

January 8, 1997

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 68TH MEETING

June 23, 24 & 25 1996

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, USA

Draft Minutes

Present:

L. Woltjer	President
R. Kraft	President-Elect
I. Appenzeller	General Secretary
J. Andersen	Assistant General Secretary
C. Anguita	Vice-President
B. Hidayat	Vice-President
D. Matthewson	Vice-President
F. Pacini	Vice-President
J. Smak	Vice-President
V. Trimble	Vice-President
A.A. Boyarchuk	Adviser
J. Bergeron	Adviser
M. Roberts	IAU Treasurer

Invited:

R. Williams	Director STScI
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In attendance:

M. Léger-Orine	Administrative Assistant
J. Saucedo	Secretary

OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

The President, L. Woltjer, welcomes the members of the Executive Committee to the 68th meeting. The EC members are then welcomed by R. Williams, Director of the Space Telescope Science Institute and host of the EC meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda is adopted, with the following modifications:

“Financial Matters” is postponed until the arrival of Morton Roberts
“Publications” is scheduled after “Financial Matters”

EC INTERNAL MATTERS

The minutes of the 67th EC meeting are approved

REPORT ON THE SPECIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President L. Woltjer reports that the work of the Special Nominating Committee is progressing on schedule.

MEMBERSHIP

North Korea's membership has terminated on December 31, 1995 according to paragraph 7 of the IAU Statutes since no payment of dues had been received for 5 years.

Latvia became a new full member, as of January 1st, 1996.

Five Central American countries (*Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala & Costa Rica*) announced their intent to apply for joint membership in the near future.

There have been preliminary contacts concerning membership with *Mongolia* and *Bolivia*.

FINANCES

Raise in category of adherence

The GS reports that *Australia* has moved from category III to IV, effective January 1, 1996.

The President-Elect reports that discussions are held within the US National Committee for Astronomy regarding a raise of the US contribution. To discuss this issue the President-Elect and the President of the AAS will meet the President of the US Academy of Sciences in the second half of 1996. The President-Elect will also approach NASA concerning a special contribution for the XXIIIrd IAU General Assembly.

Countries in arrears

Morocco did not pay its fees since 1992. The GS will contact Morocco and point out that the country's membership will terminate at the end of 1996 if no payment is received by December 31st.

No payments have been received from *Azerbaijan* and *Tajikistan* since 1993 when these countries were admitted to the Union.

1995 audited accounts

Both, the Income and the Expenditure have been somewhat lower than anticipated in 1995. The overall result was a small surplus for this year.

Budget 1996: The GS expects a result similar to 1995.

Budget 1997: The proposed budget foresees a substantial deficit due to the Kyoto GA.

Draft budget 1998-2001

The Proposed Budget presented by the General Secretary is adopted by the EC. It will now be submitted (in due time) to the National Adhering Bodies and the XXIIIrd GA.

STATUTES, BYE-LAWS & WORKING RULES

The EC approves the new version of the Working Rules and adopts the modified versions of the Statutes and Bye-Laws, which will be submitted for approval to the Adhering Organisations and the General Assembly.

DIVISION, COMMISSION & WORKING GROUP MATTERS

The GS and AGS report on their first experiences working with the Divisions.

In general the experience is positive, although some improvements, e.g. concerning the ranking of meeting proposals are desirable.

Commission 7: Request to be attached to 2 Divisions and to change the name of the commission:

The EC decides that a commission can be attached to one Division only.

The name change will be discussed after Commission 7 has attached itself to a Division and after the name has been discussed within this Division.

Worldwide Development of Astronomy WG:

The EC takes note of the reports by Batten about the WGWDA.

The EC also discusses the UN activities in this field. The GS reports about the activities of the UN suborganisation COPUOS where the IAU has been granted an Observer Status (see below under International Activities).

Antarctic Astronomy WG: The EC is of the opinion that more visibility should be given to the activity of this WG and that the Kyoto GA should be used as a platform to advertise their aims and activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

XXIIIrd General Assembly

Organisational Matters

The GS reports about his visit to the GA venue in September 1995. It has been arranged with the LOC that the registration fee will be 30,000 Yen and 35,000 Yen for early and late registration, respectively. The LOC will possibly provide travel grants for young astronomers (in addition to the IAU travel grant programme).

The GS confirms that the IAU will not provide any financial guarantee for the Kyoto LOC.

The LOC will carry out the organisation of the GA including registration. However, reservations for accommodation and most of the proposed tours will be organised by a travel agent (Japan Travel Bureau, JTB).

Selection of Scientific Events:

The EC aopts the following events:

Invited Discourses

- ID 1 The Hubble Deep Field (R.E. Williams)
- ID 2 The Cataclysmic Variable Stars (B. Warner)
- ID 3 Black Holes in the Universe (I.D. Novikov)

Symposia

- S 183 Cosmological Parameters and the Evolution of the Universe
- S 184 The Central Regions of the Galaxy and Galaxies
- S 185 New Eyes to see Inside the Sun and Stars - Pushing the Limits of Helio- and Asteroseismology with New Observations from Ground and from Space
- S 186 Galaxy Interactions at High and Low Redshift
- S 187 Cosmic Chemical Evolution
- S 188 The Hot Universe

Joint Discussions

- JD 1 Abundance Ratios in the oldest Stars: Bulge and extreme Halo
- JD 2 Dwarf Galaxies: Probes for Galaxy Formation and Evolution
- JD 3 Precession-Nutation and Astronomical Constants
- JD 4 Challenges in Atomic Physics for Cosmic X-Ray Spectroscopy
- JD 5 Preserving of the Astronomical Windows
- JD 6 Interactions between Planets and Small Bodies
- JD 7 The New International Celestial Reference Frame
- JD 8 Stellar Evolution in Real Time
- JD 9 Future Large Scale Facilities in Astronomy
- JD 10 Low-Luminosity Stars
- JD 11 Redshift Surveys in the 21st Century
- JD 12 Electronic Publishing: Now and the Future
- JD 13 Detection and Study of Planets outside the Solar System
- JD 14 The first Results of Hipparcos and Tycho
- JD 15 The Combination of Theory, Observation, and Simulation for the Dynamics of Stars and Star Clusters in the Galaxy
- JD 16 Spectroscopy with Large Telescopes of Chemically Peculiar Stars
- JD 17 History of Oriental Astronomy
- JD 18 High Energy Transients
- JD 19 Physics of the Sun and Heliosphere in the Era of Space Probes: Scientific Highlights of ULYSSES, SOHO, and YOHKOH
- JD 20 Enhancing Astronomical Research and Education in Developing Countries
- JD 21 The Megamaser - AGN Connection
- JD 22 Astronomy from the Moon
- JD 23 The Leonid Meteor Storms: Historical Significance and Upcoming Opportunities

Dr. M. Takeuti will be asked to convert his proposed Symposium in a one-day JD, which would then, if he agrees, become:

- JD 24 Pulsating Stars - Recent Developments in Theory and Observation

Special Sessions

- SPS 1 Main Issues of the Galileo Mission to the Jupiter System
- SPS 2 Highlights of the ISO Mission

XXIVth GA 2000

Both the GS and the AGS, visited Manchester and confirm that the venue is suitable. However, an official invitation from the Royal Society has not yet been received. The EC authorises the GS to accept an invitation to Manchester if such an invitation is received and if a financial guarantee from the IAU is not required by the Royal Society.

The GS reminds the EC that an official invitations has been received from Australia for the year 2003, that Denmark has withdrawn its invitation, and that the IAU has unofficially been approached by Italy (Firenze), Austria (Vienna) and Quebec (Canada) as possible venues.

PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Symposia (outside the XXIIIrd GA)

The following Symposium was approved by the EC:

Symposium 189: *Fundamental Stellar Properties: The Interaction Between Observation and Theory*
January 13 - 17, 1997, Sydney, Australia

Not approved:

Wolf-Rayet Phenomena in Massive Stars and Starburst Galaxies
May 5-9, 1997, Huatulco, Mexico
(However, the proposers will be encouraged to resubmit this proposal for a later date).

Advanced Optical Instruments for Modern Astrophysics
August 15-20 (or September) 1997, Xi'an/Beijing, China

Colloquia

The following meetings were approved by the EC:

Colloquium 166 *The Local Bubble and Beyond*
April 21 - 25, 1997, Garching, Germany

Colloquium 167 *New Perspectives on Solar Prominences*
April 28 - May 4, 1997, Aussois, France

Not approved:

The Three Galileo: The Man, The Spacecraft, The Telescope
January 7-10, 1997, Padova, Italy

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

International Schools for Young Astronomers (ISYAs)

Although no school is budgeted for 1997, the proposed 1996 ISYA in *Iran* is approved. It will be held from July 4-24 in Zanjan. It will be financed using the unspent 1996 ISYA allocation.

Schools for *Peru* and *Vietnam* are under preparation.

Teaching for Astronomy Development (TAD)

The terms of reference of the TAD have been approved at the last meeting. The programme for 1996/1997, as submitted by D. Wentzel, is approved, in principle to the extent which can be financed using the VLP and (unused) ISYA funds in the budget.

PUBLICATIONS

IAU Publishing Contract 1998-2003

The four bids which have been received are discussed in detail.

There is a consensus that the proposal by ASP appears most attractive in view of the fast publication speed and low book prices offered. The General Secretary is asked to start negotiating a contract with ASP. Provided that ASP agrees (1) to keep the outside appearance of the volumes, (2) to include some flexibility concerning future electronic publishing, (3) to regard the "Reports on Astronomy" as an optional item, of the Contract, the EC authorizes the GS to conclude a contract with ASP. If the conditions are not met the GS will contact the EC in writing.

The future need for the **Reports on Astronomy** will be discussed at the Kyoto General Assembly.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ICSU

The AGS reports that in order to reduce the costs, the ICSU General Committee recommends to the GA to hold one General Committee Meeting in between 2 General Assemblies.

J. Bergeron questions whether the IAU should continue as a member of ICSU since the scientific community does not well perceive ICSU's functions developing in science. She also expresses her surprise that ICSU is asking for more funds (WCR Programme) whereas no positive action is taken. L. Woltjer states that the WRC programme does not concern astronomy and that consequently the IAU should not contribute to this programme. This opinion is shared by the EC.

FAGS

P. Pâquet, IAU representative to FAGS, reports the conclusions of the FAGS Council meeting, which notes the excellent performances of its Services. The proposal made by Dr. Engvold to create a unique service called "International Service for Solar Activity" has been turned down as the FAGS Council is of the opinion that such a proposal should be addressed to FAGS by the sponsoring Unions and not by a Commission. The creation of a new service, sponsored by IUGG, called "International GPS Service for Geodynamics" is mentioned.

UNESCO: "Star of Tolerance"

The Director General of UNESCO has informed the IAU of his decision not to implement the Star of Tolerance project.

ICSU-UNESCO Conference on Electronic Publishing

The EC takes note of the report concerning this subject from A.G. Hearn, who was the IAU representative to this Conference.

UN - COPUOS

The GS reports that the IAU has been granted the status of an Observer at COPUOS and that D. McNally has been appointed the IAU representative until the next GA.

NEW INITIATIVES AND THE FUTURE OF THE IAU

The proposal made by D. Mathweson to have a young (~ 35 years old) IAU lecturer nominated to give a lecturer at each GA, with a prize of USD 10,000 to allow him/her to travel to give lectures is discussed. It is decided to discuss this proposal with the Presidents of Divisions. Consequently, D. Mathweson is asked to provide a written proposal. The level of funding is discussed and, by comparison, e.g. with the amounts allotted to TAD programme CHF 10,000 are thought to be reasonable.

OTHER BUSINESS

In 1997, Executive Committee meetings will be held in the Kyoto Conference Center during the GA.

The *69th Executive Committee* will meet Sunday August 17, 16.00, Tuesday August 19, morning, Wednesday August 20, morning, and Monday August 25, afternoon.

The *70th Executive Committee* meeting will be held Thursday August 28, all day.

CLOSURE BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting ends at 12 h. The President thanks the General Secretary and the IAU staff, and expresses the thanks of the Executive Committee to Dr. R. Williams and the staff for their kind hospitality.