

CHAPTER II

TWENTY EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BUSINESS SESSIONS

SECOND SESSION: Thursday, 30 August 2012, 16:30-18:00

**Chaired by Robert Williams, President of the IAU
China National Convention Centre, Beijing**

1. Opening and Welcome

The President of the IAU, Prof. Robert Williams, welcomed the delegates and members to this first business session of the General Assembly. The President invited the General Secretary, Dr. Ian Corbett, to start the business session.

2. Individual Membership

The General Secretary reported that the XXVII General Assembly admitted 1008 new Individual members. Their list is given in Chap. VIII of these *Transactions*.

As of 31 August 2012, the number of IAU Individual Members, as recorded in the database, was 9896.

Thanks for a new, database compliant nomination form, the new Individual Members can be immediately added to the database after their admission.

3. Deceased Members

The Executive Committee regretfully reported the decease of 192 Individual Members of the Union, since August 2009. The General Secretary displayed their names on slides, and the General Assembly observed a one-minute silence in their respectful memory.

Their list is also given in Chap. VIII of these *Transactions*.

4. Tribute to Franco Pacini (IAU President 2001-2003)

A brief tribute was paid to Franco Pacini (born and deceased in Florence, 1939-2012), who died a few months before the General Assembly. He was famous for having predicted the existence of pulsars, and was instrumental in taking the first steps towards the IAU International Year of Astronomy in 2009, which ended in January 2010 to celebrate Galileo's 400th anniversary of the discovery of the satellites of Jupiter.

5. Appointment of the Official Tellers

The Official Tellers were duly appointed, and confirmed that the quorum requirements for the National Representatives were duly satisfied..

6. Proposed Changes to the Divisional Structure

The Assistant General Secretary chaired a discussion/questions session with the participants to the General Assembly, prior to the vote of the corresponding Resolution B4 (see item 10 of the first business session).

7. Resolutions

The Resolutions submitted to the General Assembly were examined by the Resolutions Committee, Chaired by Daniela Lazzaro. They were all “B” type, i.e., with scientific content. They were submitted in English and published in the GA Newspaper (“Inquiries of Heaven”, issue 9) before the vote. The French version was made available on the IAU web site after their adoption.

These Resolutions were:

- B1 On guidelines for the designations and specifications of optical and infrared astronomical photometric passbands.
- B2 On the re-definition of the astronomical unit of length.
- B3 On the establishment of an International NEO early warning system.
- B4 On the restructuring of the IAU Divisions.

They were unanimously approved.

8. Proposed Division Presidents and Vice-Presidents

Following the adoption of the new Division structure by the General Assembly, the Division Presidents and Vice-Presidents were appointed by the Executive Committee, with the mission to implement the recommendations of Resolution B4, and submitted to the General Assembly for approval. Their names were unanimously approved.

The list is as follows:

Division A: Space and Time Reference Systems

President: Sergei Klioner (Germany)

Vice-President: Jacques Laskar (France)

[Note that the name for Division A was re-discussed by its members after the General Assembly, and reverted to the name of former Division I: Fundamental Astronomy.]

Division B: Facilities, Technologies, and Data Science

President: David Silva (USA)

Vice-President: PietroUbertini (Italy)

Division C: Education, Outreach, and Heritage

President: Mary Kay Hemenway (USA)

Vice-President: Hakim Malasan (Indonesia)

Division D: High Energy Phenomena and Fundamental Physics

President: Diana Worrall (UK)

Vice-President: Felix Aharonian (Ireland)

Division E: Sun and Heliosphere

President: Lidia van Driel-Gesztelyi (UK)

Vice-President: Yihua Yan (China)

Division F: Planetary Systems and Bioastronomy

President: Giovanni Valsecchi (Italy)

Vice-President: Nader Haghighipour (USA)

Division G: Stars and Stellar Physics

President: Ignasi Ribas (Spain)

Vice-President: Corinne Charbonnel (France)

Division H: Interstellar Matter and Local Universe

President: Ewine van Dishoek (Netherlands)

Vice-President: Jonathan Bland-Hawthorn (Australia)

Division J: Galaxies and Cosmology

President: Françoise Combes (France)

Vice-President: Thanu Padmanabhan (India)

9. Proposed Commission Presidents and Vice-Presidents

As a result of the Division restructuring, the existing Commissions were kept unchanged but reassigned to the new Divisions.

The parent Divisions, Commissions, Presidents and Vice-Presidents are listed in the Table below.

<i>Division</i>	<i>Commission</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
A	C4	C. Hohenkzerk (UK)	J.-E. Arlot (France)
	C7	A. Morbidelli (France)	C. Baug (Argentina)
	C8	N. Zacharias (USA)	A.G.A. Brown (Netherlands)
	C19	C.-L Huang (China N.)	R.G. Gross (USA)
	C30	D. Pourbaix (Belgium)	T. Zwitter (Slovenia)
	C31	M. Hosokawa (Japan)	E.F. Arias (France)
	C52	M.H. Stoffel (Germany)	S.M. Kopeikin (USA)

<i>Division</i>	<i>Commission</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
B	C5	R.J. Hanisch (USA)	M.W. Wise (Netherlands)
	C6	H. Yamaoka (Japan)	D.W.E. Green (USA)
	C14	L. Mashonkina (Russia)	F. Salama (USA)
	C25	A. Walker (Chile)	S. Adelman (USA)
	C40	J. Chapman (Australia)	G. Giovannini (Italy)
	C50	R. Green (USA)	C. Walker (USA)
	C54	G.T. van Belle (USA)	D. Mourard (France)
C	C41	R. Kochhar (India)	X.-C. Sun (China N.)
	C46	J.-P. de Greve (Belgium)	B.E. Garcia (Argentina)
	C55	L. Christensen (Germany)	P. Russo (Netherlands)
D	C44	C. Jones (USA)	-
E	C10	K. Schrijver (USA)	L. Fletcher (UK)
	C12	G. Cauzzi (Italy)	N.G. Shchkina (Ukraine)
	C49	I. Mann (Sweden)	P.K. Manoharan (India)
F	C15	D. Bockele-Morvan (F)	R.A. Gil-Hutton (Argentina)
	C16	M. Lemmon (USA)	-
	C20	S.R. Chesley (USA)	D. Lazzaro (Brazil)
	C22	P.M.M. Jenniskens (USA)	J. Borovicka (Czech Republic)
	C51	P. Ehrenfreund (USA)	S. Kwok (China N.)
	C53	A. Lecavelier des Etangs (France)	D. Minniti (Chile)
G	C26	B. Mason (USA)	Y.Y. Balega (Russia)
	C27	K. Pollard (New Zealand)	C.S. Jeffery (UK)
	C29	K. Cunha (Brazil)	-
	C35	M. Limongi (Italy)	J.C. Lattanzio (Australia)
	C36	J. Puls (Germany)	I. Hubeny (USA)
	C42	M.T. Richards (USA)	T. Pribulla (Slovakia)
	C45	R.O. Gray (USA)	C. Soubiran (France)
H	C33	B. Nordström (Denmark)	J. Bland-Hawthorn (Australia)
	C34	S. Kwok (China N.)	B.-C. Koo (Korea Rep.)
	C37	G. Carraro (Chile)	R. de Grijs (China N.)
J	C21	J. Murthy (India)	-
	C28	J.S. Gallagher III (USA)	-
	C47	B. Schmidt (Australia)	-

10. Financial Matters

Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

Presented by Birgitta Nordström (Chair)

1. Accounts 2009-2011

The accounts of the IAU are in good shape. They show the usual pattern during a triennium with a loss during the IAU General Assembly year and during the other two years: surpluses of 584 k€ and 132 k€ in 2010 and 2011. The average over the triennium is roughly in balance except that the surplus is larger than budgeted due to recovery of previous losses and late payments from National Members that were outstanding during previous financial years.

The assets of the Union increased in the period, which gives room for increased educational activities. It is prudent to maintain the assets at the level of one year's turnover, in

order to provide a reserve for cash flow during the triennial cycle, to cover late payments by some National Members, and to provide some investment income.

Between 2009 and 2010 the IAU has changed its unit of account from Swiss Francs (CHF) to euros (EUR). Membership dues will for the future be invoiced in euros. The FSC welcomes this change, which reflects the fact that most of the Union's expenditure is in euros and many of the Union's National Members have their currency in euros. The change reduces exchange losses overall (to the Union and to many National Members) and spreads the risk of currency fluctuations. It will also prove to be more effective and convenient that the accounts are held in Paris.

While the accounts have consistently passed the test of professional audit, investigations by the administration discovered in 2008 that the Union had been subject to systematic fraud. This was reported to the FC at the IAU GA in 2009. The administration took steps to recover from its bank unauthorized payments and much of those have now been recovered. It has implemented changes to its accounting systems and now use an electronic accounting system, SAGE, that should make recurrence of fraud more difficult to conceal in the future. Bank transactions are now completed by internet, entered by the Executive Assistant and authorised by the General Secretary. All transactions are visible to both General Secretary and Executive Assistant. Salaries and annual account reconciliation with the SAGE system are prepared by an external independent accountant. The final result is a robust and transparent system. The accounts for 2009-2011 have been examined and certified by the new auditor and no specific issues have been raised.

The administration has kept the FSC fully informed and consulted on the measures to be taken during the triennium. The FSC believes that the measures taken to prevent recurrence are appropriate to the scale of the Union's activities, and will bring increased effectiveness to the Union's operation. The FSC commends the GSs Karel van der Hucht and Ian Corbett as well as the Administrative Assistant, Vivien Reuter, for the work done to recover the losses. The FSC notes with satisfaction that its bank, Credit Lyonnais has during the triennium reimbursed IAU much of the previous losses carried by IAU.

Noting the large sum of outstanding late payments from National Members, and noting the efforts of the Executive to recover what it can, the FSC recommends the acceptance of the accounts 2009-2011.

2. Members' dues

Budgets 2013, 2014 and 2015

In the budgets, the proposed increase in the unit of contribution has been kept within inflation at a modest and realistic forecast of 2%, but the recovery of earlier losses has meant that the assets for the Union have increased. In the proposed budgets this money has been shown as expenditure on matters within the proposed educational programme, developed in the Union's Strategic Plan. The apportionment of expenditure to individual programmes will be a matter of discussion as the Strategic Plan is implemented and will depend on the degree of success of the Union in raising external funding.

The FSC recommends the adoption of the proposed unit of contribution as set out in the budgets, i.e. 2750 EUR in 2013, 2800 EUR in 2014 and 2860 EUR in 2015.

Noting the improved financial position of the Union and the ambition of the Strategic Plan to raise additional revenue for additional activities from outside sources, the FSC recommends that the budgetary provisions for 2013-2014-2015 should be accepted.

The report was submitted to the vote of National Representatives, and the budget for 2012-2015 approved with one abstention.

11. Election of the Finance Committee and Membership Committees

1. The General Assembly unanimously appointed the following Finance Committee (2012-2015):

Beatriz Barbuy (Brazil; Chair)
 Joao Alves (Austria)
 Kate J. Brooks (Australia)
 Ahanwen Han (China Nanjing)
 Nikolaos D. Kylafis (Greece)
 Tushar P. Prabhu (India)
 Lee Anne M. Willson (USA)

2. The General Assembly unanimously appointed the following Membership Committee (2012-2015):

Christian Henkel (Germany; Chair)
 Sara Heap (USA)
 Myungshin Im (Korea Rep.)
 Lex Kaper (Netherlands)
 Rene Alejandro Mndez Bussard (Chile)
 Helmut O. Rucker (Austria)
 Nikolay N. Samus (Russian Federation)
 Ramotholo R. Sefako (South Africa)

12. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

The General Assembly unanimously appointed the following Resolutions Committee (2012-2015):

Ian F. Corbett (UK; Chair)
 Bruce G. Elmegreen (USA)
 Rene Kraan-Korteweg (South Africa)
 Yanchun Liang (China Nanjing)
 Karel A. van der Hucht (Netherlands)

13. Appointment of the Special Nominating Committee

The General Assembly unanimously appointed the following Special Nominating Committee (2012-2015):

- *IAU ex-officio members:*
 Norio Kaifu (President, Japan; Chair)
 Robert Williams (Past President; USA)

- *IAU Advisers:*

Thierry Montmerle (General Secretary; France)

Piero Benvenuti (Assistant General Secretary; Italy)

- *Nominated members:*

Françoise Combes (France)

Malcolm S. Longair (UK)

Matthias Steinmetz (Germany)

Edward P.J. van den Heuvel (Netherlands)

Gang Zhao (China Nanjing)

14. Election of the Executive Committee

The General Assembly unanimously elected the following Executive Committee (2012-2015):

President	Norio Kaifu (Japan)
President-Elect	Silvia Torres Peimbert (Mexico)
General Secretary	Thierry Montmerle (France)
Assistant General Secretary	Piero Benvenuti (Italy)
Vice-President	Matthew Colless (Australia)
Vice-President	Renée Kraan-Korteweg (South Africa)
Vice-President	Xiao-Wei Liu (China Nanjing)
Vice-President	Jan Palouš (Czech Republic)
Vice-President	Dina Prialnik (Israel)
Vice-President	Marta Rovira (Argentina)
Adviser	Robert Williams (USA)
Adviser	Ian Corbett (UK)

15. Dates and place of the XXXth General Assembly in 2018

The XXXth General Assembly will take place in Vienna (Austria), August 20-31, 2018.