

European Astronomical Society

18th Council Meeting

Liege, Tuesday, July 6, 2005
Draft Minutes

Attendance:

A) Council members:

- Harvey Butcher (President)
- Michel Dennefeld (Councillor & Webmaster)
- Alvaro Gimenez (Councillor)
- Joachim Krautter (Secretary & Astronomische Gesellschaft)
- Birgitta Nordström (Treasurer)
- Sabine Schindler (Councillor & Austrian Society for Astronomy and Astrophysics)
- Milcho Tsvetkov (Councillor)
- Yaroslav Yatskiv (Vize-President)

B) Representatives of Affiliated Societies

- Susan Ames (Royal Astronomical Society)
- Jerome Bouvier (French Astronomical Society)
- Paul Laskaridis (Hellenic Astronomical Society)
- Areg Mickaelian (Armenian Astronomical Society)
- Jose Rodriguez-Espinosa (Spanish Astronomical Society)
- Magda Stavinschi (Romanian Astronomical Society)

C) Guests

- Martine Logossou (EAS executive secretary)

1) **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2) **Adoption of the Minutes from the 17th EAS Council Meeting, Granada 2004**

The minutes were adopted with one change: M. Dennefeld pointed out that the thank to the former executive secretary Edith Thomas which was expressed at the meeting in Granada was missing.

3) **Report by the President**

EAS is now participating in the European Research Council and has indicated support for a number of European enterprises doing lobbying work in Brussels. The president explained the present situation.

The president talked about EAS' participation in various networks. A new network is AS-TRONET which is formed by research Councils, not by scientists.

H. Butcher addressed the role of the secretariat in Geneva. The secretariat asked for a streamlined payment structure, i.e. individual payment for those countries where this is possible. Council agreed to this suggestion. The advantages and disadvantages of payment over the national Affiliated Societies were discussed. Council agreed that the discount should be kept.

H. Butcher summarised that people present agreed to go for individual payment. he announced that the EAS Council will present an implementation plan.

4) **Report by the Treasurer**

B. Nordström presented the economical development over the past five years. The capital remained stable. She stressed the need for more members. She also presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as per 31 December 2004 (see appendix). She explained the high administration costs during 2004. The total income was with 38 175.61 SFr. higher than the expenses of 34 173.44 SFr.

ISDC in Geneva made the proposal for the payment of services to EAS to increase the 5 SFr/member to 7 SFr/member, but at least a minimum of 9000 SFr/year. B. Nordström suggested to accept 7 instead of 5 SFr/member, but not the minimum payment. H. Butcher pointed out that this has to be negotiated. M. Dennefeld said that institutes should do some services for EAS free of charge like e.g. a software engineer at IAP.

The proposed budget for 2006 was adopted.

5) **Report by the Secretary**

J. Krautter described his activities during the last year.

6) **State of Membership**

A list was prepared by M. Logossou. Some 500 nonpaying members have been excluded. The updated number of EAS members is 918.

B. Nordström encouraged young people who get a grant from EAS to join EAS.

J. Bouvier suggested to compare the EAS membership numbers with those of the national societies. B. Nordström asked to send in these numbers.

H. Butcher told that IAU members will be approached. He hopes that the membership will increase by this action.

M. Dennefeld suggested that the Affiliated Societies go critically through their membership list in order to identify candidates for EAS membership.

7) Membership Fees

The membership fees will remain unchanged in 2006.

Y. Yatskiv suggested to decrease the membership fee for extremely poor countries like Tadshikistan.

8) Development Fund

B. Nordström explained the situation with the Development Fund. Since Edith Müller's bequest ran out, she wants to change the name to Travel Fund. The money should be used for travel grants. Council unanimously agreed. The requirements for grants will be posted on the web.

9) Search Committee for new Council members

Council agreed to Michel Dennefeld's suggestion that EAS members should propose names which will be provided to the Search Committee. Of course, the Search Committee will be free to come up with own suggestions.

There was a general agreement that the present way of elections for Council members is not very satisfying, but there was no clear consensus how to improve this situation, except that elections with two candidates or more for each post would be very welcome.

Names suggested for the Search Committee

Lo Woltjer (chairman, agreed already)

Boris Shustov (agreed)

Francoise Combes (has to be asked)

Tim de Zeuw (has to be asked)

10) Document for Planning Jenams

J. Rodriguez-Espinosa will provide the Spanish document in order to improve the EAS document.

10) National Priorities Initiative

All general topics should be there. Document will be put onto website and sent around to Affiliated Societies to ask for comments.

12) The EAS WWW Homepage and Mailing list

No further discussion.

13) **The EAS Newsletter**

No further discussion.

14) **Joint Divisions EAS/EPS**

No further discussion.

15) **Future Activities of EAS**

Because of the IAU General Assembly in Prague (August 2006) no JENAM will take place in 2006. During the IAU general Assembly a Council meeting and the General Assembly will take place as usual.

M. Dennefeld suggested a 2 hour session with highlights of European astronomy. After some discussion it was decided to start with such a session at JENAM 2007.

Areg Mickaelian gave a presentation supporting his invitation to hold JENAM 2007 together with the Armenian Astronomical Society in Byurakan (August 20-25, 2007). Council was generally convinced by Mickaelian's presentation, but made clear that a meeting in Armenia needed some special effort for travel support. A. Mickaelian is very confident to get more financial support. Y. Yatskiv didn't like the name 'Non-stable Universe'. Also more extragalactic topics were suggested. B. Nordström proposed to add smaller meetings in order to achieve a wider interest. Council unanimously agreed to accept the invitation.

H. Butcher told that EAS had received for JENAM 2008 a letter from the Society of Astronomers of Serbia to hold this meeting in Belgrad. A decision will be taken in 2006.

H. Butcher told Council about a memo with items for tasks. He will approach Council members in order to distribute tasks. He also told Council, that an updated version of the National Priorities document will be put on the web.

M. Dennefeld remarked that one topic is missing, the contact person for the organization of Jenams. H. Butcher agreed to that.

S. Ames suggested, that each country in EAS should have a contactperson which can be approached. The names of these persons should be put on the webpage.

For the planned document on National Recruitment Procedures M. Dennefeld asked for commitments by the Affiliated Societies to provide input. Several of the people present agreed, M. Dennefeld will start the task.

16) **Next General and Council Meeting**

Prague 2006 (see also TOP 15).

17) **Any Other Business**

J. Rodriguez-Espinosa remarked that he considers Jenam 2005 to be a failure with 200 participants only. He urged that something has to be done to not waste the capital we still have. It was the general consensus that the scientific topics of the Liege meeting are

too narrow. H. Butcher told his intention to enter the comments of the discussion into the Jenam planning document.

The chairman closed the meeting at 16^h 15^m