

EUROPEAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (EAS)

BYE-LAWS

I. Introduction

1. These Bye-laws are intended to supplement the Constitution of the EAS by specifying various detailed procedures. In case of conflict between the Constitution and the Bye-laws, the former shall be paramount.

II. Membership

1. Persons applying for ordinary membership normally shall do so on the standard application form. The application should be supported by two Ordinary Members. The latter requirement is waived for Members of Affiliated Societies and IAU members.
2. Students for an advanced degree applying for Junior membership normally shall do so on the standard application form. The application should be supported by the supervisor and one (other) Ordinary Member. At the beginning of the year following the award of the Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree, the Junior membership shall cease and the Junior Member may request to become an Ordinary Member. No person may be Junior Member for more than seven years unless Council decides otherwise because of exceptional circumstances. Junior Members are entitled to a reduced annual contribution (to be set by Council). They have the same rights and privileges as Ordinary Members.
3. The conditions for Associate, Honorary, and Organisational membership may be set by Council.
4. Associate, Honorary, and Organisational Members shall not be entitled to vote.
5. A member who has not paid after due warning, for two years, the dues established by Council according to chapter VI, Article 2, of these Bye-Laws, ceases to be a member of EAS.

III. Affiliated Societies

1. Council may decide on a special membership fee for the members of an Affiliated Society if
 - a) that Society collects and transmits the dues for the EAS members belonging to that Society,
 - b) other circumstances are considered by Council to justify such a special membership fee.
2. Council may decide to allow the publication of papers presented at meetings of Affiliated Societies in a publication of the Society under conditions to be set by Council.

IV. The Council

1. Members of Council will serve for a period of four years with half of the Council rotating off every two years. The President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and two Councilors will rotate off together; the other Vice-President, the Secretary and the other three Councilors will rotate off two years later.
2. Council will propose by mail to the Ordinary Members and to the Affiliated Societies a slate of candidates for vacant posts on the Council no later than six months before the vacancies normally arise. Council may appoint a Nominating Committee and delegate this task to that Committee. Groups of at least 20 Ordinary Members or (groups of) Affiliated Societies with at least 50 Ordinary Society Members may nominate additional candidates, provided such candidates have indicated in writing that they are willing to serve if elected. Such nominations are valid only if they reach the Secretary within two months following the date of the mailing of the slate proposed by Council. If such additional nominations have been made, then no later than one month after the deadline for receipt of nominations the Secretary will mail to all ordinary members ballots containing the nominations proposed by Council and the additional nominations. The persons having received the largest number of votes, by a count of the ballots received within two months from the date on which the ballots were mailed, will be considered to have been elected.
3. If in accordance with Article 14 of the constitution, a resolution has been adopted which states that the membership has no confidence in the Council, and if in this resolution a Nominating Committee is presented of at least five members who have agreed to serve, the Council shall resign as soon as the Nominating Committee has appointed a new Council. In that case the new President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and two Councilors will serve for two years and the other Council members for four years. Members of the preceding Council are not excluded from being appointed to the new Council.
4. If for any reason the positions of six or more members of the Council are vacant, the Council shall be deemed no longer to be in function. If also no Nominating Committee has been presented in a no-confidence resolution which has been adopted, then a Nominating Committee shall be constituted by the past and present General Secretaries of the International Astronomical Union who are also members of the Society. The Nominating Committee shall appoint a new Council as under Article 3 of this chapter.
5. At the meetings of the Council six members present shall constitute a quorum.

V. Meetings of the Society

1. The meeting of the Society with the Affiliated Societies will be called Business Meeting.
2. The agenda of a General Assembly of the Society, including the resolutions proposed by Council, shall be mailed to the members at least two months before the date of the meeting.
3. At the General Assembly, 50 Ordinary Members present shall constitute a quorum.
4. A group of at least ten Ordinary Members or an Affiliated Society may propose resolutions for consideration at the General Assembly by notifying, in writing, the

President or the Council member acting on his behalf no later than 24 hours before the beginning of the General Assembly.

5. If the majority of the Ordinary Members voting approves a resolution and if Council agrees to the resolution, it shall be deemed to have been adopted. If Council does not agree to the resolution, a mail ballot will be sent to all ordinary members within one month after the General Assembly, and the matter will be decided by the majority of the members voting, whose ballots will have been received less than two months after they were mailed.
6. A resolution which includes a provision for the expenditure of funds may only be considered if the source of these funds is explicitly stated.
7. Amendments which do not fundamentally change a resolution may be proposed by Ordinary Members present at the General Assembly and adopted by a majority of those present and voting.
8. An Ordinary Member or representative of an Affiliated Society present at the General Assembly may propose that additional items be placed on the agenda. Resolutions adopted by the majority of the Ordinary Members voting concerning these additional items will be only in the nature of an advice to Council.

VI. Finances of the Society

1. The Council shall establish a budget for a two year period. The budget will be communicated to the members of the Society.
2. The Council shall establish a schedule of annual contributions for the different classes of membership. The contributions shall be expressed in Euro and may be converted to other currencies as appropriate on the basis of the exchange rates in force at the time the schedule is established. The contributions cannot be increased by more than the cumulative inflation correction – determined for Geneva, Switzerland – since the last preceding change, without approval by the membership. A proposal for such a larger change has to be made to the membership by mail no less than four months before the beginning of the calendar year for which the increase is sought; for approval, a majority of the votes received two months after the ballots have been mailed shall be required.
3. The Council shall set a special schedule of contributions for scientists in countries which have non-convertible currencies or where the salary level for scientists is significantly below the average for the European countries with convertible currencies. The special schedules will be reviewed and adjusted from time to time by Council. The limitation on increases by the cumulative inflation correction determined for Geneva shall not apply to these special schedules. Council may also set special schedules for particular categories of members (retired, unemployed, etc.) and for Organisational Memberships.

VII. Communication

1. Mail from Council to the members of the Society can be sent out by normal mail or by electronic communication, including in those cases in the Constitution or in the Bye-Laws which mention the use of mail (e.g., elections, invitation to the General Assembly, mail ballots and amendments of Constitution and/or Bye-Laws).

VIII. Amendments

1. Proposals to amend the Constitution or the Bye-Laws shall be mailed to the members at least two months before the General Assembly at which they are to be considered.
2. A group of at least 50 Ordinary Members or Affiliated Societies with a total membership in the Society of at least 100 ordinary members may also propose such amendments which should be received by the President no later than three months before the General Assembly.
3. In cases where a mail ballot is to take place, the ballots will be mailed within one month after the General Assembly, and the matter will be decided by the appropriate majority of the ordinary members voting whose ballots will have been received less than two months after they were mailed.

Geneva, December 2008