

European Astronomical Society

1st Business Meeting
Hatfield, April 20, 2009

Draft Minutes

Attendance: Name list available on request from EAS

The Session was opened by the President, Joachim Krautter, at 12h40.

This was followed by each participant presenting him or herself, and stating the Affiliated Society being represented.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted unchanged.

2. Report by the President

The President, Joachim Krautter, explained that Thierry Courvoisier (Vice-President) had announced he would leave office one year early, by June 2009, to take a one-year leave. The President thanked Thierry for his hard work for the Society and wished him well.

The President announced that Martin Huber was appointed by EAS Council to finish Thierry's mandate. Martin will take forward the issue of the Status of Astronomy in Europe.

The Treasurer, Anne Dutrey, mentioned that EAS Council had acted to sponsor the IYA with a grant, thus becoming an IYA2009 Organisational Associate.

The President thanked the Secretary, Elias Brinks, for his involvement in the organisation of the European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (JENAM2009) at the University of Hertfordshire, UK.

Joachim Krautter insisted that, now that the new EAS Constitution and Bye-Laws have come into force, the Business Meeting is the platform *par excellence* for the Affiliated Societies to interact with the EAS, and among each other, to their mutual benefit.

3. Information exchange between EAS and the Affiliated Societies

It was mentioned that retrieving one's password on the EAS Member page could be made more user-friendly. Thierry Courvoisier would look into this.

Areg Mickaelian made the suggestion that all past JENAM's and their links (where still existing) be put on the EAS Webpage. He also suggested that a history of previous EAS Council members be maintained on the EAS Web.

Birgitta Nordstrom proposed that the EAS maintain a web page with a list of all Summer/Winter Schools.

4. Contacts with Sister Societies

The President gave an oral report on existing contacts with Sister Societies. In particular, discussions were initiated recently with Stefan Poeltz of EPS to set up a Joint Division for Solar Physics.

It was suggested that once successful, similar agreements could be put in place, for example within the area of Astroparticle Physics (contacts via ApNET).

Further possibilities could be: SEAC (Société Européenne pour l'Astronomie dans la Culture), UNESCO, Euroscience, and the EAAE (European Association for Astronomy Education).

5. Status of EAS Mission Statement (Astroland)

The President reviewed the "Astroland" document prepared by Thierry Courvoisier and the various "actions" listed therein.

It was recognized that EAS activities fall outside existing support structures within the wider EU research area, despite its activities being directly relevant to furthering astronomy research and collaboration across Europe.

It was suggested that EAS could try to liaise with ASTRONET and, at the very least, try to lobby for financial support for EU-wide meetings such as the JENAMs.

6. JENAM 2010, Lisbon, Portugal

The next European Week of Astronomy and Space Science will be held from 6-10 September 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal.

7. Future activities

EAS has started the process to create a brochure, advertising its activities and the benefits EAS membership brings. This process is being managed by Jan Palouš (Vice-President).

As mentioned, Martin Huber (Vice-President a.i.) will continue to develop EU-wide strategy issues, following on from the Astroland document.

A suggestion by Areg Mickaelian, to make a “snapshot” of EU astronomy was thought to be worthwhile, but far too difficult and not within the means of EAS.

8. Any Other Business

As no further questions were raised, the President closed the session, thanking all attendants for their participation, at 13h55.