

# European Astronomical Society

## Business Meeting

Munich, September 12, 2001

### Draft Minutes

**Attendance:** The Business meeting was attended by 42 EAS members. A name list is available on request from EAS.

The president J.-P. Zahn opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

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

The president suggested slight changes to the agenda. The updated agenda was unanimously adopted.

#### 2) **Minutes of last General Assembly**

No objections against the minutes of the last General Assembly were raised.

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

In his report the president described the state of the Society. The society is in a good shape, JENAM conferences have become successful meetings, and the finances of the Society are, if small, in good order. He mentioned that EAS has chosen a logo. As less satisfactory he considered the stagnation of the EAS membership. He particularly regretted that for young people EAS does not seem to be too attractive, probably for the reason that EAS does not offer what they expect.

#### 4) **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, (Oslo), Councillor

While he was satisfied with the choice of the new Council members, L. Woltjer expressed his wish that in general Council should have a few younger members.

## 5) Address by the New President

Due to urgent commitments the new president, H. Butcher, was not able to attend the General Assembly. An address by H. Butcher (see appendix) to the General Assembly was read by B. Nordstroem.

## 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 and the *EAS Budget 2002* (see appendix).

The report by the auditors (Th. Courvoisier, M. Dennefeld) was presented by M. Dennefeld. They found the accounts to be maintained in very good order and could find all corresponding justifications. They recommended to accept the accounts as presented by the treasurer with thanks to the treasurer and the office secretary of EAS, E. Thomas. They made the following remarks:

1. Despite some improvement with respect to previous years, payment of membership fees is still unsatisfactory. Payments through Affiliated Societies should be improved and more effectively collected. In some countries payments are either not collected or not transferred to the EAS in Geneva.
2. EAS grants to JENAM conferences should be more visible. The beneficiaries should be informed of the source of funding and mention it where appropriate. For JENAM 2000 they noted that 90% of the beneficiaries were from Russia. This they considered geographically unbalanced. Council should ensure that this does not happen again.
3. The costs of the Newsletter (production and mailing), being a major fraction of EAS expenditure, should be closely examined and, where possible, reduced. The costs are substantially higher since in Athens and the reasons for this could not be identified in the invoices.
4. They note that the Society should use its finances to fund activities that reinforce the visibility of the Society beyond the JENAM conferences and the Newsletter.

A discussion took place on the costs of the Newsletter.

M. Dennefeld resigned as auditor, since he had been elected Councillor. The General Assembly elected Rainer Spurzem (Heidelberg) as new auditor.

## 7) EAS Newsletter and Homepage

The newsletter editor, M. Kontizas, asked for suggestions and input from the EAS members. She would like to get a broader scope for the Newsletter.

A report was given by the website manager M. Dennefeld.

## 8) **Joint Divisions EAS/EPS**

J.-P. Swings gave a report on the state of the the Joint Divisions. A new division on Astroparticle has ben founded; the division will hold a kick-off meeting during JENAM2001.

## 9) **Meeting of the Societies of South Eastern Europe**

M. Stavinschi gave a report on the meeting.

## 10) **Next JENAM**

J.-P. Zahn told the General Assembly that the Portuguese Astronomical Society had invited EAS to hold JENAM2002 in Porto.

## 11) **Any Other Business**

The General Assembly strongly supported the Highlight talks which were held for tghe first time at a JENAM. General Assembly asked Council to continue the Highlight talks at the next JENAM meetings.

J. Krautter gave a report on the attendance at JENAM2001. There were a total of more some 500 participants; about 10% were from Eastern Europe.

One member suggested to EAS to open the possibility to pay the membership fee for three years.

The General Assembly supported EAS publications, since these would increase the visibility of EAS.