

April 2020

Annual report from the IAU Working Group on Women in Astronomy
Dara Norman, chair

The working group has had a slow start as mentioned in the oral report in Feb 2020. This is one account of several factors related to the Chair's other responsibilities, and circumstances like the Covid-19 outbreak which have forced many of us to continue with professional responsibilities in addition to taking on added personal responsibilities as children are required to stay home from school. Nevertheless, the working group on Women in Astronomy has accomplished several steps on the way to goals set out by the current chair.

The working group chair and co-chair continued to answer questions and support requests for information from IAU members. Although neither the chair or co-chair were able to attend the IAUS358: "Astronomy for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion — a roadmap to action within the framework of IAU centennial anniversary" held on November 12-15, 2019, in Tokyo, Japan, we did field requests for statistics and other information on women in astronomy from one of the speakers, Yuko MOTIZUKI. Interestingly, all of the exact information she was looking for, even from the US, was not readily available and speaks to gaps in the surveys of both the American Astronomical Society's and the American Physical Institute's polling on some topics on recent numbers and status of 'laddered' faculty.

The working group chair and co-chair fielded and endorsed a request for a focused meeting, "Diversity and Inclusion in Astronomy: strategic actions for 2020-2030" proposed for the GA in Busan by the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Astronomy working group. Chairs were able to suggest speakers from the membership based on information from the survey information collected last year from the more than 150 member responses. As reported previously, this survey asked working group members for information about their interest in the group and their experience in order to direct just such requests for information and other activities.

In February 2020, a meeting of the Women in Astronomy organizing committee met to discuss various activities and a plan for the General Assembly meeting in Busan and other plans. As a result, a request went to Teresa Lago for three 1.5-hour sessions and a lunch. We are unclear how money for the lunch can be raised and await guidance on that issue.

Prima continues to edit the overwhelming response to the AstroVoices project, where female astronomers from around the world sent in video clips. It has been an enormous job to sort and put together the video clips sent in. Because there were so many, she has had to split them into several different video shorts so that each is not too long.

For International Women's Month, in March, the chair launched a request for information that went to all the working group members requesting photos and images by and about women in astronomy. The request was for links to news articles of interest to women, reports on statistics of women in astronomy and links to information about regional groups of women in astronomy

and how they can be contacted. This information will be used to populate the IAU WIA working group webpages which are in desperate need of upgrade. The chair made a google account for collection of this material at iauwiachair@gmail.com which can be passed to subsequent chairs in order to collect this kind of material and keep separate for the other professional and personal correspondence. Such an area is also useful as a record of communications and information that can be passed between chairs in the future.

We suspect that because of the Covid-19 outbreak in at the start of this collection period, response was not particularly high, but we did receive several links to articles, statistics on WIA, websites of biographies of WIA, educational websites for girls and information on upcoming books about various collections of WIA. We will likely need to do more direct requests in order to get the regional information on local women's groups. We are sorting out how to get all this useful information onto the IAU WIA website.