



# IAU Executive Committee 97

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**Saturday, Aug. 15th, 2015**

**Hilton Hawaiian Village - Honolulu**

**IAU Executive Committee 97**  
**Saturday, Aug. 15th, 2015, 8:30 - 14:00**  
**Hilton Hawaiian Village - Honolulu**

**Minutes**

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**Participants:**

*Executive Committee Members:*

- Silvia Torres-Peimbert (President; Mexico)
- Ewine van Dishoeck (President-Elect; Netherlands)
- Piero Benvenuti (General Secretary; Italy)
- Teresa Lago (Assistant General Secretary; Portugal)
  
- Renée Kraan-Korteweg (Vice-President, 2nd-term; South Africa)
- Xiaowei Liu (Vice-President, 2nd-term; China)
- Dina Prialnik (Vice-President, 2nd-term; Israel)
- Debra Elmegreen (Vice-President, incoming; USA)
- Ajit Kembhavi (Vice-President, incoming; India)
- Boris Shustov (Vice-President, incoming; Russia)
  
- Norio Kaifu (Past President, Adviser; Japan)
- Thierry Montmerle (Past General Secretary, Adviser; France)

*New Division Presidents:*

- Anne Lemaître (Belgium) - Div. A
- Yihua Yan (China Nanjing) - Div. E
- Nader Haghighipour (USA) - Div. F
- Corinne Charbonnel (Switzerland) - Div. G
- Bruce Elmegreen (USA) - Div. H
- Claus Leitherer (USA) - Div. J

*Invited participants:*

- AAS Executive director: K. Marvel
- Young Astronomers Lunch Chair: E. Guinan
- During OAD Discussion only: K. Govender - K. Mokhele
- OAO and IYL2015: Sze-leung Cheung
- Next GA LOC Chair: Gerhard Hensler

*Secretariat:*

- Head of Administration: Muriel Besson
- Database Manager/Assistant: Madeleine Smith-Spanier

*Absent Invited Participants (with notification)*

- Pietro Ubertini (Italy) - Div. B
- John Hearnshaw (New Zealand) - Div. C
- Chryssa Kouveliotou (USA) - Div. D
- Kim Earle : AAS Director of Meeting Services
- F. Primas: Chair, Women in Astronomy WG

### 1. Welcome by the President (S. Torres-Peimbert)

The President Silvia Torres-Peimbert welcomed all the participants, in particular the new members of the Executive Committee and the new Division Presidents and formally opened the EC97 Meeting. Apologies were presented on behalf of the absent invited participants (see list above).

### 2. Approval of the Agenda (All, doc)

The Agenda was approved.

### 3. Introduction of EC Members and Division Presidents (All, oral)

The President invited all the participants to introduce themselves.

During the past triennium the Division Presidents were invited and supported by the IAU to participate in all the annual EC Meetings. Their direct participation was instrumental to the restructuring of the Divisions and Commissions and proved to be very effective.

For the next triennium, considering the cost involved, the participation should be reduced to one face-to-face meeting. It was recalled that previously this meeting would take place in the year of a GA, i.e. just few month before the GA.

It was concluded that it would be more logical to have the joint meeting either during the year in between GAs (EC99, 2017) or next year (EC98, 2016, Mexico City - see point 21 below). **A decision about the actual date will have to be taken soon by remote consultation.**

In any case, the Agenda of future EC meetings will foresee a session dedicated to the interaction with the DP, which, if they are not physically present, will take place by telecon.

### 4. Introduction of the IAU Secretariat (P. Benvenuti, oral)

The General Secretary Piero Benvenuti introduced the IAU Secretariat at the IAP in Paris: Muriel Besson, Head of Administration, Madeleine Smith-Spanier, Data base manager/assistant, Ginette Rude, part-time archivist (Ginette Rude might retire soon because of age and personal reasons).

The support by the staff at ESO (Lars Christensen, Raquel Yumi-Shida, Mathias André) was also briefly described. The present support is regulated by a contract which may be updated to include the support to Divisions and Commissions.

### 5. Minutes of EC96 - Actions (T. Montmerle, oral)

The minutes of the Executive Committee #96 (Sessions 1 - August 2nd and Session 2 - August 7th) were presented by Thierry Montmerle (the minutes are available in the shared Dropbox folder EC97: EC97\_5 EC96 Minutes-final).

Highlights:

- Decision taken by EC96-2 on the venue of the 2021 GA: Busan, Republic of Korea.
- The updates of the Working Rules were approved by EC96-1. They have been published in the GA Newspaper and shown during the 2nd Business Session of the GA. The new version of the WR will appear soon on the IAU web pages.
- There is a consistency problem between the updated Working Rules and the Statutes that still mention the old Divisions. Thierry Montmerle and Silvia Torres-Peimbert agreed to resolve the issue.
- Divisions Working Groups: with the creation of the new Commissions, all WG have been cancelled and new ones have to be created, or re-created or simply allowed to disappear. WG are proposed by the DP and require EC approval. Since not all the DP were present, TM took the action to produce a complete list of the new WG to be added to these minutes for contextual approval by the EC (**the list is now included as an Appendix to the current minutes - approval will be sought by remote consultation**).
- Action on TM: all updates to be forwarded to Madeleine for inclusion in the database.

### 6. IAU Publications (Proceedings, IB, Newsletter, Transaction B) (PB, oral)

#### *Proceedings*

PB summarized the situation about the publication of the Proceedings of the IAU Symposia. They are produced and distributed by Cambridge University Press according to a contract that expires after the 2018 GA in Wien. It is based on a 30 volumes per triennium base, currently 9 Symposia Proceedings per year plus Transactions B and two Astronomy in Focus Volumes (collecting the proceedings of the 22 Focus Meetings). The Proceedings are produced both as paper copy and for on-line access. Technically we are satisfied with the service, particularly after the recent adoption of an improved manuscript submission system. The average delay from the date of submission of the edited manuscript and the publication

date is 3 months, therefore any additional delay is usually due to a late submission by the editor.

A number of comments were received during the GA which may be taken into account at the time of rediscussing the CUP contract:

- A common complaint refers to the obligation of including the (discounted) cost of the Proceedings in the registration fee.
- The printing and distribution of the Proceedings is being questioned in favor of an electronic-only publication (it should be noted that when the Proceedings are printed they also become accessible on-line to the subscriber. The on-line access is free after one year).
- The current CUP contract de facto fixes the number of Symposia per year (or per triennium: in 2015, because of lack of acceptable proposals, we had only one Symposium outside the GA instead of the usual 3; we are partly recovering in 2016 with 10 Symposia instead of 9).

With respect to the explicit inclusion of the Proceedings cost in the registration fee, it should be noted that in many non-IAU Conferences that cost is implicitly covered by the registration fees. As for the proposed electronic-only publication, which is indeed adopted by many non-IAU Conferences, PB remarked that the Series of IAU Symposia constitutes an invaluable historical record of the evolution of astronomical research and knowledge, in all its fields. Moreover, the selection process of the IAU Symposia is unique and very competitive, which ensures the high quality of the Symposia and an even distribution of themes across the various branches of Astronomy and across time. It would therefore be a pity to interrupt the publication of the Series. It should also be noted that CUP is including the IAU Symposia in a package that is subscribed by a large number of scientific libraries around the world. Finally, by contract, CUP and IAU share the annual revenue of the sales which represents a sizeable income for the Union.

Ed Guinan and Bruce Elmegreen commented about the low level of citations of Proceedings papers, which do not make them very attractive, particularly for young astronomers. Participants in the 2nd Business Session of the GA commented that the publication in the Proceedings has a different, positive value for contributors coming from developing countries.

The EC decided to come back to this point (Proceedings) at its next meeting (EC98).

#### ***Information Bulletin - IB***

The publication of the IB was suspended after IB112, published in July 2013. At the EC95 (Padova, 15-17 April 2015) it was decided to re-start its bi-annual (January-July) publication. A "recovery" IB will be published in January 2016. It will be primarily distributed in electronic form, but a limited number of printed IB (e.g. to libraries) will be considered, after having evaluated the cost of production and distribution.

### *Newsletter*

The Electronic Newsletter will continue to be published. It is produced by an automatic process, triggered by any new Press Release.

### *Transactions A*

The "Transactions A" Volume is edited by TM and is currently in preparation.

### *Transactions B*

The "Transactions B" Volume collects all information about the activities that take place at the IAU GA. The issue about the XXIX GA will be edited by PB and published no later than July 2016.

## **7. Portfolios/specific tasks for the VPs (STP, oral)**

STP introduced the subject of assigning specific portfolios or tasks to the Vice Presidents. After enumerating the various portfolios and a tour-de-table discussion, the following assignments were agreed:

- OAD Activities: Ajit Kembhavi
- OAO Activities: Renée Kraan-Korteweg
- OYA: Xiaowei Liu
- All type of Prizes (Gruber, Kavli, ...): Dina Prialnik
- NEO-COPUOS: Boris Shustov
- IAU WebPages monitoring: Debra Elmegreen
- Monitoring the quality and active status of the IAU representations in other International Organizations, Committees, WGs: Boris Shustov
- International high level coordination of future facilities: Debra Elmegreen
- Women in Astronomy WG liason: Debra Elmegreen

## **8. Update on the OAD (PB, K. Govender, K. Mokhele; doc)**

PB summarized the recent events that concerned the evaluation and the future of the OAD (the details are documented in the shared Dropbox folder EC97) starting from the external Review. The Review stated that the OAD had an outstanding performance and recommended to continue it as a joint IAU-NRF Project. It also recommended to synchronize its evaluation and its Steering Committee with the 3-year cycle of the IAU GA. Consequently, at the EC95 it was decided to formulate the Resolution B1 to be presented for approval at the XXIX GA.

The Review also recommended a number of modifications to the existing IAU-NRF Agreement. Consequently a new draft Agreement was prepared and finalized during an IAU-NRF high-level meeting that took place in Cape Town on July 7-8, 2015. The new Agreement has been approved by the EC96-1 and is now ready to be signed.

The new Agreement foresees a small increase (20 K€/yr) in the IAU contribution, the appointment by IAU of a part-time fund-raiser (or equivalent service) and the appointment by NRF of a PhD level Astronomer in support of the existing OAD Staff. The Agreement also better defines the Terms of Reference of the OAD Steering Committee and establish its composition. The 3 IAU members are:

- The Assistant General Secretary (Maria Teresa Lago, 2015-18)
- The VP with the OAD Portfolio (Ajit Kembhavi, 2015-2021)
- A 3rd member appointed by the EC on a proposal by the Div C President (2015-18)

PB informed that he had contacted the outgoing and incoming Div C Presidents and that he had received three candidate names, in priority order. Having preliminarily enquired about the availability of the first candidate, Katrien Kolenberg, he proposed to approve her appointment. The EC approved the appointment.

Kevin Govender illustrated the activities of the OAD. 68 Projects have been funded so far, a new call is open with deadline on Sept 15th. The OAD intends to consolidate what has been achieved so far, possibly approving fewer projects, but with higher strategic potential. The oversubscription remains very high, calling for aggressive fundraising to support more projects. Five new Regional Agreements have been signed at the GA: Armenia, Colombia-Chile (Andean Region), Jordan, Nigeria and Portugal.

Khotso Mokhele confirmed the NRF appreciation for the successful achievements of the OAD, but warned everybody about the increased complexity of effectively coordinating many projects and an increasing number of Regional Nodes.

### **Coffee break**

#### **9. Update on the OAO (S.-L. Cheung; doc)**

SLC reported about the activities of the OAO, whose main task is to serve as the interface between IAU and the public. The OAO has two staff supported in part by IAU and 1 by NAOJ plus two internship positions.

A directory of Astronomy clubs has been initiated, and 67 international contacts points were established.

Two main Projects are active: the NameExoWorld initiative and the International Year of Light. Both will come to end soon, so future activities and projects will have to be planned. TM proposed that a sort of Steering Committee could be created, similarly to OAD and OYA, with the relevant EC-VP as Chair.



### 10. IAU Webpages - Support for Divisions and Commissions (PB, oral)

As discussed with the previous Div. Presidents, there is the need for providing the DP with suitable means to communicate and interact with their communities. A similar need would also be perceived by the Commissions and Working Groups. So far, the web pages provided by IAU are static: they provide essential information, but no interactive tools. Moreover, the web pages created by some Commissions or WG are usually hosted by the Institute of the *pro-tempore* Presidents and they have to migrate when he/she changes.

PB will ask the DP to provide a list of requirements in order of priority that will then be discussed with the ESO staff for implementation.

### 11. Interaction between DPs and EC in the next triennium (STP, DPs, oral)

STP stressed that, in general, the communication between the IAU EC and the IAU members (National and individual) should improve. EVD noted that we should also take care of communicating with the younger astronomers who are not yet IAU Members. PB agreed, but commented that this type of communication requires the pro-active help of the National Members. TM reported about some communication issues between the "National Member" (which is an Institute) and the President of the National Committee of Astronomy (who is a person). A clarification is needed also internally: TM will circulate a report with a proposal for a better definition of the "National Representatives", sent by the "National Members" (i.e. Member Countries) to the GA.

### 12. Information from EC Working Groups:

#### *a. Cosmic Light Cornerstone -- IYL2015 (S.-L.Cheung)*

SLC reported about the status of the two Projects IYL2015.

The project will come to an end in few months, SLC will prepare a short report about their highlights to be sent to the EC for evaluating the possible continuation of some of the activities.

#### *b. Women in Astronomy (F. Primas)*

A report has been prepared by Francesca Primas (absent) and presented by Debra Elmegreen. The WiA lunch was a success, with ~200 people attending (only 10% males, they should be encouraged to participate). Also the "Meet a Mentor" Program was successful, showing an increase of ~50% of participants compared to Beijing.

The WiA WG is proposing to continue its activity by gathering and communicating statistics on gender distribution among professional astronomers (globally only ~16%), Symposia participants, etc. The Report also proposes collaboration with the OAD activities.

The EC Approved the continuation of the WiA WG, confirming Francesca Primas as its Chair and Debra Elmegreen as EC contact person.

*c. ExoWorld naming (T. Montmerle)*

SLC and TM reported about the problems with Zooniverse that delayed the initial plan and schedule; anyway, the announcement of the initiative at the GA was a success and the voting is proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

At the end of the Project, the ExoWorlds WG will prepare a report to the EC. The WG will terminate at the end of the year.

**13. Representatives of IAU in other scientific bodies (PB, oral)**

[This point was discussed under item 7]

**14. IAU membership in the Gruber Selection Committee (PB, oral)**

PB reported that the EC is invited to propose a substitute for Wendy Freedman in the 2016 Gruber Cosmology Prize Evaluation Advisory Board. The nomination should be communicated to Gruber by the end of September. PB will send out a reminder.

**15. Report on XXIX GA (K. Marvel, doc)**

Kevin Marvel reported about the GA (see the PowerPoint presentation in the EC97 shared folder). Several comments. It was concluded that the experience gained in this GA (the most numerous so far in the IAU history) is very valuable for the 2018 GA in Wien. Everybody was invited to send their comments and suggestions to PB by the end of September. KM is planning to visit Europe in the Fall and we will organize a meeting with PB, MTL and Gerhard Hensler to evaluate the lessons learned.

**16. Report on Young Astronomers Lunch (E. Guinan)**

[This item was moved up in the schedule]

E. Guinan reported about the YAL as a success with 205 participants out of 230 expected. He acknowledged the generous support of the Norwegian Academy of Science and of the US National Committee. The themes discussed during the Lunch included jobs opportunities, preparing successful proposals for grants, fellowships, how to establish research networks.

For the future editions it was suggested to schedule the Lunch during the first week, so that the interaction with senior astronomers could continue for a longer period. It was suggested to have a dedicated room were young astronomers

could meet among them or with mentors at any given time, possibly offering coffee and cookies as an incentive.

**17. Feedback from GA: lessons learned, suggestions for the next GA (all)**

The XXIX GA experimented a new scheme composed of 6 Symposia (as before), 22 Focus Meetings (that replaced the Joint Discussions and Special Sessions) and 9 Division Meetings. The planning of all the meetings was left completely to the relevant SOC (or Division SC). This fact produced a number of duplications and non-controlled superposition of talks. The recommendation for the next GA is to ask the Evaluation Panel (VP+DP) to review the global scientific programme in order to minimize the problem.

**18. Preparation for XXX GA - Vienna (G. Hensler)**

Gerhard Hensler reported briefly about the preparation for the 2018 GA. He expressed appreciation for the success of the XXIX GA and welcomed the possibility of a meeting with AAS representatives in the Fall.

**19. Planned IAU Regional Meetings: LARIM 2016 ; APRIM 2017 (PB, oral)**

PB reported that LARIM 2016 will be organized in Colombia, APRIM 2016 in China Taipei and MEARIM 2017 most probably in Ethiopia (at the last MEARIM in Lebanon no decision was taken about the location of the next meeting).

**20. Next Officers' meeting: Paris, Jan 2016 (PB, oral)**

The next Officers meeting will take place, as usual, in Paris on January 27-29.

In the past triennium the Officers met remotely (via GoToMeeting telecon) regularly, about every other month. This type of meeting will continue, they are very useful.

**21. Next ECs:**

***a. Spring 2016: proposal for Mexico City (STP, doc)***

STP invited the EC to meet in Mexico City during April 25-28, 2016 for the EC98.

***b. Spring 2017: TBD***

Ajit Kembhavi made a tentative offer to host the EC99 in India. To be confirmed.

## 22. AOB

TM reported about an harassment incident that occurred during a Division C Meeting. The case has been resolved satisfactorily, however it was decided that the IAU Rules and Guidelines should contain specific instructions on how to handle such cases. In the future these instructions should be sent to all Symposia organizers.

## 23. List of action items (PB)

Action EC97	Title	Description	Owner	Deadline
1	Working Rules	Consistency check with the Statutes and By-laws	TM-MSS	Sep 2015
2	CUP Contract	Discuss and draft the requirements for the new Call for Tender	PB-EC	GA 2018
3	Information Bulletin	Restart the publication	PB	Jan 2016
4	Transactions B	Edit and publish	PB	Jul 2016
5	Fundraising	Appoint part time person or outsource	PB	ASAP
6	Web services	Upgrade and develop Division services	PB	Oct 2015 *
7	EC Communication	Publish periodic highlights of EC decisions (from the Minutes)	PB	after each EC meeting
8	IYL2015 - ExoWorlds	Activity report	SLC - TM	Jan 2016
9	NCAs & NM	Clarify respective roles	TM	Oct 2015
10	GA	Collect comments and suggestion for the next GA	PB-All	Oct 2015
11	Data Base	Update the DB after the WGs have been established	MSS	Dec 2015
12	Harassment	Write guidelines for Symposia organizers	PB	Dec 2015
13	EC with DP	Decide the EC face-to-face meeting with DP (EC98 or EC99)	EC	ASAP
14	Gruber Prize	Appoint substitute in the Prize Evaluation Panel	EC	Sep 2015

\* The date refers to the start of discussion/negotiation with ESO.

## 24. End of EC97

STP declared the EC97 closed at 1:30 pm.

## Appendix - Division Working Groups

### Recommendations by Division Presidents (sorted by Divisions)

#### A.1 - Existing Division WG

##### Division A

- Astrometry by Small Ground-Based Telescopes: *continue with same Chair*
- Multi-waveband Realisations of International Celestial Reference System :  
*continue with same Chair*
- Numerical Standards in Fundamental Astronomy: *continue with same Chair*
- Pulsar-based Timescales: *terminate*
- Redefinition of UTC: *terminate*
- Third Realisation of International Celestial Reference Frame: *continue with another chair (agreed by all sides): Patrick Charlot*

##### Division B

- Future Large Scale Facilities: *terminate*
- Site Testing Instruments: *terminate*

##### Division C

None (but see Div. E)

##### Division D

None

##### Division E

- International Collaboration on Space Weather: *terminate*
- International Data Access: *terminate*
- Solar Eclipses: *continue with same Chair as Inter-Division WG Div. E-Div. C.*
- Div. E-Div. F: Impact of Magnetic Activity on Solar and Stellar Environments: *continue with same Chair, but as Div. E only*

##### Division F

- Near Earth Objects: *continue; Chair TBD*
- WGPSN: *continue with same Chair*
- WGSBN: *continue with same Chair*

##### Division G

- Abundances in Red Giants: *continue with same Chair*
- Ap stars: *continue with same Chair*
- Active B stars: *continue with same Chair*

**Division H**

None

**Division J**

None

**A.2 - Inter-Division WG**

**Div.A-Div. F**

- Cartographic Coordinates & Rotational Elements: *continue with same Chair*

**Div.A-Div.G**

- Nominal Units for Stellar and Planetary Astronomy: *terminate*

**Div E-Div F:**

- Impact of Magnetic Activity on Solar and Stellar Environments: *continue as Div. E WG only*

**Div E-Div G**

- Solar-Type Stars: *terminated*

**A.3 - New Inter-Division WG**

**Div E-Div B**

- Coordination of Synoptic Observations of the Sun. Co-Chairs: F. Clette & A.A. Pevtsov - *Created*

**A.4 - New Division WG (recommended)**

(pending decision by the new DSC):

- Time (Div.A)
- Time Domain Astronomy (Div.B)