

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee – 83rd Meeting 15-17 May 2007 Cape Observatory Cape Town, South Africa

DRAFT MINUTES v-1 (5 June 2007)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Catherine J. Cesarsky	President
Robert Williams	President-Elect
Karel A. van der Hucht	General Secretary
Ian F. Corbett	Assistant General Secretary
Beatriz Barbuy	Vice-President
Cheng Fang	Vice-President
Martha P. Haynes	Vice-President
George K. Miley	Vice-President
Giancarlo Setti	Vice-President
Brian Warner	Vice-President
Ronald D. Ekers	Adviser
Oddbjørn Engvold	Adviser

In attendance:

Monique Léger-Orine	Executive Assistant
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*0. WELCOME BY PROF. PHILIP A. CHARLES, DIRECTOR OF SAAO

Our host Prof. Philip A. Charles, Director of the South African Astronomical Observatory welcomed the members of IAU Executive Committee in the SALT Board Room of Cape Observatory, also on behalf of Prof. Renée C. Kraan-Korteweg, head of the Department of Astronomy of the University of Cape Town, and of Prof. Justin L. Jonas, chairman of the South African National Committee for Astronomy. He presented a short but fascinating introduction on South African astronomy today.

*1. OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE IAU

The IAU President, Catherine J. Cesarsky, opened EC83 at 09:45 hr, with words of thanks to our hosts and to IAU Vice-President Brian Warner for handling the local organization, assisted by Mrs. Lee-Ann Bredevelde.

***2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

***3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

***3.1. EC81. Approval of minutes. (doc)**

The minutes were approved.

Comment on EC81-2.7, EC Advisory Committee on *Impact threats to the Earth* (name later changed into EC Advisory Committee on *Hazards of Near-Earth Objects*): the questions was raised what the stand-by status of the EC Committee is.

AI-EC83-1 on GS: Ask chairperson David Morrison (USA) of EC Advisory Committee on "Hazards of Near-Earth Objects" for a status report, to verify that the WG is on alert. Confirm procedure and PR. Due date: October 2007. [Done: 4 July 2007; Hans Rickman added as member 9 July 2007; status report requested from Morrison on 6 Nov. 2007; no response yet.]

***3.2. EC82. Approval of minutes. (doc)**

Correction: Vice-President Martha Haynes was absent.
After this correction, the minutes were approved.

Action items of EC82: all have been carried out except the nomination of a new WG on the Naming of the Category of Pluto-like Objects.

***3.3. Officer's Meeting 2007. Minutes.**

EC83 took note of the minutes of OM-2007. The President reviewed the decisions and action items. See also EC83 action items below.

ad AI-OM07-2 on P. Discuss the Special Nominating Committee (SNC) remit and modus operandi with past members. [Done].

Presently, the working rules are not specific. The AGS has to be selected first, to be notified by June 2007; P-E and VPs will have to be selected by March 2008. The selection procedure for SNC members could perhaps be more transparent and democratic.

ad AI-OM07-4 on GS. See AI-EC83-3. TBD.

ad AI-OM07-5 on P & GS. See AI-EC83-4. TBD.

ad AI-OM07-6 on GS. Ask National Representatives to propose names of possible Vice-Presidents to the SNC, so that the SNC may select candidates for GA2009.

Not done. The GS reconsidered: VPs represent "continents", but continental boundaries are not hard. The three newly to be selected VPs will have to replace Beatriz Barbay (South America), Cheng Fang (Asia), and Brian Warner (Africa). It is not clear whether it desirable to ask NCA chair persons from just those continents for advice and in what way. Perhaps a subset of the EC could think of a more streamlined process to select candidate VPs.

ad OM07/3.4. Discussion arose on criteria for IAU Individual Membership in general. Each country is applying its own criteria. E.g., the Netherlands requires for nomination as IAU member a PhD in physics, mathematics or astronomy plus four years of professional astronomical work. The President is

in favour of IAU membership for distinguished astronomers only, with an associate professorship as minimum requirement. Another extreme requirement would be the membership of a national astronomical society, thus possibly even students.

ad AI-OM07-7 on P & P-E. Write paper for EC on methodology of election of DPs and DVPs, to be discussed at OM2008 and then agreed at EC84, to be in effect well before GA2009. (The thought is that the Organizing Committee of each Division will suggest > 1 candidate no later than end 2008 / early 2009).

See further EC83 minutes section 5.1.11.

AI-OM07-14 on AGS, EC, PO. Revised. See AI-EC83-11. TBD.

AI-OM07-16 on P & GS. See: AI-EC83-17.

AI-OM07-17 on P. Write to President of Division III (Ted Bowell) to request a "layman's" explanation of the GA2006 planet Resolutions, to be produced with help from Rick Binzel, and agreed by Organising Committee of Division III.

The President will be asked to Binzel to do this. See AI-EC83-16.

AI-OM07-18,19 on P & GS. Revised. See AI-EC83-12. TBD.

AI-OM07-20 on P-E. See EC83 minutes section 5.1.11.

AI-OM07-28 on G. See AI-EC83-21.

AI-OM07-38 on P & AGS. See AI-EC83-24. TBD.

***3.4. EC TeleCon 22-3-2007 on selection of IAU Symposia 2008. Approval of minutes.**

The EC approved the minutes and expressed satisfaction with the applied procedure for the selection of IAU Symposia for 2008 and the resulting list of nine approved Symposia Nos. 251 through 259.

***3.5. Report of the Special Nominating Committee.**

Working rules for the SNC are not yet specific. The new AGS, to assume his/her job in August 2009, has to be selected first and has to be notified by June 2007; the new P-E and the three new VPs, assuming their jobs also in August 2009, will have to be selected by March 2008. The selection procedure of members for the SNC should be more transparent.

As to the four SNC members to be nominated by the Division Presidents during or just before the next GA: the GS should ask the 65 or so NCA chairpersons to suggest names, as input for a long list to be considered by the DPs. From this large list the DPs will select 12 names, also considering geographic balance and gender balance.

Presently, Bye-law III.9 says: the retiring EC appoints *one* member. This one member could perhaps be appointed by a standing Nominating-sub-Committee, possibly to be established by our 65 or so NCA chair persons, supposed to be national representatives at our General Assemblies.

*AI-EC83-2 on GS: Ask IAU NCA chairpersons to suggest candidate members for the SNC, as input for the selection of the four SNC members by the Division Presidents. **Due date:** March 2008.*

AI-EC83-3 on GS (= AI-OM07-4): Ask Division Presidents to elect a "Spokesperson" to be in place for EC84 (2008), and to provide EC not less than 3 months before Rio GA2009 (and EC85) with

a list of 12 nominees to the SNC. The EC should then ask National Representatives to select 4 nominees from this list of 12, to be put to GA 2009. **Due date:** December 2008.

*AI-EC83-4 on P & P-E (= AI-OM07-5): Set out case for EC84 to appoint an EC "Standing Nominating Sub-Committee" to prepare for the processes of the Nominating Committee required at GA2009. **Due date:** December 2007.*

***4. REPORT ON THE SECRETARIAT**

***4.1. IAU web site. MoA with ESO. (doc)**

The GS expressed his satisfaction with the current relation with Lars Lindberg Christen and Raquel Shida of ESA/Hubble at ESO, who are handling the IAU web site.

***4.2. IAU database. Work plan and budget for change of IAU data base and web system. (late doc)**

The GS explained the current status of the IAU data base: over-designed (e.g., too many dynamic pages), no front-end yet, and no manual or documentation left by Mrs. Vidonne who left the IAU Secretariat on 13 September 2006, software written in French. The GS informed the EC of the (mostly in-kind) support and analyses received from Lars Lindberg Christensen and his assistant Lars Holm Nielsen of ESA/Hubble at ESO. The EC accepted their proposal (late doc) for a re-design of the IAU data base structure, starting in September 2007. The EC suggested establishing an "Oversight Committee" of data base experts with members Martha Haynes, Ron Ekers, Ray Norris, and Francoise Genova. The GS will discuss with Lars LC & Lars HN also aspects of introducing e-voting software.

*AI-EC83-5 on GS: Establish oversight committee for IAU data base development. **Due date:** October 2007.*

***5. IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

***5.1. IAU XXVI General Assembly in Prague 2006. Follow-up issues.**
***5.1.1. NOC/LOC report. (doc)**

The EC expressed great satisfaction with the very thorough final report d.d. 19 March 2007 on the IAU XXVI General Assembly by Jan Palous, NOC chair, Jan Vondrak, NOC vice-chair, and Cyril Ron, LOC chair. With their permission, this report will be made available on the IAU web site.

Matters of concern:

Report section 7.3.1: some 50% of Invited Speakers did not show up. The EC recommends that the organizers of all GA 2009 scientific sessions (Symposia, Joint Discussions and Special Sessions) will be asked to urge Invited Speakers who accepted to speak, to commit themselves to participate duly.

Report section 7.3.5: Registration and Abstract Data Base. The EC took note of the offer of the Prague PCO "CBT" to provide a complete software solution for registration, abstracts, accommodation and accompanying person program "in one". The Brazilian GA 2009 LOC informed the GS that they can provide an Abstract Server for GA 2009. The GS will discuss this with the GA 2009 organizers during the Officers' visit to Rio de Janeiro, 20-24 August, and with the IAU data base advisors Lars LC and Lars HN. Past-GS Oddbjorn Engvold will write a Requirements Document for the GA 2009 Abstract Server, based on his experiences during the preparations for GA 2006.

AI-EC83-6 on GS: Ask Jan Palous permission to make GA 2006 report available on the IAU web site. **Due date:** asap.

AI-EC83-7 on AGS: Urge Invited Speakers, who accept to speak at GA 2009, to commit themselves to participate duly. **Due date:** March 2009.

AI-EC83-8 on Oddbjorn Engvold: Write Requirements Document for a GA Abstract Server, based on experiences during the preparations for GA 2006. **Due date:** July 2007. [Done: 12 June 2007 and forwarded to Rio NOC.]

- *5.1.2. IAU XXVI GA grants distribution.
- *5.1.2.1 Table of GA 2006 grants by country. (MO, late doc)
- *5.1.2.2. Distribution of GA 2006 grants by country. (MO, late doc)
- *5.1.2.3. Distribution of GA 2006 grants versus categories. (MO, late doc)
- *5.1.2.4. 2006 Grant Statistics: 2006 Symposia and GA 2006. (late doc)

The EC took note of the GA2006 grants distribution and the overall 2006 grants distribution. It was noted that for some countries the total in 2006 allocated grants exceeded their 2006 IAU dues (paid or not yet paid) by factors considerably: Argentina (2.8), Armenia (1.4), Brazil (3.9), Chile (1.6), Cuba (suspended, 3.0), India (1.3), Mexico (1.3), New Zealand (2.0), Peru (2.7), Russia (2.2), Serbia & Montenegro (2.6), Ukraine (4.4), Uruguay (suspended, 1.3) and Venezuela (2.4).

- *5.1.3. GA 2006 Young Astronomers events.
- *5.1.3.1. GA 2006 Lunch Debate. Tuesday 15 August, 11:00 - 13:30 hr. (doc)

General praise from OM-2007. Should be done again, at GA2009.

Recommendations by OM-2007:

- more information on expertise of senior astronomers should be made available;
- a better mix of nationalities at each table desired;
- broader astronomical subjects for discussion desired.

RW at OM-2007:

- networking is the most important aspect;
- joint topics for all tables desired;
- just two senior astronomers per table (or one in case of smaller tables);
- no questionnaire afterwards;
- the report does not have to be that detailed.

On "Conclusions" of Michèle Gerbaldi (doc, p.52):

- Lunch Debate in first week of GA? Fine;
- Lunch Debate in evening? Not feasible during a GA, and certainly not in Rio de Janeiro;
- Second Lunch Debate in second week? Option to be discussed.

AI-OM07-12 on KAvdH: Ask Commission 46 to establish a Working Group to examine the ideas at the end of the report on the Young Astronomers Events, and to organize their lunch for Young Astronomers at GA2009. [done]

Oddbjorn Engvold raised to issue of the Registration Fee for Young Astronomers. GA 2006 age limit was 35 yr. Should there also be a criterion PhD/non-PhD? This should be settled by the Rio GA2009 LOC in their business plan.

AI-EC83-9 on GS (= AI-OM07-11 on Officers): Ensure that Rio GA2009 follows up with a 'Young Astronomers' Lunch Debate' which should keep a mix of nationalities but involve more 'senior astronomers', who should identify in advance the topics on which they are working. **Due date:** October 2007. [Done: C46 has been asked to make arrangements with Rio NOC.]

***5.1.3.2. GA 2006 Consulting Service. (doc)**

Also a great success.

***5.1.4. EC Working Group on Women in Astronomy. GA 2006 Lunch debate. Monday 21 August. (doc)**

Recommendations by OM07:

- Sydney format worked out better;
- Table discussions with reporting preferred, rather than invited speakers.

VP George Miley asked about child care. GA 2009 LOC co-chair VP Beatriz Barbuy assured the EC that child care is part of the LOC task. A l'Oreal Prize for Astronomy may be awarded. (?)

*AI-EC83-10 on GS (= AI-OM07-13 on GS): Write to Anne Green re "Women in Astronomy" event, suggesting return to Sydney format with no invited speakers. **Due date:** October 2007.*

***5.1.5 Statutes, Bye-Laws, Working Rules. Status. (P-E)**

From the minutes of OM07, section 5.1.4.:

RW:

- Little inconsistencies to be ironed away;
- E-voting issue will require changes;
- Johannes Andersen offers much advice.

Bob Williams raised the question whether the GA or the membership is the final decision making body on issues like e-voting.

The question of the length of the term of the six EC Vice-Presidents was briefly discussed. Preference for the current term length of six years, staggered three by three, was, after some discussion, unanimously confirmed, in particular to retain corporate memory.

***5.1.6. Resolutions.**

From the minutes of OM07, section 5.1.5.:

GA 2006 Resolutions 1-3:

AI-OM07-13a on MO, KAvdH: inform, with input from Nicole Capitaine, all interested parties. [done]

AI-OM07-13b on KAvdH: remove typo in Resolution-6 footnote:

- for ... to select name ... read ... to select a name [done: implemented on IAU web site and in on-line IB99.]

AI-OM07-13c on RW: ask past-chair Resolution Committee Chris Corbally to re-phrase Resolution-5 footnote.

[KAvdH: On 7-FEB-2007 RW informed us that he and Chris Corbally agreed on the text: "(2) An IAU process will be established to assign borderline objects to the dwarf planet or to another category." In the meantime, this has been implemented on the IAU web site and in the on-line IB99.]

***5.1.7. Press Office and Press Officer.**

***5.1.7.1. Contract with ESO. MoA. (doc)**

***5.1.7.2. Present status. (doc)**

From the minutes of OM07, section 5.1.5.

This works out very well. General praise for IAU Press Officer Lars Lindberg Christensen.

Recommendations:

- next Press Officer evaluation after GA 2009;
 - during GA 2009: one press release every day;
 - procedure: science meeting organizers should make proposals for topics to AGS; EC Officers make selection; AGS informs Press Officer.
- RW: during GA 2009 support from AAS (Kevin Marvel) will be possible, to improve network.

A Special Session on Hot Topics: should we do it again? Option: a few scattered slots for late hot topics, rather than a full Special Session.

Further on Hot Topics: a dedicated convener has to be found: one of the VPs.

GA 2009 presentations should be made at the 2008 AAS Summer Meeting and/or at the 2009 AAS Winter Meeting.

*AI-EC83-11 on AGS, EC, PO (= AI-OM07-14): Plan with IAU PO and GA2009 PR/organisers to ensure that there are 'major announcements' every day. The proposed methodology is for the various symposium organisers to submit potential PR topics to AGS, who will review and put to whole EC to select the favoured topics. EC will ask AGS to produce, with Press Office assistance, a PR programme to be discussed and agreed with Local Organisers. Note that "Hot Topics" must be included, and any late Hot Topics should be given careful consideration. **Due date:** Progressive, but done by end July 2009.*

***5.1.8. New EC Working Group on General Assemblies. Established. (doc)**

The EC took note of this new Executive Working Group.

***5.1.9. New EC Working Group on IYA 2009. Established. (doc)**

Very active working group: see < <http://www.astronomy2009.org> >.

Members:

Catherine J. Cesarsky (IAU-Germany, chair); Ian F. Corbett (IAU-UK), Dennis Crabtree (Canada), Susana E. Deustua (AAS-USA), Douglas Isbell (NOAO, USA), Norio Kaifu (Japan), Lars Lindberg Christensen (ESA/Hubble/ESO-Denmark, secretary), Claus Madsen (ESO), and Ian E. Robson (UK). Desirable: new members from Argentina, Australia (Helen Sim), Brazil (Augusto Damineli), China (Gang Zhao), Italy.

IAU past-GS Richard M. West (Denmark) may help if necessary.

***5.1.10. New EC Working Group on Naming Pluto-like Objects. To be established. (P)**

After ample discussion it was decided to ask the IAU Div.III/WG *Committee on Small Bodies Nomenclature* (chair: Jana Tichá; secretary: Brian Marsden) to propose **one** name for Pluto-like objects, with a justification.

*AI-EC83-12 on P: ask the IAU Div.III/WG Committee on Small Bodies Nomenclature (chair: Jana Tichá; secretary: Brian Marsden) to propose one name for Pluto-like objects and to provide a justification. **Due date:** September 2007. [Done, see 3.3.]*

***5.1.11. Comments on IAU Procedures, by Kenneth P. Seidelmann. E-voting issues. (doc)**

Direct extensive and positive response to Seidelmann has been given already by Ron Ekers (5 Oct. 2006), and Catherine Cesarsky (8 Oct. 2006). The GS has formally acknowledged and thanked Seidelmann on 9 Oct. 2006.

On aspects of e-voting:

The EC is much in favor of engaging the IAU membership by e-voting and e-debate. E-voting on IAU Resolutions will allow voting by the entire membership rather than by those physically present at the GA. E-debate could go beyond the IAU membership. Resolutions with financial consequences will stay the domain of the National Members.

One of the first applications of e-voting will be the selection of Division Presidents by the Division membership. Division membership, however, is presently undefined in the IAU data base: only Commission membership is defined therein. Lars LC & Lars HN will be consulted on introducing the necessary software. Offers from various companies should be solicited, and advice from the AAS could be asked.

If available in time, possible use could also be: to present to the membership a questionnaire on aspects of the IAU; and, in late September 2007, to ask the opinion of the membership of the then available list of tentative IAU 2009 Scientific Meeting topics, as proposed in Letters-of-Intent due 15 September 2007, as well as their potential participation in those tentative IAU GA 2009 scientific meetings.

Statutes will have to be changed by GA 2009. This has to be prepared through the Resolutions Committee and through the National Members, the latter of which may have to consult their constituency. Well defined procedures will be necessary. Advice from experienced organizations on this issue will be welcome. By EC84 (May 2008) decisions on this will have to be made. Thus, we are considering a three-step process: (1) investigate how; (2) sense the mood of the IAU membership through a questionnaire via IAU web site and e-newsletter; (3) propose changes at GA 2009.

AI-EC83-13 on GS: Consult and contract Lars LC and Lars HN on IAU e-voting issues. Due date: September 2007. [Done. Being implemented in IAU database/web structure.]

AI-EC83-14 on P-E and AGS: Prepare changes in IAU Statutes, Bye-laws and Working Rules. Due date: December 2007.

***5.1.12. Petition Protesting the IAU Planet Definition, by Mark V. Sykes (doc); response from Division III. (doc)**

Acting on AI-OM07-15, the GS has asked the President of IAU Division III, Ted Bowell, for advice on the petition. The EC considered the reply of Ted Bowell d.d. 10 April 2007 (doc) as unsatisfactory, and not to be followed.

As in OM07, the President will recommend to Div.III/Commission 53 president Michel Mayor (Switzerland) to propose, before GA2009, definitions for brown dwarfs and exo-planets, with physical limits and or criteria. A progress report on this will be needed before EC84 (2008).

AI-EC83-15 on GS: Thank Sykes and describe to him the process of the GA 2006 planet definition and resolutions. Due date: October 2007. [Done]

AI-EC83-16 on P (revised AI-OM07-17): Request to Richard Binzel to write
- "an IAU GA2006 Resolutions 5 and 6 Explanatory Supplement for the Astronomer", and
- "an IAU GA2006 Resolutions 5 and 6 Explanatory Supplement for the Public". **Due date: October 2007.**

AI-EC83-17 on P & GS (= AI-OM07-16): Discuss with Michael Mayor (chair of IAU Commission 53 on Extra Solar Planets) to prepare for a physical definition of an extra-solar planet, and review the need for a corresponding resolution at GA 2009. Due date: October 2007.

***5.1.13. Report by John Huchra (NCA USA), September 2006. (doc)**

The EC took note of this comprehensive and very well readable report.

***5.2. IAU XXVII GA in Rio de Janeiro, 2009. Status of planning.**

***5.2.1. Report NOC 2006, 20 December 2006. (doc)**

***5.2.2. Concerns of the Officers' Meeting 2007 and first response. (doc)**

***5.2.3. Report NOC 2007-I, 30 March 2007. Time line of events. (doc)**

The EC discussed the issues raised in Doc.5.2.2. In August 2007 it will be know whether the new Rio Convention Center, more centrally located in Rio de Janeiro, will be ready in time and available for the IAU XXVII GA, 3-14 August 2009. By the time of the visit of the IAU Officers' delegation to the GA 2009 LOC in Rio de Janeiro, 21-24 August 2007, hopefully a choice between the two Rio Convention Centers can be made.

***5.3. IAU XXVIII GA in Beijing, 2012.**

***5.3.1. Draft MoA on GA 2012, to be discussed in Beijing, 18-19 April 2007. (doc)**

***5.3.2. Report of visit EC delegation to Beijing, 16-20 April 2007, and signed MoA. (late doc)**

The EC took note of the signed MoA, and accepted clause 13: *"The CAS shall use its best efforts to keep the Registration Fee below 4000 CNY, which is the approximate equivalent in local currency of 500 USD."*

***6. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

***6.1. Reports from FSC 2003-2006 and FC, by Bob Milkey. (docs)**

***6.2. Suggested Chronology 2007 – 2009, by Bob Milkey. (doc)**

***6.3. Reserves and investment**

***6.3.1. Thoughts relevant to the development of an investment policy, by Bob Milkey. (doc)**

The EC took note of the valuable reports and documents of past chair of the IAU EC Finance Sub-Committee chair Bob Milkey.

***6.3.2 IAU Reserves, by Paul Murdin, chair Finance Sub-Committee. (late doc)**

The EC accepted the recommendations made by Paul Murdin, chair of the IAU EC Finance Sub-Committee. A Paris-based internationally operating bank will be sought. The currency in which the IAU will operate will be Euro rather than CHF.

AI-EC83-18 on GS: Solicit, together with EC Finance Sub-Committee chair Paul Murdin, proposals from Paris-based internationally operating banks, to handle the IAU accounts and the investment of IAU reserves in excess of CHF 500,000.-. Due date: October 2007. [In progress. PM has written a RPF, GS has written to four Paris-based international banks on 7 November 2007. No response yet.]

***6.4. Draft accounts 2006. (late doc)**

The EC approved the IAU 2006 accounts and expressed appreciation for all the work done by Monique Orine.

***6.5. Status of payments of dues by National Members. (late doc)**

The EC expressed its concern about the National Members in arrear. Their adherent organizations will receive a reminder from the GS, copied to the chair of their NCA. The President will send an accompanying letter to the President of the Academy of those countries. Dues will not be waived for any country. There should be a limit to sympathy with individual countries. A penalty could be: "the IAU will not support a proposed IAU Symposium in your country".

AI-EC83-19 on GS & P: Send reminders to National Members in arrear, with copies to their NCA chairpersons. Due date: September 2007. [Done.]

***6.6. Proposal to change dues category for specific National Members. (doc)**

***6.7. Comments on 6.6. by Bob Williams and Paul Murdin. (doc)**

***6.8. Draft letter to IAU Adhering Organizations requesting IAU dues increase. (doc)**

In the forthcoming letter, to be made more forceful and straightforward, of the GS to specific IAU National Members (with copy to their NCA chair) asking them to step up their dues category, the spending of the money will be clearly advertised, quantifying the benefits: some 70% of the IAU income is returned to Individual Members and the astronomical community at large in travel grants for IAU Symposia and IAU General Assemblies and in the IAU Educational Programs (ISYA, TADD, WWDA, EA). No reference to the country's GDP will be made, because of too many complicating aspects.

AI-EC83-20 on GS: Write to National Members as specified in Doc.6.8, asking them to step up their dues category. Due date: September 2007. [Done: see 5.3.]

***6.9. Discussion document by John Hearnshaw. (doc)**

The EC took of Hearnshaw's note, with appreciation for the effort. However, in view of the decisions made under 6.8 and 7.3, his proposal for a decimal restructuring of the IAU minimum dues bases on their GDP was not considered effective and too complicated to sell to the IAU membership at large.

***7. NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE IAU**

***7.1. Lost National Members. (doc)**

***7.2. Potential new National Members. (doc)**

Action for VPs: use contacts in individual countries for informal consultation.

AI-EC83-21 on VPs (= AI-OM07-28): Seek and approach individual contacts in potential member countries and write to suspended countries. Due date: Progressive.

***7.3. A case for Prospective National Membership. (doc)**

The EC decided to propose to GA 2009 a new category of IAU National Membership for countries with five or less individual IAU members: "Prospective membership", with no dues and no voting rights, for a maximum period of six years.

AI-EC83-22 on P & GS (= AI-OM07-26): Develop a proposal for IAU Prospective National Membership, open to countries with at most five IAU members which intend to become IAU Interim National Members within 6 years. This Prospective category would only be open to new National Members, and no dues would be payable. The maximum period of Interim membership would remain at 9 years. Due date: asap.

AI-EC83-23 on P-E (= AI-OM07-27): Produce draft changes to IAU Statutes, etc., to incorporate above changes for review at EC84. Due date: December 2007.

***8. THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009**

***8.1. Current activities. Report by chair EC-WG IYA2009. (P)**

***8.2. Single Points of Contact. (doc)**

***8.5. IYA 2009 Vision, Mission, Goals and Evaluation. (late doc)**

The EC took note of the multitude of activities carried out by the EC WG on the IYA 2009. Their brochure, issued in October 2006, is currently being refreshed/revised.

Endorsement by the UN (possibly in November 2007) is being solicited by contacting diplomats of numerous individual countries, an effort coordinated by Claus Madsen of ESO.

***8.4. The IYA 2009 secretariat. (doc)**

Ian Corbett informed the EC that some money has been received, but that the needed goal of € 120,000.- / yr for 2008 and 2009 has not yet been reached by far. In particular the bigger countries are slow to react. Specific events may be easier to get sponsored. The PPGF will not be approached.

Eight candidates are presently being considered for the one position to staff the IYA secretariat hosted by ESO. The IAU reserves may have to be used to cover initial costs of the IAU secretariat, in expectation of subsequent success in finding sponsors for financing the IYA secretariat.

AI-EC83-24 on EC-WG IYA: Make sound one-year-renewable business plan for the IYA 2009 secretariat, and submit that to the EC for comments. Due date: September 2007.

***8.3. UNESCO World Heritage Center Initiative Astronomy and World Heritage**

***8.3.3. Presentation UNESCO WHC Initiative Astronomy and World Heritage at IAU XXVI GA, Prague, August 2006. (doc)**

***8.3.1. Memo meeting Dr. Anna Sidorenko-Dulom, UNESCO-WHC, 21-3-'07. (doc)**

***8.3.2. Draft MoU UNESCO-WHC. (doc)**

The EC does support the initiative and the draft MoU between the IAU and UNESCO, subject to technical changes proposed by Ian Corbett. Active participation in the implementation by IAU Div. XII/Comm.41 on *History of Astronomy* would be very desirable. VP Brian Warner, member of the C41 OC, will contact the C41 VP, Clive L.N. Ruggles, in view of organizing a specific event or initiative in 2009.

AI-EC83-25 on GS: Arrange for the signing of the MoU between IAU and UNESCO WHC on the Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage". **Due date:** asap. [In progress: revised MoU received 5 December 2007, see 11.1]

AI-EC83-26 on VP Brian Warner: Develop with C41 Organizing Committee specific History of Astronomy events for GA 2009 and IYA 2009.

***9. THE 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE IAU, 28 JULY 2009 (BW)**

VP Brian Warner informed us that he does not see himself writing a follow-up history of Adriaan Blaauw's book *History of the IAU. The Birth and First Half-Century of the International Astronomical Union*. (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1994). The EC is looking for someone (perhaps one of our VPs?) interested in contributing to a book on the next 25 years of the IAU (1969-1994) or even up 2009.

AI-EC83-27 on VPs: Search an author for writing the History of the IAU since 1969.

VP Brian Warner, as VP and as member of the OC of IAU Div.XII/Comm.41 on *History of Astronomy*, will with his fellow OC members, consider an event at the IAU XXVII GA in Rio de Janeiro, possibly an Invited Discourse. He will solicit photographic memorabilia from the IAU membership.

AI-EC83-28 on VP Brian Warner: Develop with the C41 Organizing Committee specific astronomy history events for the 2009 IAU XXVII GA in Rio de Janeiro and IYA 2009. **Due date:** May 2008 (EC84).

***10. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PETER AND PATRICIA GRUBER FOUNDATION**

***10.1. Recent correspondence. Increased Prize and Scholarships.** (doc)

***10.2. First Amended Agreement on Collaboration.** (doc)

The EC expressed with enthusiasm its appreciation to the PPGF for increasing the annual PPGF Cosmology Prize award and the PPGF Fellowship program funding.

***10.3. PPGF Cosmology Prize. IAU Advisory Board members 2007.** (doc)

Considering the present total constitution of the Board, the President and the EC thought that it would be better if she could be nominated some time in the future, after the end of Ron Ekers' term. The President argued that, since the IAU may receive comments on the PPGF Cosmology Prize winner selections, it is important to have the President of the IAU as member of the Advisory Board. In any case, the IAU members of the PPGF Advisory Board should keep the President of the IAU informed of selections made.

For filling the present vacancy, the IAU EC after careful suggested Andrei Linde, one of the two winners of the PGF Cosmology Prize 2004, as a member of the PPGF Cosmology Prize Advisory Board 2008-2010. He will be offered IAU Individual membership as well. If Andrei Linde and the PPGF agree, then as of 2008 the IAU membership of the PPGF Cosmology Prize Advisory Board will be:

- Ronald D. Ekers (2006, 2007, 2008)
- James E. Peebles (2007, 2008, 2009)
- Andrei Linde (2008, 2009, 2010)

AI-EC83-29 on GS: Inform the PPGF of the IAU EC nomination of Andrei Linde as member of the IAU section of the PPGF Cosmology Prize Advisory Board for the period 2008-2010.

Due date: asap. [Done]

***10.4. PPGF Fellowship Program. Selection Committee 2007-2009. (doc)**

As of 2007, one PPGF Fellowship will be issued annually at a level of US\$ 50,000.-. The deadline for the PPGF Fellowship 2007 was June 1, 2007. Thirteen applications have been received.

***11. IAU DIVISIONS, COMMISSIONS, WORKING GROUPS, PROGRAM GROUPS**

- *11.1. Div.I/WG Numerical Standards of Fundamental Astronomy. (doc)
- *11.2. Div.III/Comm.15 Physical Studies of Comets and Minor Planets. (doc)
- *11.3. Div.III/Comm.16 Physical Study of Planets and Satellites. (doc)
- *11.4. Div.IV/Comm.45/ WG Standard Stars. (doc)
- *11.5. Div.IV-V/WG Ap and related Stars. (doc)
- *11.6. Div.IX-X/WG International Development of Antarctic Astronomy. (doc)
- *11.7. Div.XII/Comm.50 Protection of Existing and Potential Observatory Sites. (doc)
- *11.8. Div.XII/Comm.55 Communicating Astronomy with the Public. (doc)
- *11.9. Div.X/Comm.40 Radio Astronomy. (late doc)

The EC took note of the reports.

***12. STATUS OF IAU SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

- *12.1. Meetings in 2006. Post Meeting Reports. (doc)
- *12.2. Meetings in 2007
 - *12.2.1. IAU Symposia. (doc)
 - *12.2.2. Regional IAU Meeting, LARIM 2007, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela. (doc)

VP Beatriz Barbuy will attend.

- *12.2.3. Co-sponsored: Communicating Astronomy with the Public 2007, Greece. (doc)

The EC approved co-sponsoring of this event.

- *12.3. Meetings in 2008
 - *12.3.1. IAU Symposia. (doc)

AGS Ian Corbett informed the EC of some date changes and new URLs. The 2008 program now reads:

IAU Symposium No. 251

Organic Matter in Space

18-22 February 2008, Hong Kong, China

Contact: Sun Kwok < sunkwok@hku.hk >, < iau251@hku.hk >

URL: < <http://www.hku.hk/science/iau251> >

IAU Symposium No. 252

The Art of Modelling Stars in the 21st Century

10-14 March 2008, Sanya, Hainan Island, China
Contact: LiCai Deng < licai@boa.ac.cn >
URL : tbd

IAU Symposium No. 253

Transiting Planets
19-23 May 2008, Boston, MA, USA
Contact: Didier Queloz < didier.quelez@obs.unige.ch >
URL: tbd

IAU Symposium No. 254

The Galaxy Disk in Cosmological Context
9-13 June 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark
Contact: Birgitta Nordstrom < birgitta@astro.ku.dk >
URL: < www.nbi.dk/IAU254 >

IAU Symposium No. 255

Low-metallicity Star Formation: from the First Stars to Dwarf Galaxies
16-20 June 2008, Villasimius, Sardinia, Italy
Contact: Leslie Hunt < hunt@arcetri.astro.it >
URL: < <http://www.arcetri.astro.it/iaus255/> >

IAU Symposium No. 256

The Magellanic System: Stars, Gas, and Galaxies
28 July - 1 August 2008, Keele University, Staffordshire, UK
Contact: Jacobus Th. van Loon < jacco@astro.keele.ac.uk >
URL: < <http://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/iaus256/> >

IAU Symposium No. 257

Universal Heliophysical Processes
5-9 September 2008, Ionnina, Greece
Contact: Natchimuthuk Gopalswamy < gopal@ssedmal.gsfs.nasa.gov >
URL: tbd

IAU Symposium No. 258

The Ages of Stars
3-7 November 2008, Baltimore, MD, USA
Contact: David R. Soderblom < drs@stsci.edu >
URL: < www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/iau258/ >

IAU Symposium No. 259

Cosmic Magnetic Fields: from Planets, to Stars and Galaxies
3-7 November 2008, Puerto Santiago, Tenerife, Spain
Contact: Klaus G. Strassmeier < kstrassmeier@aip.de >
URL: < <http://www.aip.de/IAUS259/> >

***12.3.2. Regional IAU Meeting, APRIM 2008, Kunming, China**

Middle East Africa Regional Meeting MEARIM 2008

5-10 April 2008, Cairo, Egypt
contact: Ahmed Abdel Hady < aahady@yahoo.com >
URL: tbd

***12.3.3. Regional IAU Meeting, MEARIM 2008, Cairo, Egypt. (doc)**

10th Asian-Pacific Regional Meeting (APRIM 2008)

1-4 August 2008, Kunming, Yunnan, China

contact: Dr. Jiancheng Wang <jcwang@ynao.ac.cn>

URL: <<http://www.ynao.ac.cn/~aprim/index.htm>>

***12.3.4. Maximum registration fee 2008 Symposia. (doc)**

The EC approved the proposal of the Officers to increase the maximum registration fee for IAU Symposia, including a copy of the Proceedings, from USD 250.- to USD 325.- (on 31-1-2007 corresponding to EUR 250.-), starting with the 2008 IAU Symposia.

***12.3.5. Co-sponsored: 8th Pacific Rim Conf. on Stellar Astrophysics, Thailand. (doc)**

The EC approved the proposal of the Officers to sponsor this astronomy meeting in Thailand, because of the very recent National Membership of Thailand. This, as an exception.

***12.4. Time line for proposals for IAU scientific meetings in 2009. (doc)**

The EC approved the time line for proposals of IAU scientific meetings in 2009, as presented by the AGS.

VP Cheng Fang informed the EC that he and his Chinese colleagues wish to propose an IAU Symposium on solar physics associated with the solar eclipse over Shanghai, 22 July 2009. The EC agreed to lift the formal three months moratorium before and after a GA for this specific proposal.

***13. STATUS OF IAU PUBLICATIONS**

***13.1. Proceedings of Symposia. (doc)**

***13.2. IAU Editorial Board. (doc)**

The EC expressed its satisfaction with the publication process and thanked the AGS for his successful efforts.

AI-EC83-30 on VP Martha Haynes: Inform AGS on new procedures of publishing. Due date: progressive.

***13.3. Proceedings of Regional IAU Meetings. (doc)**

The AGS informed the EC that the MEARIM proceedings will be published by the Cairo University Press.

***13.4. Highlights of Astronomy. (doc)**

The EC discussed the value of the IAU Highlights of Astronomy, i.e., the scientific proceedings of IAU General Assemblies. It was argued that the Highlights are important for participants/authors to guarantee their participation and proof of their participation in the GA.

***13.5. Transactions of the IAU. (doc)**

The EC discussed the value of the IAU Transactions A, Reports of Astronomy, i.e. the scientific activities of the IAU Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups between General Assemblies, as input for the upcoming GA. IAU Transactions XXVIA, edited by Oddbjorn Engvold, is available on the CUP web site, and hard copies have been sent to all EC members. IAU Transactions XXVI B, i.e., the proceedings of the GA 2006 proper and the business meetings, will be published in the course of 2007. For the time being, all EC members are requested to study IAU Transactions XXVIA, and comment on it at EC84. See:

< <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=IAU&volumeId=1&issueId=T26A> >.

AI-EC83-31 on EC: Study IAU Transactions XXVIA, and comment at EC84 on content and functionality. Due date: May 2008.

***13.6. IAU Information Bulletin. (doc)**

The EC expressed its satisfaction with the availability of the IAU Information Bulletins on the IAU web site, as initiated by past-GS Oddbjorn Engvold.

IB 100 will, next to its regular items, have a chapter written by past IAU General Secretaries, with recollections they have of their term of service.

***14. IAU EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF DIVISION XII / COMMISSION 46**

***14.1. Program Group International Schools for Young Astronomers (PG-ISYA)**

***14.1.1. ISYA history. (doc)**

The EC expressed its satisfaction with the excellent report by Michèle Gerbaldi. P-E Bob Williams will use this report for soliciting additional sponsoring of the IAU Educational Program Groups. VP George Miley volunteered to serve as ex-officio member on the OC of IAU Div.XII/Comm.46 on *Astronomy Education and Development* and its Program Groups.

AI-EC83-32 on VP George Miley: Contact the President of IAU Div.XII/Comm.46 and take part in its Organizing Committee and its Program Groups. Due date: asap. [Done.]

***14.1.2. ISYA 2007. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5-24 March 2007, program. (doc)**

***14.1.3. ISYA 2007. Opening statement GS on behalf of the IAU EC. (doc)**

***14.1.4. ISYA 2007. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5-24 March 2007, report. (doc)**

The EC took note of this very successful ISYA, the last one organized by PG ISYA chair Michèle Gerbaldi, and the very generous hosting and sponsoring of the Malaysian authorities. Renewed contact with North Korea, lost since 1994, is an interesting spin-off of this ISYA.

***14.1.5. Mini-ISYA 2007. Beirut, Lebanon, mid July 2007, postponed. (doc)**

The unfortunately instable local situation in Lebanon may have caused this postponement. This fact triggered the question of the responsibility of the IAU for the safety of the teachers. Expert advice (ICSU?) may be needed for this.

AI-EC83-33 on AGS: Prepare a standard MoA, to be used for each ISYA, including issues on responsibility for safety and health. Due date: asap.

***14.1.6. ISYA 2008. Letter-of-Intent from Turkey. (doc)**

The EC agreed that if National Member Turkey should first pay all its arrears in dues, before formal approval of this ISYA, planned for 2008, can be given by the EC.

***14.2. Program Group Teaching for Astronomy Development (PG-TAD). (doc)**

***14.3. World Wide Development of Astronomy (PG-WWDA). (doc)**

***14.3.1. PG-WWDA program 2006-2009 (IB99, p. 69). (doc)**

***14.3.2. PG-WWDA report on Astronomy in Thailand and in Laos. (doc)**

***14.3.3. PG-WWDA report on Astronomy in Bangladesh. (doc)**

The EC took note of these very useful reports, and expressed its gratitude to the chairs and OC members of the Program Groups initiating and implementing these educational programs.

AI-EC83-34 on VP George Miley: Help create a pool of potentially available teachers covering all aspects of astronomy for PG-ISYA and PG-TAD. Due date: asap.

AI-EC83-35 on VP George Miley: Help create a pool of potentially available visiting astronomers PG-WWDA. Due date: asap.

***14.4. Co-sponsoring of COSPAR Capacity Building Workshops. (doc)**

The EC approved the decision of the Officers, to continue the co-sponsoring by the IAU of COSPAR Capacity Building Workshops.

***15. NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH IAU REPRESENTATIVES**

***15.1. CCTF, report Meeting September 2006, by Dennis D. McCarthy. (doc)**

***15.2. CODATA, report by Ray Norris. (doc)**

***15.3. IERS, report Directing Board Meeting No. 43, by Nicole Capitaine. (doc)**

***15.4. IGBP, report by Richard Strom. (doc)**

***15.5. IHY, kickoff report, by David F. Webb. (doc)**

***15.6. ISES, annual report 2006, communicated by Helen Coffey. (doc)**

***15.7. IUCAF, annual report 2006, by Wim van Driel. (doc)**

***15.8. SCOSTEP, report by Natchimuthuk Gopalswamy. (doc)**

***15.9. UN-COPUOS, Statement of the IAU, Vienna, 13 February 2007, by KAvdH. (doc)**

***15.10. ICSU, by Ian F. Corbett.**

***15.10.1. Agenda Unions meeting, Rome 23-24 April 2007. (late doc)**

***15.10.2. Report ICSU Unions meeting and GeoUnions meeting, Rome 21-24 April 2007. (late doc)**

The EC took note of these reports, in gratitude to the IAU representatives for their time and effort in participating in these international organizations on behalf of the IAU.

***16. EC84, SPRING 2008. PLACE AND DATE. (OE)**

The EC agreed on the dates 20-22 May 2008 for EC84. Past-GS Oddbjørn Engvold will propose a venue in Norway.

AI-EC83-36 on Oddbjørn Engvold: Inform EC on venue in Norway for EC84. Due date: August 2007. [Done, see 19.1]

***17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

***17.1. Student participation. (late doc)**

The GS, together with the president of C46, will suggest the author of the letter to participate in the next GA 2009 Young Astronomers Events, to be organized by a WG of C46. VP Martha Haynes suggested that GA-YAEs should be organized as much as possible by PhD students themselves.

AI-EC83-37 on GS/chair C46: Draft an IAU e-Newsletter soliciting student participation in the organization of the GA 2009 Young Astronomers Events. Due date: October 2008.

***17.2. Fast procedure for IAU membership.**

A fast procedure for IAU membership can be obtained via the GS through correspondence with the relevant Division president and the chair of the relevant NCA.

***17.3. A strategy plan for the IAU.**

The need always exists for a strategy plan. However, first we should make sure to have the preparations for GA 2009 and IYA 2009 in place!

AI-EC83-38 on GS: In communication with presidents of IAU Divisions, Commissions and chair persons of Working Groups / Program Groups, ask for input on strategy ideas for the Union. Due date: progressive.

AI-EC83-39 on P: Prepare for IAU Strategic Plan discussion. Due date: progressive.

***18. LIST OF ACTION ITEMS**

The GS did read the action items, as marked in these minutes in blue.

The EC agreed on the following portfolio's for the current IAU Vice-Presidents:

- Beatriz Barbuy GA 2009
- Cheng Fang PPGF Fellowship selection, APRIM 2008, GA 2009
- Martha Haynes electronic publishing advice for AGS
- George Miley Commission 46 and its Program Groups
- Giancarlo Setti participation in Statutes revision
- Brian Warner Commission 41 event(s) during GA 2009

***19. CLOSING OF EC83**

The President closed EC83 at 16:00 hr, thanking VP-Brian Warner and asking him to extend our gratitude once more to our South African hosts for the generous hospitality received in Cape Town.

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