

European Astronomical Society

14th Council Meeting, Part I

Munich, September 10, 2001
Draft Minutes

Attendance:

A) Council members:

- Harvey Butcher (President elect)
- Anatol Cherepashchuk (Vice-President)
- Cesare Chiosi (Vice-President elect)
- Michel Dennefeld (Councillor elect)
- Maria Kontizas (Councillor)
- Joachim Krautter (Secretary)
- Birgitta Nordstroem (Treasurer)
- Jean-Paul Zahn (President)

B) Representatives of Affiliated Societies

- Nikolai Bochkarev (Eurasian Astronomical Society)
- Suzy Collin-Zahn (French Astronomical Society)
- Izold Pustylnik (Estonian Astronomical Society)
- Helen Rovithis-Livaniou (HELASET)
- Ronald Weinberger (Astronomische Gesellschaft)

C) Guest

- Areg Mickaelian (Armenian Astronomical Society)
- Erwin Sedlmayr (Astronomische Gesellschaft)
- Edith Thomas (EAS Secretary)

The president opened the meeting at 17^h05^m

1) **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted with a slight re-arrangement of topics 4, 5, and 6.

2) **Adoption of the Minutes from the 13th EAS Council Meeting, Moscow 2000**

The minutes were adopted without changes.

3) **Report by the President**

The Council agreed that the president Jean-Paul Zahn will give his report at the business meeting.

4) **Report by the Secretary**

The secretary gave a statistics of the membership. A second point was notification of EAS members by email. In principle it would save a lot of money if all notifications were done by email. However, since some 15% of the members could not react to email, it was doubtful whether all members could be really reached via email. Notwithstanding that fact Council agreed to handle as many topics as possible by email. It should be posted on the webpage and the members notified by email.

5) **Election of new Council members**

The secretary J. Krautter reported on the outcome of the elections for Council. The suggestions by Council had been sent out in due time to the EAS members. Since no other suggestions for candidates were sent to EAS, the following candidates proposed by Council were elected:

Harvey Butcher (Leiden, President
Cesare Chiosi (Padua), Vice-President
Michel Dennefeld (Paris), Councillor
Oddbjorn Engvold, Councillor

6) **Report by the Treasurer**

The treasurer Birgitta Nordstroem presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as per 31 December 2000. She referred to the auditor's report which will be presented at the Business Meeting two days later. There was no discussion on the two documents presented by the treasurer.

The treasurer presented the *EAS Budget 2002*. The expenses for the Newsletter arose some discussion among the Council members. Suggestions were to send the Newsletter to institutes or laboratories only instead of to individual members or to send out the Newsletter electronically only. Council agreed to continue sending out a printed version of the Newsletter to individual members.

7) **Membership Fee**

Council agreed to the treasurer's suggestion to keep the membership fee constant. The treasurer made the caveat that it might be necessary to increase the membership fee with increasing activities. Michel Dennefeld insisted that any increase of the membership fee should be accompanied by new activities.

8) **Strategic Planning**

The president summarized the situation, which he described also in his message of Newsletter 21. To explore the role that EAS could play in the strategic planning of European astronomy, he contacted several organisations and institutions: ESO, ESA, IRAM, and the European Science Foundation. ESO and IRAM were the most open to such an initiative, and ESA the most reluctant (such planning is accomplished by its own). ESF found the idea quite interesting, but insisted that it should be done under its auspices. The conclusion drawn by the president is that the situation is not ripe. He recalled that in the US the National Research Council appoints every 10 years a survey committee, to which it gives mandate for such planning, with NSF, NASA, etc. providing the necessary support. The American Astronomical Society contributes by organising forums on selected subjects, to associate more widely the community in the planning. This is a role that EAS is not only able, but most willing to play, should such a planning be launched in Europe, by one (or several) of its ruling bodies. But one hardly sees how EAS could take the initiative, without any mandate from an European ruling body or agency.

9) **State of Membership**

As already mentioned in the report by the secretary, the membership state is in a stable situation. No further discussion.

10) **The EAS WWW Homepage**

The webpage manager Michel Dennefeld asked for suggestions, new ideas, etc.

The suggestion was made that emails should be sent to national societies which should work as multipliers. Council did not consider this to be a solution which would guarantee wide distribution.

The webpage manager addressed the problem that there are emails coming to him which required some action.

11) **Newsletter**

The Newsletter editor Mary Kontizas asked for more input from the national societies.

12) **EAS Conference Series**

The president told that several publishers were contacted. He had received offers from three companies. The president mentioned that Cambridge University Press had not sent an offer, but according to his impression might be possibly open to a publication in some other format (monographs?).

13) **EAS Representation in Opticon**

B. Nordstroem gave an overview on Opticon. Several Working Groups were formed so far. For further information she referred to the webpage (<http://www.astro-opticon.org>).

14) **Future Activities of EAS**

See TOP 17.

15) **Joint Divisions EAS/EPS**

It was suggested to record in the membership list of EAS any membership in a Joint Division.

Council agreed that EAS should encourage members to join Joint Divisions. This topic will be introduced into the EAS membership application forms.

16) **Awards**

Suzy Collin-Zahn suggested a common EAS prize. This would be very very attractive and would certainly attract new members.

It was suggested that national societies should participate in the selection process of a possible prize.

In the following discussion several aspects were mentioned like costs for a prize, participation of national societies (like in selection process) or that the Greek Society had a prize for the best PhD. In the end Council did not arrive at a conclusion.

17) **Next General and Council Meeting**

Possible candidates for the next meeting are Portugal and Liege for which EAS had received an invitation by J.-P. Swings

18) **Any Other Business**

Council agreed that EAS should start new initiatives. It was considered as very important that these initiatives should be made visible to both EAS members and non-members as an incentive to join EAS.

The president closed the meeting at 18^h30^m