues. An electronic version will be ready for presentation at this year's World Heritage Committee meeting in Bonn, with the printed version being available for distribution at the GA in Honolulu.

The Portal to the Heritage of Astronomy is now well established, with 69 case studies on the portal. Work continues on progressing two potential transnational, multi-site nominations.

- The “Route of astronomical observatories” project, which focuses on the possible serial nomination of a number of classical observatories in European countries and their former colonies.
- The “Windows to the Universe” project, focusing on the world’s leading observatory sites and their dark skies, which currently involves Chile, Spain and the USA (Mauna Kea). Other “High-mountain observatories” such as Pic du Midi in France and Mt Wilson and Mt Palomar in California could be included.

The EC noted that a new Commission on Astronomical Heritage would be established under Division C.

## 23. Cooperation with other unions and international organizations

### 23.1. ICSU

IFC and the AGS gave a brief report. IFC had been unable to attend the ICSU GA in August/September 2014. The AGS had been in touch with the new ICSU Executive Officer (Heide Hackmann) and was hopeful of better relationships between ICSU and the Unions (not just IAU). He would be meeting her in Paris from time to time, and she would be invited to join the Officers’ Meeting in 2016.

The AGS noted that ICSU offered grants of up to 30k EUR for multi-Union activities, and would investigate, with other Unions, the feasibility of applying for a grant in 2016, most likely linked to the education and development programme.

**Action EC95-17:** AGS to examine with other Unions the feasibility of bidding for an ICSU grant in 2016.

### 23.2. UN-COPUOS

Karel van der Hucht and the AGS submitted a comprehensive report on the 52nd Session (2-13 February 2015, Vienna) of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Piero Benvenuti has replaced Karel as IAU representative at COPUOS.

One of the actions was to coordinate and develop mitigation measures to address the Near-Earth Object (NEO) impact threat, including detection, follow-up, and characterization of NEO impact threats as well as the development of possible deflection techniques.

The COPUOS Working Group on NEOs identified three primary components of threat mitigation:

1. Discovery of hazardous asteroids and comets and the identification of those objects requiring action;
2. Planning for a mitigation campaign for an impactor that includes deflection and/or disruption actions as well as civil defense activities;
3. Implementation of that mitigation campaign if the threat warrants action.

They also reported on the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group chaired by ESA which is to prepare for an international response to a NEO impact threat through the exchange of information, development of options for collaborative research and mission opportunities and NEO threat mitigation planning activities. This group has an initial list of 10 activities.



### 23.3. COSPAR: Capacity Building Work Shops

The IAU is a partner to this series of workshops and gives an annual grant of 5 k€. The GS is a member of its scientific committee. A report covering 2012 – 2014 was submitted by Carlos Gabriel. About 30-35 students attended each workshop, held in Argentina, China, and Mexico. They covered infra-red, sub-mm, and X-ray astronomy and were judged successful by the participants.

### 23.4. COSPAR: Activities

Jean-Claude Vial submitted a short report, noting that COSPAR now has 46 National Scientific Institution members, 13 Scientific Union members (including IAU), more than 9,000 individual scientists “Associates” and 10 Associated Supporters. COSPAR held its 40th Scientific Assembly in Moscow in August 2014. The total participation exceeded 2600 attendants from 74 nations. Approximately 9000 (co)authors submitted 4470 abstracts for the 117 events comprising the core Moscow GA scientific program.

The COSPAR Scientific Advisory Committee has created an interdisciplinary Panel on Exo-Planet Exploration (PEPE) and has commissioned a comprehensive roadmap on space weather, presented during one of the interdisciplinary lectures at the Moscow Assembly. This will be published shortly.

### 24. Specific Portfolios for VPs

While this was seen as an excellent idea, only partially implemented to date, there were no firm conclusions as to which tasks should be explicitly assigned to specific VPs. At the end of a somewhat unfocussed discussion, it was agreed that work should be done to prepare a list for consideration by the new EC at EC97, at the end of the Hawaii GA.

**Action EC95-18:** President-Elect and AGS to produce a short-list of possible assignments of responsibilities to VPs for consideration at EC97.

### 25. GAXXIX in Honolulu

The GS presented the following schedule of EC meetings at the GA:

- EC96 (1): 2 August (Sunday), Honolulu
- EC96 (2): 6 August (Thursday), Honolulu
- EC97 (First incoming EC): 15 August (Saturday), Honolulu

It was decided to add a third EC96 session on Thursday 13 August. It would be cancelled if there was no business.

### Nomination of candidate member(s) of SNC2015-2018

The President called for EC nominees to the SNC 2015-2018.

### Agendas of Business Sessions at GA

The GS presented the draft agendas for the two Business Sessions, which were approved by the EC and will be sent to all NM. It was noted that the deadline for sending these out had already passed.

**Action EC95-19:** GS to immediately send draft agendas of Business Sessions to NM.

## 26. Candidate Venues for GAXXXI in 2021

### 26.1. Proposals and reports of visit

- The President reported on his visit Pusan (Korea)
- The AGS reported on his visit to Cape Town (South Africa)
- The GS reported on his visit to Santiago (Chile)
- The President-Elect reported on her visit to Montreal (Canada)

All are serious candidates which have submitted substantial proposals. They will be invited to make presentations to EC96(2) and a decision will be made at either EC96(2) or EC96(3).

### 26.2. Review and decision on GAXXXI

It was agreed that the Committee needed guidance on the evaluation process for the selection.

**Action EC95-21:** GS and AGS to prepare by end June an evaluation process for GA XXXI selection and send to EC members for comments.

## 27. EC98 (Spring 2016)

The President Elect proposed Mexico City in April 2016, but this is a decision for EC97.

## 28. Any Other Business

The revival of the IAU Information Bulletin was agreed after a gap in publication from July 2013.

**Action EC95-21:** The GS and AGS should consider how to implement a revival of the IAU Information Bulletin.

## 29. Action Items

IFC displayed a draft list of Action Items. A final list will be circulated with these minutes.

The President then declared the meeting closed at 16.30, Friday 17 April.