

European Astronomical Society

14th General Assembly
Prague, Monday August 21, 2006

Minutes

Attendance: 35 EAS members; list available on request.

The President H. Butcher opened the General assembly.

1) Adoption of agenda

The participants agreed that one topic from 10. AOB will be presented at the beginning of the meeting.

2) Adoption of the minutes from of the 13th General Assembly, Liège 2005

The minutes were adopted without changes.

3) Report by the president

The President H. Butcher explained that because of the IAU GA in Prague no Jenam did take place in 2006. He pointed out various activities of EAS like the European day, the survey of European job opportunities or national training schemes. He mentioned the contacts and various activities of EAS with the EU in Brussels. He was asked as president of EAS to advise EU in several matters; also ERC has contacted EAS for advice. ERC has been a tremendous success, mainly because grants are only based on scientific quality. The President also mentioned the discussion with European strategic fora, like ASTRONET, which has taken over the EAS survey on national priorities, and also Radionet, Opticon, and ILIAS. He recommended that in future Council should monitor the developments in Brussels rather closely. Looking back to his five years as EAS president H. Butcher realized that many things were achieved, however, many things are still to be done. He was somewhat disappointed that the financial situation of EAS only slightly improves. He thanked the Council for the good collaboration during the last five years.

4) Report by the treasurer

B. Norström thanked the executive secretary M. Logossou who did most of the work. She presented the income and the expenditure in 2005 as well as the assets and liabilities (see Appendix 1). She realized that the total expenses went down a little bit which resulted in a slight surplus in 2005. The budget for 2007 (see Appendix 1) was approved by Council, for the first time it was presented in Euro.

A presentation of the membership status caused a discussion how to get more EAS members. The report by the auditors R. Spurzem and G. Meylan was presented by R. Spurzem. The finances are kept in the best way without any objections. The auditors are not satisfied with the payment of the membership fees through the Affiliated Societies, they urge that the standard way of payment should be directly to EAS and not through societies. This raised a longer discussion with some in favor and some against.

5) Election of new Council members

The president reported about the outcome of the elections. Last autumn Council had appointed a nominating committee to determine the slate of candidates for the Council positions. Since the deadline for additional proposals has passed without new candidates coming forward, the candidates proposed by the nominating committee are elected:

President: Joachim Krautter, Landessternwarte Königstuhl, Heidelberg.
Vice President: Thierry Courvoisier, INTEGRAL Science Data Centre, Geneva.
Secretary: Elias Brinks, Univ. Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK.
Treasurer: Anne Dutrey, University of Bordeaux.
Councillors: Ernesto Oliva, INAF/Telescopio Nazionale Galileo, IAC, La Palma.
Alexander V. Stepanov, Central Astronomical Obs. Pulkovo, St. Petersburg.

6) EAS Newsletter and Homepage

The Newsletter editor V. Charmandaris asks for articles. The webmaster M. Dennefeld asks for comments from members. He complains about lack of input.

7) Report on JAD Activities

Nothing was received.

8) South-Eastern Branch

S. Aslan reports on activities. The boundaries of South-Eastern Europe were discussed without unanimous outcome.

9) Any Other Business

The Turkish Society expressed its interest to become an Affiliated Society.

R. Khanna (Springer publisher) announced that members of the EAS have reduced membership subscription fee for the A&A Reviews with a 70% discount as compared to institutional subscription.