

# European Astronomical Society

## 16th Council Meeting

Budapest, August 27, 2003  
Draft Minutes

### Attendance:

#### A) Council members:

- Harvey Butcher (President)
- Anal Cherepashchuk (Vice-President)
- Michel Dennefeld (Councillor + French Astronomical Society)
- Joachim Krautter (Secretary)
- Birgitta Nordstroem (Treasurer)
- Peter Shaver (Councillor)
- Magda Stavinschi (Councillor)

#### B) Representatives of Affiliated Societies

- Paul Laskaridis (HELAS)
- Laurits Leedjaw (Estonian Astronomical Society)
- Areg Mickaelian (ArAS)
- Vladimir Ruzdjak (Croatian Astronomical Society)
- Eduard Salvador-Soleé (SEA)
- Nikolai Samus (Eurasian Astronomical Society)
- Irina Vavilova (UAA)

#### C) Guest

- Nikolai Bochkariov (Eurasian Astronomical Society)
- Mary Kontizas (Newsletter editor)
- Edith Thomas (EAS executive secretary)

The president opened the meeting at 16<sup>h</sup>08<sup>m</sup>

### 1) **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

### 2) **Adoption of the Minutes from the 15th EAS Council Meeting, Porto 2002**

The minutes were adopted without changes.

### 3) **Report by the President**

The president H. Butcher pointed out that the present meeting contains some several topics which should make the meeting more interesting to the participants. He addressed the National Priorities Initiative which will play an important role on the Thursday morning session. Finally he emphasized that for a sound development of the society the number of members has to be increased, in particular those who pay full membership fee.

### 4) **Report by the Treasurer**

The treasurer B. Nordstroem presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as per 31 December 2002 (see appendix). She explained that the Newsletter had become cheaper due to a decrease in the distribution costs. She also mentioned that some asset capital has been decreasing. She recommended that the capital could go down as low as one year income, but not lower. In that case the income should be raised.

M. Dennefeld recommended two year reserve, otherwise no long term planning would be possible. It was agreed that two years should be goal.

Concerning the budget 2004 Council recommended to increase the expenses for the Newsletter by 1000.- SFr.

### 5) **Report by the Secretary**

The secretary J. Krautter gave a short summary of his activities. He urged the Affiliated Societies to keep the secretary informed about any changes.

### 6) **State of Membership**

An updated list with the EAS membership statusd was distributed (see Appendix).

Council did not object to exclude those members who don't pay their membership fee. B. Nordstroem will write a letter to all of those, they will be excluded and would have to re-apply for membership. It was not quite clear what to do about those Affiliated Societies which do not have any paying members. The president suggested to Council to have some special measures to clarify thie situation.

### 7) **Membership Fee**

The tresurer B. Nordstroem summarised the state of membership fees. Both she and the president suggested some adjustment.

Council agreed that the membership fees should be changed to Euro.

Council agreed to the following new membership fees:

Ordinary members: 40 Euro

Members of Affiliated Societies: 35 Euro

Low paying countries: 6 Euro Countries from eastern Europe should collect the membership fees in national currencies and should convert them afterwards. Those Affiliated Societies which see any problems (amount, way of payment) should should contact Council.

Council strongly urged all representatives of Affiliated Societies to encourage their society members to become also members of EAS.

### **7) Re-Phasing Council Elections**

Council realized that the election period for Council members is not any longer in order with the Bye-Laws IV.1: 'Members of Council will serve for a period of four years with half of the Council rotating every two years. The President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and two Councillors will rotate off together; the other Vice-president, the Secretary and the three other Counncillors will rotate-off two years later.'

In order to solve this problem and to get again back in tune with the Bye-Laws, Council decided to extend the period of the four members elected in 2001 (H. Butcher, President; C. Chiosi, Vize-President; M. Dennefeld, Councillor; O. Engvold, Councillor) by one year and that one of B. Nordstroem (treasurer) elected in 2000 by two years.

### **9) Amendments to Constitution and Bye-Laws**

J. Krautter described the topics under discussion (name of business meeting, application procedures, Junior Members, written paper mail vs. email).

Council agreed that only By-Laws should be changed because of the much easier procedure. Since 'Business Meeting' appears in the Constitution, an article should be added to the Bye-Laws that the Business Meeting is called General Assembly.

Council agreed that a paragraph should be added into the Bye-Laws defining mail in different situations. Mail which involves people will still be written paper mail.

### **10) EAS Secretariat**

The future of the office in Geneva was discussed in view of the move of EPL to Mulhouse. The President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer should present a final solution in the near future. It should be discussed with Council before a decision.

Topics under discussion were whether a formal stay in a non-EU country could create problems with the EU and a possible offer from Geneva Observatory to host the secretariat. Also the production of the Newsletter in Geneva was mentioned.

### **11) National Priorities Initiative**

According to the President the project is somewhat stuck, since Germany and France are rather late. These two countries should be included before final publication. EU science foundation would be willing to publish the booklet. The President expressed his hope, that this booklet will be a stimulus for other countries.

Discussion on the role of EAS. EAS should provide information, make public what everybody

is doing, but should not do any evaluation.

#### 12) **The EAS WWW Homepage and Mailing List**

No discussion.

#### 13) **ERA Net Programme and EAS**

The President gave a description of the status. The question arose whether EAS qualifies. In principle yes, but funding for national funding agencies. He also gave some examples like e.g. development of a directory.

Council agreed that as a first step EAS should go to Brussels to announce that it wants to do certain things. Next deadline for proposals is March. For a funding within the FP6 framework only time limited project are possible.

The President should contact EU in the near future.

#### 14) **EAS Newsletter**

A follower for the Newsletter editor M. Kontizas has to be found. M. Kontizas, who wants to finish by end of 2004 is willing to train her follower. The follower should overlap for one year with M. Kontizas.

M. Kontizas asks for input for the Newsletter.

#### 15) **Joint Division EAS/EPS**

Council strongly urges the Joint Astrophysics Divisions to organize their meetings together with Jenams.

On the information that EU plans to have joint discussions with professional societies around Europe Council agreed that a closer contact with EPS seems to be indicated.

#### 16) **Future Activities of EAS**

On behalf of the EAAS a number of topics was presented to EAS Council:

1) Concerning the Odessa conference the Council that no decision was possible without knowledge of the programme.

2) For several other topics which referred to support of several projects Council recommended that N. Bochkariov should address these problems in the Newsletter.

3) Council decided to reserve at Jenam2004 some time for a discussion on the possibilities of enhanced cooperations.

4) For part of the topics EU seems to be the right institution for assistance. EAS can only make known where possibilities are. N. Bochkariov should draft a letter and send it to HB. If there seems to be some possibilities for success, it will be sent to EU.

A discussion on an European prize arose. Council agreed that it would be good to have such a prize. However, Council also realises the difficulties of it's implementation. B. Nordstroem should find out about the Carlsberg foundation, J. Krautter on the Tschira-Stiftung.

It was suggested to write a letter to possible founding institutions. P. Shaver agreed to draft such a letter.

B. Nordstroem pointed out the possibility of an associate membership; it would be an easy thing to encourage foundation or societies to become associate members.

#### 17) **Next General and Council Meetings**

Jenam2004 will be organized by the Spanish Astronomical Society. It will take place from September 13-17 in Granada.

The intention of SEA concerning the proceedings is to publish one book with plenary talks and review talks from Minisymposia and issue one cdcCD with all other contributions. The format of the meeting was discussed.

EAS pointed out that the Minisymposia should be published in the EAS Publication Series (EDP Science). SEA objected to that. Further discussion will be needed.

P. Shaver reminded at the JAD meetings.

Council agreed that it would be difficult to hold in 2006 a meeting in Armenia because of the IAU in Prague. The plan is now to hold the meeting in 2007 in Armenia. JENAM2005 should be in Liege on invitation by J.P. Swings.

M. Dennefeld suggested to hold Jenams in late May, since August is a not very well suited.

#### 18) **Other Business**

A search committee for new Council members had to be installed. Council suggested J.P. Zahn, Th. Courvoisier and B. Shustov for this committee.

The President closed the meeting at 19:22