

# IAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 105 - virtual meeting

## Minutes

2021 April 19 - 22

### Participants

#### Executive Committee Members:

- Ewine van Dishoeck (President; Netherlands)
- Debra Elmegreen (President Elect; USA)
- Teresa Lago (General Secretary; Portugal)
- Jose Miguel Rodriguez Espinosa (Assistant General Secretary; Spain)
- John Hearnshaw (Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> -term; New Zealand)
- Ajit Kembhavi (Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> -term; India)
- Boris Shustov (Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> -term; Russia)
- Daniela Lazzaro (Vice-President, 1<sup>st</sup> -term; Brazil)
- Laura Ferrarese (Vice-President, 1<sup>st</sup> -term; Canada)
- Junichi Watanabe (Vice-President, 1<sup>st</sup> -term; Japan)

#### Advisers:

- Silvia Torres-Peimbert (Past President, Adviser; Mexico)
- Piero Benvenuti (Past General Secretary, Adviser; Italy)

#### IAU Secretariat:

- Maria Rosaria D'Antonio, Head of Administration
- Madeleine Smith-Spanier, Database Manager/ Assistant

#### GA2022 Chair of the LOC:

- Hyesung Kang (Pusan National University)

#### Division Presidents:

- Daniel Hestroffer (France)           A
- Michael Burton (UK)                B
- Susana Deustua (USA)               C
- Elena Pian (Italy)                   D
- Sarah Gibson (USA)                  E
- Gonzalo Tancredi (Uruguay)        F
- David Soderblom (USA)              G
- Leonardo Testi replaced by Monica Rubio - VP (Chile)    H
- Denis Burgarella (France)           J

## 1. Welcome by the President

## 2. Agenda Approved

EC100, EC101, EC102, EC104 and January 2021 meeting Minutes approved

**ACTION EvD:** TL notes the necessity to have the approval of EC 100 and EC 101 by the past 3 VPs .

### Review of actions

TL asks for missing 2017 and 2014 APRIM, MEARIM and LARIM reports

**ACTION PB:** send this Summer

## 3. Division President matters

### Renewal of WGs

All the proposals are **APPROVED**

**ACTION MSS:** check the summaries and add WGs for the next triennium on the website.

The Working Group on Planetary System Nomenclature and the new Working Group on Exoplanetary System Nomenclature will be designated Executive Committee Functional WGs.

**ACTION DE, JME:** consider whether to have ex officio member from EC on these WGs.

### Annual reports: Commissions & WG

#### a) Statistics: MSS shows slides

-Presented Statistics on Division, Commission and WG membership. 7 out of 9 Division reports , 30 out of 35 Commission reports and 42 out of 54 WG reports were received.

- Reminder on the decision taken at OM: in the next three years we will grant permission to 1 individual from each Commission and each Division to edit their official IAU webpage.

**ACTION MSS:** send statistics from 2018 to DPs

**ACTION OFFICERS:** next term to amend the Working Rules (WR) to make them consistent with the Bye-Laws on the number of people that can serve on the Steering Committee of a Division or Commission

**ACTION DPs:** send reminder to Division membership that the annual and triennial reports exist and are posted

#### b) Virtual meetings

EvD - Encouraging Commissions to offer virtual conferences this summer; can use IAU zoom license

#### c) DP comments

Report on Divisions & Commissions elections

Div J proposed a year-long 2024 celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Debate;

DE encouraged them to proceed with planning

TL points out the document prepared by the DPs on the duties of the DPs and their workload, which is useful to solicit candidates and prepare the Elections

#### **4. Executive committee matters**

TL notes that only the annual EC WGs reports are posted on the drive; most EC WGs have also produced triennial reports that are posted on their websites. EvD notes that most EC WGs have been very active; only WiA has shown less activity than in previous triennia. DL notes that they had only one meeting of the Organizing Committee. A recent telecon of the Officers with the WiA Chair and co-Chair revealed that no succession of leadership for the next triennium was yet in place.

**ACTION:** DL to contact the WiA WG and find the next person to lead the WG.

JMs WG report shows enhanced activity with more online meetings. The outstanding issues raised in their report are being addressed, most notably, the IAU will carry out the JM elections in June. A discussion ensued whether JMs could serve as chairs of WGs (other than the JM WG) or as Presidents of Commissions and Divisions; they cannot according to the current Working Rules (WRs). The EC asked JH to prepare a text with a proposed change in the WRs to allow JMs to take a fuller role in administrative affairs and bring in fresh ideas. This proposal was uploaded on the drive and voted on later during the EC (see point 5).

#### **Dark & Quiet Skies Center proposal**

PB summarizes the proposal for an international call to host a center to coordinate this task worldwide. This Center should be hosted in an existing institute. IAU is the only organization that can make this argument in a neutral way.

**PROPOSAL APPROVED,** all in favor besides TL (abstained). TL expresses her concern that the IAU may embark on a risky mission for which success is far from guaranteed.

**ACTION:** Officers, PB to develop and post a call for the Center

#### **5. Membership matters**

##### **Membership update**

MSS shows slides. There is still some confusion on guidelines for JM. DS to make a suggestion on how to proceed (see below).

The discussion then returned to the issue of JMs serving on organizing committees of WGs, Commissions, or Divisions and the motion prepared by JH was voted on.

**MOTION APPROVED:** The restriction of Working Rule 8a should be modified so as to allow Junior Members to take up any role in any WG. Junior Members should also be allowed to serve on the OC of any Commission, but not as Commission President or Vice President. No change is made for Division Steering Committee membership, which should not be open to Junior Members.

**ACTION:** TL edit Working Rules and send to MSS for the webpages

##### **Membership statistics**

MSS shows slides.

##### **Membership Committee report**

DS shows slides.

**ACTION DS:** make recommendation to EC on how proceed with applications in next triennium: re-new membership form, e.g. dropping the PhD document requirement. To be voted on during EC 105b in May.

### **National Memberships applications**

The EC approved that the applications that were received should be forwarded to the National Members for their approval at the GA

### **Honorary memberships proposals**

TL: 15 proposals received.

BS: expresses concern about growing numbers; honorary membership should stay special.

EvD: propose to form a small subCommittee of the EC to examine the proposals.

**ACTION:** DL, JME and STP: look at individual proposals from this round and make recommendations on their suitability by EC105b. Also, re-consider the nomination rules for future years and suggest modifications to ensure that the Honorary membership stays special and thus that their numbers stay limited.

## **6. Scientific Meetings**

### **Update on the IAUS 2020 postponed for 2021**

JME shows slides. Most of the symposia 2020 postponed, only 2 took place. The remainders have until end of February 2022 to take place either in person or virtually. Two postponed 2020 symposia have made a plea to take place later in 2022. EvD reminds everyone of the existing rule that no symposia can take place within three months on either side of the GA. For 2022, this means that May-July 2022 are excluded (and also August-October 2022). This item is further considered in conjunction with 2022 IAUS selection.

**Status of post meeting reports:** None received.

**ACTION :** JME to chase missing post-meeting reports

### **2022 IAUS selection**

Discussion on how many symposia to select, given the backlog of postponed 2020 IAU symposia.

**ACTION:** JME to organize another meeting with DPs and VPs with different options (in person/virtual) to discuss by EC105b.

### **Regional Meetings update**

**DECISION:** TL: All the 3 Regional Meetings (APRIM, LARIM, MEARIM ) in 2023

**APPROVED**

## **7. Prizes and grants**

### **TGF Fellowship 2021**

DE : 12 applications, 3 winners: Rebecca Davies / Khyati Malhan / Liliana Rivera Sandoval  
EC **APPROVED**

## PhD Prizes 2020

**DECISION:** List approved.

## ODE PRIZE Proposal

EvD shows slides summarizing proposal for implantation of ODE prizes made by a small working group. Three separate committees are recommended for the new prizes on education, outreach and development. Consensus is to leave nominations open as much as possible and let the committees decide.

**DECISION:** All 3 prizes will be considered together in the GA year, rather than one prize per year. Recommendations for prize winners should be submitted at the April EC meeting.

## 8. IAU publications

### Past Symposia proceedings: update and commitment

JME: 2 volumes are missing. Contacted the editors but nobody replied. To avoid this happening more often in the future, action should be taken.

**DECISION:** TL to prepare a document that the Chair/lead editor must sign when symposia are selected, obligating them to submit the proceedings.

### IAU Transactions: book vs electronic

TL : proposes to move the Transactions of the IAU to a digital format only, to be posted on the IAU website. For the 2018 GA we still need to continue with the book according to our agreement with CUP. In the future we can move on line. EvD stresses the importance that there is a formal record of the GA Business Sessions for historical reasons, but agrees this could be digital only.

**DECISION:** IAU Transactions to move on-line only in the future **APPROVED**

## 9. External organizations

### Report from ISC Meetings

TL: A virtual GA is planned in September, she will participate with JME. EvD is in the Selection Committee of the new ISC Board.

**ACTION:** EvD and KG to coordinate and highlight the OAD with ISC concerning 2022 UN international year of basic sciences for development. GT: a proposal is being prepared to have an international year of Planetary Defense.

### Other relations (eg COSPAR, IAPS, CIE, MPC)

EvD : COSPAR – good relationship with leadership, most notably on Capacity Building workshops and Dark & Quiet Skies.

DE: IAPS draft MOU, good occasion to engage young people at BSc level. Plans involve OAO, Division C, Equity Inclusion WG and Commissions C1+C2, and JMs

**MOU WITH IAPS APPROVED.**

**ACTION next OFFICERS:** revision of the list of IAU representation in international organizations (coordinated previously by BS)

**ACTION:** BS: will draft a text with an official list of duties.

GT: Minor Planet Center: old Agreement is out of date, needs to be renewed. Also, information on naming of asteroids needs to be broadcasted more quickly and more clearly; work is ongoing with Lars Christensen to improve this situation.

BS: urges to renew the agreement of IAU with MPC. EvD: agrees that the link with MPC should remain so that they stay linked with our Small Bodies Nomenclature WG.

**ACTION FUTURE OFFICERS:** new agreement IAU with MPC

### **Relations with amateur astronomers**

JH presents the updated document from EC 103, with input from Lina Canas. The proposal is to form a new WG centered on this relation. Argues that it should be initially under the EC auspices.

**EC WG on Pro-Am relationships APPROVED** for 3-6 years, then probably a Division C WG. Activities center on formalizing and strengthening activities with observers; affiliations with amateur societies; organization of a 2022 on-line workshop and an in-person symposium in future years in a country with a large number of amateurs.

**ACTION:** JH: make proposal for WG membership and implement

## **10. GA 2021 Business**

EvD shows slides of plans for GA 2021 Business sessions, with a reminder of dates. The preliminary meeting with the NMs will take place twice to accommodate all the time zones, and opportunities for informal chatting among the NMs will be created. The Business Sessions themselves will take place only once at a fixed time.

Three resolutions (one on Climate Change and two from Division A) were sent after the deadline of February 15 to the EC.

**DECISION:** All three resolutions to be sent to the Resolutions Committee.

During and after the EC meeting, two additional resolutions surfaced. They will be dealt with by correspondence, with an EC decision at EC105b in May whether to forward to the Resolutions Committee.

DE: the EC 106 meeting with incoming and outgoing EC and DPs will take place shortly after the GA2021 Business meeting

## **11. GA 2022 Busan**

### **Draft Scientific Program**

HK shows slides with the list of the most important dates.

**All agreed** to the slides of HK.

EvD: **ACTION DPs** try by Thursday to give advice on which Symposia or FMs should not overlap.

EvD: some more discussion on poster presentations is needed; if they are all electronic posters, how to encourage poster discussions for those that are in person in Busan? Are there enough large screens around which presenters can stand and interact with interested audience?

PROPOSAL HK: **APPROVED**, pending more discussion on implementation of electronic poster viewing.

## 12. OAD

JME shows slides. Vanessa McBride is leading the LOC of the GA 2024.

OAD Steering Committee very positive, pandemic impacts the projects but large numbers of the new projects have been initiated including some linked to the flagship projects.

External OAD review very positive; next step is new agreement with NRF; high level meeting scheduled for May 6.

AK: it may be useful for SC members to help more on the OAD regional offices matters.

## 13. OAE

TL: Detailed report shows that the OAE is getting fully up to speed.

New OAE Center proposals; Agreements with Italy done, other 7 in discussion. They bring in substantial additional funding. A big effort with all the NAECs.

## 14. OYA

JME: schools postponed, but the directors have used the time fruitfully to work on the database of former students. The IAU provides support through funds for an intern to help collecting and assembling all the information, since OYA does not have a proper office like the other IAU Offices.

### I-HOW Capacity building workshops

EvD shows slides, the call for volunteers to serve as I-HOW steering committee members is ready to be posted. The selection committee of I-HOW SC members is proposed to contain two DPs. The aim is to have a call for hosting workshops in late 2021, with the first to take place in late 2022.

**ACTION** EvD: organize selection of I-HOW SC members.

## 15. Administrative Matters

ESO support: The Press Office led by Lars Christensen is working very well. Lars involves two of his team members in various activities. For the GA 2022, he will ensure that a full team is present in person.

## 16. Financial and other matters

### Financial Report 2020

TL: shows slides. There is a large financial surplus, because the pandemic. Also, there was extra money from Kavli for new agreements, and extra income from CUP in 2020 (delayed payment from 2016). No comments by the BC which already saw the report in an earlier dedicated meeting. The report from the Finance Committee is noted.

**Financial Report 2020: APPROVED**

### National Members dues update

In 2020 the IAU received unexpected arrears contributing to the positive balance. On the other hand, some countries that are dependent on visitors to planetaria, cannot pay during the pandemic crisis.

Several new National Members that arrived at IAU in 2018, never paid.

Others may be suspended this year.

**ACTION RD:** send a reminder including also the NCAs contacts, following the suggestion by DL. If no response, then escalate the reminders to personal letters by the President and GS.

Sending Grants to countries like Iran is difficult, the situation needs to be solved asap, all the Offices agree. **ACTION RD:** try with the Embassies in France for a permanent solution and possibly, explore the idea to send a letter to ISC.

### **Proposed Budget 2021**

DE: the fundraising will continue another year through the GA 2022.

LF notes that there is not an explicit budget proposal for the Dark & Quiet Skies approved, TL states that it is included in the EC WG budget.

**FUTURE ACTION** DE and JME: consider budget dedicated for the future Dark & Quiet Skies WG and Center.

**DECISION:** PROPOSED BUDGET 2021 **APPROVED**

**ACTION** TL: update the financial document of the past and new triennium with the 2020 and 2021 numbers, to be discussed and approved at a separate EC 105b zoom meeting in May, before sending to the National Members.

DE: Circulate also the proposed changes to Bye-laws to accommodate slight change in budget timelines to approve at EC 105b

### **Donations and fundraising : Telecon with Genevieve Marshall**

GM shows slides concerning business plans discussed, fundraising WG and next steps.

In response to a question by TL, GM notes that there are issues like the USA and UK taxes and other valuable lessons learned that limit the amount that can currently be raised by crowdfunding. She also notes that not all funding raised necessarily flows through the IAU Paris Office. Training the various (Regional) Offices to fundraise for themselves in their own regions will also be part of the planning.

### **17. OAO**

JME: report from the Steering Committee very positive, shows slides that summarize the many OAO activities and CAP Journal. Also, the number of NOCs is increased further.

TL: outside OAO review excellent, new agreement signed. NAOJ increased funding, now 3 full time staff.

JW: Contract of Linas Canas as the OAO Director for 3 more years

### **18. Telecon with the 4 IAU Offices**

- a) **5 minutes per office to highlight things in their reports, and take one or two questions**

**OAO:** Lina Canas (LC) shows three slides with the OAO highlights in 2020, including:

- 1) IAU NAOJ agreement signing with emphasis on the huge impact a third person can make and the establishment of a Steering Committee
- 2) NOCs management with a focus on measuring the level of engagement of the NOCs with IAU Outreach programs and the NOCs Funding Scheme with SKAO contribution and future proposal drafting support sessions for NOCs; and
- 3) Annual outreach programs in 2020, with special emphasis on the adjustments suffered due to the pandemic.

TL: impressive number of NOCs.

EvD: congratulations on review and appointment as Director.



**OYA:** Itziar Aretxaga (IA): The 2 schools planned in Mexico and South Africa in 2020 were one cancelled and one postponed. The next schools probably will take place in 2022. It is impossible to move on-line, considering that many students don't have internet capability at their place and that one of the main goals of the program is networking and mentoring. Honduras 2015 5-yr feedback report highly satisfactory. Focus efforts on mentoring past students, and establishing the online archive. Working on ISYA Fileshare and updated student database, going back to 1967. Most testimonies gathered from 1977 onwards for the Fundraising effort.

The EC congratulates OYA on the database efforts and the nice book with testimonies.

**OAE:** Markus Poessel (MP): OAE now moving from build-up to operations; describes current state of network of National Astronomy Education Coordinators (NAECs), with more than 300 NAECs confirmed for 86 countries. With the OAE Center Italy, the first of the OAE Centers and Nodes has just been established via MoU, with 7 more candidates in the pipeline, with MoUs hopefully signed soon. Also approved is the 3rd Shaw Prize-IAU Workshop, which will be fully virtual; topic: "What everybody (in the community) should know about astronomy education". Among current activities is an astrophotography contest seeking images helpful for astronomy education, to be made available under Creative Commons licenses. Great community response so far.

The EC congratulates the OAE on its impressive accomplishments and actions to date.

**OAD:** received congratulations for the 10-year anniversary.

Kevin Govender (KG): COVID has had a significant impact on many projects. Special call was launched to use astronomy in dealing with the effects of the pandemic and 43 projects were funded. There is still a demand for such COVID-related projects so it's been incorporated into the next call, together with a call for more technical projects that use astronomy tools or methods for development. The recently completed OAD external review has been very positive and will shape the future of the OAD. A new website will be launched soon, as well as a glossy booklet and a video for the 10-year anniversary. As part of the flagships, the OAD is working in partnership with psychologists to explore how astronomy can impact positively on mental health.

Vanessa McBride (VMB): Regular communication with professional astronomy community through Divisions. Recent call for new OAD project reviewers had a very positive response from IAU members.

The EC congratulates the OAD on the positive outcome of the review, and on its rapid response to the pandemic.

## **b) Coordinated communication/synergy among offices**

KG: There is a good synergy and communication among the offices. Meet regularly and work well together sharing information about projects and events.

Carolin Liefke (CL): Summarizes upcoming IAU Offices Family Meeting to bring together offices staff, NOCs, NAECs, ROAD staff in an "unconference" format 20-21 July 2021.

## **c) Fundraising**

KG: GM brings a lot of valuable fundraising experience; she presented a workshop to OAD projects leaders to train them on how to fundraise; this material has been incorporated into the OAD online course for project leaders.

LC: Public engagement training as well is really essential.

KG: fundraising will also be essential for the flagship projects. There are regions where the impact of small grants can be large, for example in parts where the level of development is low, or in countries where large exchange rates allow for small grants in Euro to go a long way locally.

#### **d) Open discussion**

OYA: only two people work for ISYA as part-time volunteers, and we appreciate the effort of the GS to budget an intern from last year. We have now our 3rd intern in the program.

MP: Answering EC question about what the dominant current limitation is: OAE growth currently limited by the maximum speed to build the new structure. Likely to change to resource-limited (mainly funding) soon.

DB: difference between the countries? KG: In some countries there may be just a small group coordinating a very localised project and so it may not have a big impact in the country. In other countries, especially where the level of development is low, the impact of a project can be much greater.

OYA issue: JH: the coordinators are all volunteers and they need help for the administrative matters. TL: some of this help goes through IAU Paris Office, e.g., arranging travel. Also, perhaps NASL can help.

#### **19. Report from DPs separate telecon**

SG: see document on which symposia and FMs should not be planned in parallel at GA 2022.

**ACTION:** TL and JME: look at the document and plan symposia after recommendations from DPs

DISCUSSION concerning the non-OECD countries candidate.

**ACTION** DPs: write a note on which countries or cases qualify for “at large” for future Officers

#### **20. EC 107 in April 2022**

**DECISION:** DE: The Location will be decided during the next EC 106 in August 2021, where old and new DPs and ECs to meet together.

#### **21 Update GA2024 preparations**

TL to ask Vanessa McBride for a short document .

**Any remaining agenda items (AOB) to be discussed at EC105b in May, together with the 2019-2021 triennial financial report and 2022-2024 proposal.**

## IAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 105b - virtual meeting

### Minutes

**2021 May 19**

(h. 3:00-5:30pm CEST)

**Participants as for EC 105**

**APPROVAL of EC105 Minutes**

TL asks for some minor changes.

**EC105 Minutes APPROVED**

**Bye-laws CHANGES and WR update**

EvD and DE proposed changes regarding timings for draft triennial budget that will be forwarded to the NMs.

**EC APPROVED the changes**

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Financial Report 2018-2020**

TL shows the Report. EvD : highlight more explicitly the reasons for having a surplus, and the justification for using it . TL: Key reasons for the surplus are the COVID situation leading to delayed GA, symposia, and other meetings, whereas funds are needed for their increased contribution to the 4 Offices.

**EC APPROVED** the Report that will be forwarded to the NMs

**Triennial Budget Proposal 2022-2024**

TL presents the budget proposal

**EC APPROVED** the Triennial Budget Proposal

## **Resolutions**

EvD: three resolutions already agreed upon were submitted on time and two others were submitted late. The EC now needs comments from the Resolutions Committee. Aim to get the draft resolutions posted to the community by early June.

The Resolution Committee can express its opinion to the EC, whether positive or negative, then the final vote will be at GA.

Following subsequent recommendations from the Resolutions Committee and in consultation with the original author, the Climate Change resolution draft was changed to an IAU statement that was posted as a press release on June 24 2021. The other four Resolutions have been posted to the community on June 16 2021, with a Slack channel opened for comments.

## **GA 2021 Agenda**

EvD: presents agenda, including proposed pre-meetings. No comments by EC, circulate to the NMs, and in simplified form to IMs.

**ACTION TL:** inform members of GA 2021 dates and agenda, stating also explicitly electronic business votes coming up at GA.

## **Honorary Membership proposals**

EvD thanks STP, DL and JME for their work.

TL: keep the existing rules for this year and then review the changes proposed for next time

**ACTION TL:** communicate results to the proposers

**ACTION DE:** final draft of new WRs on HM to circulate to EC for approval.

## **SNC nominations**

EvD: thanks to EC members for suggestions for the EC-nominated SNC member.

We now have a long list, suggestion to first down-select to 3 names from the list by correspondence.

**EC ACTION:** proposed nomination to be decided once DPs have submitted their nominations

## **Membership Application procedure**

The EC considered the note written by the MC chair, David Soderblom. The EC is in favor of a single stream application for IM and JM, with a box in which the applicant indicate their preference for IM or JM. The NCA has the authority to make changes and assign JM or IM, which are then decided by the MC.

**EC:** more work needed by MC for detailed implementation of the proposal.

## **National Members status**

**ACTION RD:** Following dues payments in July, send details on which NMs cannot vote

**ACTION EvD:** send a letter in June to Countries that never paid since the year of their affiliation (2018) and, as last reminder, to the Countries that will be suspended this year.

## **2022 IAU Symposia Selection**

JME shows slides. The DPs think that the 2020 proposals are the priority.

**EC DECISION:** 3 selected from the list, GA is the priority in 2022.

**ACTION JME:** contact the 2 from 2020 and 3 from 2022 regarding dates and virtual or in-person. Try to push at least one of them to late 2022.

**ACTION OFFICERS:** make final decisions on 2022 symposia once details on dates and virtual or in-person are known.

*TL leaves the EC*

## **Dark & Quiet Skies-UNOOSA update**

EvD congrats to CW, PB and JH on the D&Q Skies efforts and the intense UNOOSA-COPUOS STC meeting in April particular.

Call for the IAU Coordination Center for Dark Skies presented and discussed

*DL leaves the EC*

**ACTION PB:** following the suggestion by JH, change title for new Center, revise the document in the preamble, stating that the Center will be focused on satellite constellations primarily.

Revised Mission of Center and Call **APPROVED**