

CHAPTER II

TWENTY SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BUSINESS SESSIONS

SECOND SESSION Thursday, 13 August 2009, 14:00–15:30 hr

Centro de Convenções SulAmérica, Rio de Janeiro

1. Opening and Welcome

The President of the IAU, Dr. Catherine Cesarsky, welcomed the delegates and members to the 2nd session of the XXVII General Assembly. The delegates confirmed the agenda of the meeting as in the Program Book. The President invited the General Secretary, Dr. Karel A. van der Hucht, to present the first item.

2. Individual Membership

The General Secretary reported that the IAU XXVI General Assembly, August 2006, had admitted 925 new Individual Members.

As of 13 August 2009 the number of IAU Individual Members was 9259 and IAU National Members nominated 882 new Individual Members. In addition IAU Division Presidents have nominated 5 new Individual Members. These were scrutinised by the Nominating Committee and were recommended for admission.

The General Assembly approved the membership of the nominees.

3. Deceased members

IAU Executive Committee is saddened to report the death of 159 Individual Members of the Union since August 2006. The General Secretary projected their names and the General Assembly held one minute silence as a mark of respect.

4. Appointment of Official Tellers

The Official Tellers appointed were:

Martha P. Haynes (chair)	USA
Patricia Cruz	Brazil
Christina Magoulas	Australia
Rogério Riffel	Brazil
José Vasquez Mata	Mexico
Joyce Yun	China

The Tellers confirmed that the quorum requirements were satisfied.

5. Resolutions

5.1. *Report of the Resolutions Committee by Chair Jocelyn S. Bell Burnell*

The Resolutions Committee had received five Type B resolutions and one Type A resolution. All had been correctly proposed according to the Working Rules. The Committee had examined the proposed resolutions and, in conjunction with the Executive Committee and the proposers, had refined the wording of several of them. The resultant resolutions had been published in the GA newspaper. The resolutions were:

B1 IAU Strategic Plan: Astronomy for the Developing World

A1 Implementing the IAU Strategic Plan

B2 IAU 2009 Astronomical Constants

B3 Second Realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame

B4 Supporting Women in Astronomy

B5 Defence of the night sky and the right to starlight

5.2. *Presentation and vote on Resolutions*

The resolutions were displayed to the General Assembly in both English (the language in which they had been proposed) and French, and voted separately. The results of the voting were as follows:

B1 Unanimous

A1 two against, no abstentions

B2 Unanimous

B3 Unanimous

B4 seven abstentions

B5 unanimous

6. Appointment of Resolutions Committee 2009–2012

The Resolutions Committee 2009–2012 was appointed:

Michel Dennefeld	France
Martha P. Haynes	USA
Zoran Knežević	Serbia
Busaba H. Kramer	Thailand
Irina I. Kumkova	Russian Federation
Daniela Lazzaro, chair	Brazil
Silvia Torres-Peimbert	Mexico
Na Wang	China

7. Place and date of IAU XXIX GA in 2015

The Executive Committee had decided that the XXIV General Assembly 2015 would take place in Hawai'i, USA.

8. Division and Commission matters, adjustments to the Divisional structure

8.1. *The IAU DIVISIONS 2009–2012 are:*

Division I - Fundamental Astronomy
 president Dennis D. McCarthy (USA)
 vice-president Sergei A. Klioner (Germany)

Division II - Sun and Heliosphere
 president Valentin Martnez Pillet (Spain)
 vice-president James A. Klimchuk (USA)

Division III - Planetary Systems Sciences
 president Karen J. Meech (USA)
 vice-president Giovanni B. Valsecchi (Italy)

Division IV - Stars
 president Christopher J. Corbally (Vatican City State)
 vice-president Francesca d'Antona (Italy)

Division V - Variable Stars
 president Steven D. Kawaler (USA)
 vice-president Ignasi Ribas (Spain)

Division VI - Interstellar Matter
 president You-Hua Chu (USA)
 vice-president Sun Kwok (China - Hong Kong)

Division VII - Galactic System
 president Despina Hatzidimitriou (Greece)
 vice-president Rosemary F. Wyse (USA)

Division VIII - Galaxies and the Universe
 president Elaine M. Sadler (Australia)
 vice-president Françoise Combes (France)

Division IX - Optical and Infrared Techniques
president Andreas Quirrenbach (Germany)
vice-president David R. Silva (USA)

Division X - Radio Astronomy
president Russell A. Taylor (Canada)
vice-president Jessica M. Chapman (Australia)

Division XI - Space and High Energy Astrophysics
president Christine Jones (USA)
vice-president Noah Brosch (Israel)

Division XII - Union-Wide Activities
president Françoise Genova (France)
vice-president Raymond P. Norris (Australia)

8.2. *Changes to the Division structure*

Div. I / Comm. 8 / WG - Densification of the Optical Reference Frame
Proposed to be discontinued

Div. II / WG - Solar and Interplanetary Nomenclature
Proposed to be discontinued

Div. III / Comm.20 / WG - Distant Objects
Dormant since 2003. Proposed to turn this WG into a Task Group

Div.III / Commission 21 - Light of the Night Sky
Proposal: dissolve present C21 and form a new C21 on Galactic and Extragalactic Background Radiation locate the new C21 within Division IX

Div. IV-V-IX / WG - Standard Stars
Proposed to be discontinued

Div.VII / WG - Galactic Center
Proposed to be discontinued

Div. IX / WG - Detectors
Proposed to be discontinued: redundant in view of SPIE activities in the field.

Div. XII / Comm. 41 / WG - Astronomy and World Heritage
New Working Group

Div. XII / Comm. 46 / PG - World-Wide Development of Astronomy
Div. XII / Comm. 46 / PG - Teaching for Astronomy Development

Div. XII / Comm. 46 / PG - Exchange of Astronomers
 These PGs will merge into one coordinated educational body

Div. XII / Comm.55 / WG - Best Practices
 Proposed to be discontinued

Div. XII / Comm.55 / WG - New Ways of Communicating Astronomy with the Public
 Proposed to be discontinued

Div. XII / Comm.55 / WG - New Media
 New WG

Div. XII / Comm.55 / WG - Citizen Science
 New WG

8.3. IAU Commission Presidents and Vice-Presidents 2009–2012

Comm. & Div.	President	Vice-President
4 I	George H. Kaplan (USA)	Catherine Y. Hohenkerk (UK)
5 XII	Masatoshi Ohishi (Japan)	Robert J. Hanisch (USA)
6 XII	Nikolay Samus (Russia)	Hitoshi Yamaoka (Japan)
7 I	Zoran Knežević (Serbia)	Alessandro Morbidelli (France)
8 I	Dafydd W. Evans (UK)	N. Zacharias (USA)
10 II	Lidia van Driel-G. (France)	Carolus J. Schrijver (USA)
12 II	Alexander Kosovichev (USA)	Gianna Cauzzi (Italy)
14 XII	Glenn M. Wahlgren (USA)	Ewine van Dishoeck (Netherlands)
15 III	Alberto Cellino (Italy)	Dominique Bockelée- Morvan (France)
16 III	Melissa A. McGrath (USA)	Mark T. Lemmon (USA)
19 I	Haral Schuh (Austria)	Cheng-Li Huang (China)
20 III	Makoto Yoshikawa (Japan)	Steven Chesley (USA)
21 III	Jayant Murthy (India)	
22 III	Jun-ichi Watanabe (Japan)	Petrus Jenniskens (USA)
25 IX	Eugene F. Milone (Canada)	Alistair R. Walker (Chile)
26 IV	José A.D. Docobo (Spain)	Brian D. Mason (USA)
27 V	Gerald Handler (Austria)	Karen Pollard (New Zealand)
28 VII	Roger L. Davies (UK)	John S. Gallagher III (USA)
29 IV	Nikolai E. Piskunov (Sweden)	Katia Cunha (Brazil)
30 IX	Guillermo Torres (USA)	
31 I	Richard Manchester (Australia)	Mizuhiko Hosokawa (Japan)
33 VII	Rosemary F. Wyse (USA)	Birgitta Nordström (Denmark)
34 VI	You-Hua Chu (USA)	Sun Kwok (China Hong Kong)
35 IV	Corinne Charbonnel (Switzerland)	Marco Limongi (Italy)
36 V	Martin Asplund (Australia)	Joachim Puls (Germany)
37 VII	Bruce G. Elmegreen (USA)	Giovanni Carraro (Italy)

Comm. & Div.	President	Vice-President
40 X	Russell A. Taylor (Canada)	Jessica M. Chapman (Australia)
41 XII	Clive L.N. Ruggles (UK)	
42 V	Ignasi Ribas (Spain)	Mercedes T. Richards (USA)
44 XI	Christine Jones (USA)	Noah Brosch (Israel)
45 IV	Richard O. Gray (USA)	Birgitta Nordström (Denmark)
46 XII	Rosa M. Ros (Spain)	John Hearnshaw (New Zealand)
47 VII	Thanu Padmanabhan (India)	Brian P. Schmidt (Australia)
49 II	Nat Gopalswamy (USA)	Ingrid Mann (Japan)
50 XII	Wim van Driel (France)	Richard F. Green (USA)
51 III	William M. Irvine (USA)	Pascale Ehrenfreund (Netherlands)
52 I	Grard Petit (France)	Michael H. Soffel (Germany)
53 III	Alan P. Boss (USA)	Alain Lecavelier des Etangs (France)
54 IX	Stephen T. Ridgway (USA)	Gerard van Belle (Germany)
55 XII	Dennis Crabtree (Canada)	Lars Christensen (Germany)

The General Assembly endorsed these proposals.

9. Financial matters

9.1. *Report of the Finance Committee on IAU 2006–2009 accounts and 2010–2012 budget*

This was presented by the Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee, Dr. Paul G. Murdin

1. Accounts 2006–2008

The accounts show the usual triennial cycle, with a loss of 220k CHF in 2006 and surpluses of 84k and 1k in 2007 and 2008 respectively, roughly in balance, especially when considered against the 210k CHF of late payments from National Members that were outstanding in total over the financial years 2006–2008. The assets of the Union increased from 1041k CHF to 1396k in the period. 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 is changing its unit of account from Swiss Francs (CHF) to euros (EUR). Membership dues will in future be invoiced in euros. Accounts and budgets will make the transition during the year 2009. The FSC welcomes this change, which reflects the fact that most of the Union's expenditure is in euros and the largest number 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, while costing the National Members outside the euro zone little (since the CHF and EUR are well correlated).

The FSC recommended that the reserve accounts should be brought primarily to euros as appropriate and timely; it will also prove to be more effective and convenient if the accounts are held in Paris in a fully international bank. The GS has started this process.

While the accounts have consistently passed the test of professional audit, investigations by the new administration discovered in 2008 that the Union has been subject to systematic fraud, cleverly perpetuated by an office staff member, using false or inflated invoices and unmandated, falsely attributed expenditure, principally on office expenditure and IT. The sums involved have amounted to 56k CHF in 2007 and similar, previously undiscovered sums in earlier years. The Union's administration has taken steps, as yet incomplete, to recover from its bank those unmandated payments that lie within the limit of the time period allowed for such recovery. It has changed its auditor to improve the standard of its auditing procedures. It has implemented changes to its accounting systems that should make recurrence of such a fraud more difficult to conceal in the future.

In all this, the administration has kept the Finance Sub Committee fully informed and consulted on the measures to be taken. The FSC believes that the fraud was cleverly enough perpetuated that it would not have been possible to discover the fraud before the sudden death in service that revealed it. The FC believes that the measures taken to prevent recurrence are appropriate to the scale of the Union's activities, and will in fact bring increased effectiveness to the Union's operation. The FC commends the GS and the new Administrative Assistant for the work done to identify and scope the fraud and supports the administration in its attempts to recover the sums stolen. The FC expects the Union's bank, Credit Lyonnais, to face up to its degree of responsibility in the matter.

The particular methodology of the fraud means that all the lost sums have been put through the accounts and that the assets of the Union are what is expected.

Noting the large sum of outstanding late payments from National Members, regretting the fraud, and noting the efforts of the Executive to recover what it can, the FC recommends the acceptance of the statement of accounts 2006-07-08.

2 Members' dues

The number of units of contribution from National Members was increased from 262 to 301.5 in 2009 when a number of Members accepted changes to their category of contribution that more reflected the size of their country's individual membership of the Union. Other National Members accepted compromise changes, others declined any changes at all on grounds of affordability.

Clearly the activities and scientific output of the Union correlate with the size of the membership, with associated cost. Given the historic and expected growth both in astronomy and in the size of the Union, the FC recommends that the National Members' category of contributions be kept under review in this way. Changes would be most readily accepted if they were not large, i.e. if the reviews were frequent so the changes were smaller. The FC recommends that the National Members' category of contributions should be reviewed as a regular matter each triennium. This procedure will also have the

advantage that National Members will feel an incentive regularly to keep their lists of active members controlled and up to date.

3 Budgets 2010-2012

In the budgets, the proposed increase in the unit of contribution has been kept within inflation at a modest and realistic forecast of 3%, but the rise in the total number of units of contribution has meant that the income for the Union increased sharply from 2009 by approximately 180k CHF, 14%. In the proposed budgets this money has been shown as expenditure on matters within the proposed educational programme, developed as the Union's Strategic Plan. Some existing programmes of the Union (those not supported from earmarked funds from outside sources) have been included within these headings of expenditure. The apportionment of expenditure to individual programmes will be a matter for debate and discussion as the Strategic Plan is implemented and will depend on the degree of success of the Union in raising external funds to execute substantial parts of the Plan. This way to handle the development of the budgets, an effective balance in a developing situation between flexibility and control, has been implemented in the budgets in consultation with the FC.

Other features of the budget include control of office administration costs as a result of the elimination of the fraud referred to above and other measures to improve efficiency, even given the additional cost of measures to give increasing visibility to the Union's accounts in the future.

The FC recommends that the GA adopts the proposed unit of contribution as set out in the budgets, i.e. 2540 EUR in 2010, 2616 EUR in 2011 and 2695 EUR in 2012.

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 FC recommends that the budgetary provisions for 2010-2011-2012 should be accepted.

This report was drafted by the Finance Sub Committee, which remains in session between General Assemblies to deal with urgent matters on behalf of the FC. The FSC members during 2006-09 were as follows:

Paul Murdin (UK), chair; Birgitta Nordstrom (DK); Xiangqun Cui (CN Nanjing); Cyril Ron (CZ); Kevin Marvel (US); John O'Byrne (AU)

9.2. *Budget 2009-2012*

The Union is changing over to an all-euro budget from 2010. The proposed budget for 2010-2012 is given in both Swiss Francs (CHF) and euro (EUR) for comparison.

	CHF	EUR
General Assemblies	610 000	385 000
Scientific Activities	990 500	627 000
Educational Activities	675 000	433 200
Coop with other unions	112 500	70 500
Executive Committee	521 950	325 650
Publications	69 000	45 000
Secretariat & Administration	1 100 525	694 500
Total	4 079 475	2 580 850

Comparison of the budget 2007–2009 and 2010–012 (CHF)

	2007-09	2010-12
General Assemblies	447 000	610 000
Scientific Activities	966 000	990 500
Educational Activities	315 000	675 000
Coop with other unions	111 000	112 500
Executive Committee	349 000	521 950
Publications	30 000	69 000
Secretariat & Administration	1 151 870	1 100 525
Total	3 072 870	4 079 475

More detailed budget figures are given in the EC Report, Chapter V of these *Transactions*.

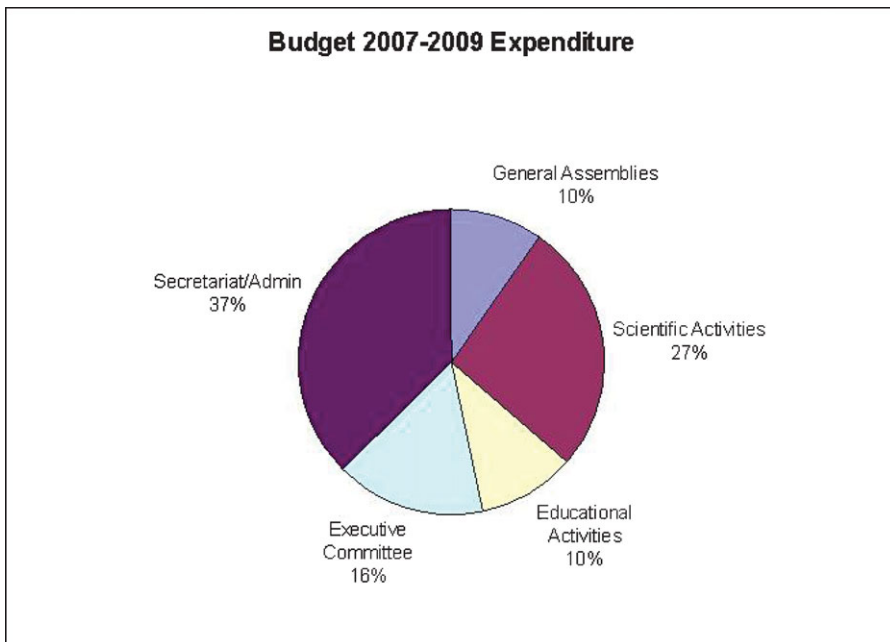


Figure 1.

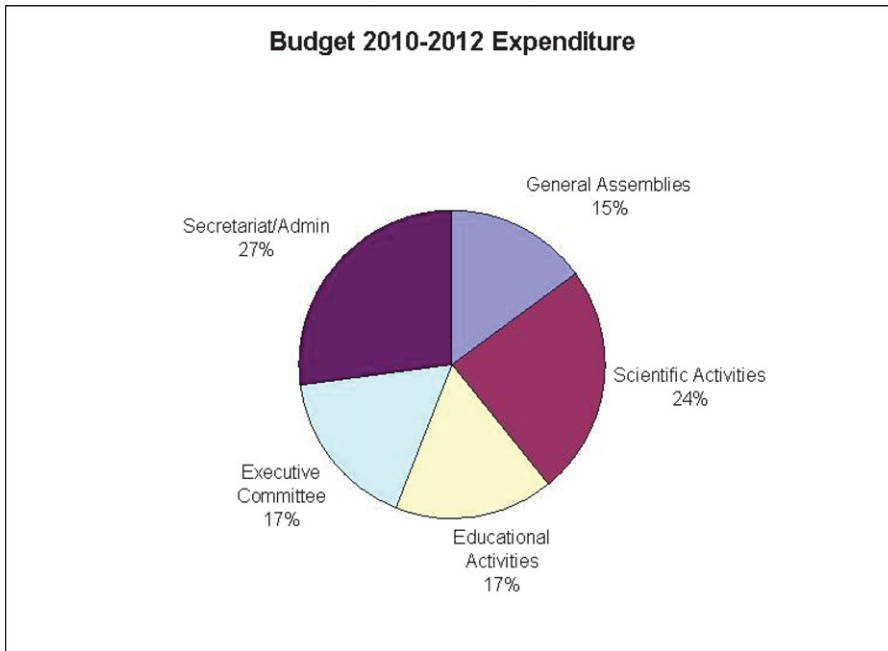


Figure 2.

9.3. *Vote on budget 2009-2012*

The Finance Sub-Committee's report, the statement of accounts 2006-2009, and the proposed budget 2010-2012 were approved with one abstention.

10. Appointment of Finance Sub-Committee 2009–2012

The General Assembly unanimously appointed the following:

Beatriz Barbuy	Brazil
Kevin B. Marvel	USA
Birgitta Nordstrm, chair	Denmark
Cyril Ron	Czech Republic
Shuang-Nan Zhang	China Nanjing

11. Appointment of the Special Nominating Committee 2009-2012

The General Assembly unanimously appointed the following:

Nominations by the IAU Nominating Committee

Jocelyn S. Bell Burnell	UK
Reinhard Genzel - <i>subject to confirmation</i> -	Germany
Patricia A. Whitelock	South Africa
Kenneth C. Freeman	Australia

Nomination by the IAU Executive Committee

Jian Sheng Chen China Nanjing

IAU ex officio members

Robert Williams (President) USA
Catherine J. Cesarsky (past-President) France

IAU Advisors

Ian F. Corbett (GS) UK
Thierry Montmerle (AGS) France

12. Election of the Executive Committee 2009-2012

The General Assembly unanimously elected the following:

President	Robert Williams	USA
President-Elect	Norio Kaifu	Japan
General Secretary	Ian F. Corbett	UK
Assistant General Secretary	Thierry Montmerle	France
Vice-President	Matthew Colless	Australia
Vice-President	Martha P. Haynes	USA
Vice-President	George K. Miley	Netherlands
Vice-President	Jan Palouš	Czech Republic
Vice-President	Marta G. Rovira	Argentina
Vice-President	Giancarlo Setti	Italy
Adviser	Catherine J. Cesarsky	France
Adviser	Karel A. van der Hucht	Netherlands

13. Closure of Session

There being no other business the President declared the Business Sessions of the XXVII GA closed.