

DIVISION VIII

GALAXIES AND THE UNIVERSE *(LES GALAXIES ET L'UNIVERS)*

PRESIDENT

Sadanori Okamura

VICE-PRESIDENT

Elaine Sadler

PAST PRESIDENT

Francesco Bertola

BOARD

**Mark Birkinshaw, Françoise Combes,
Roger L. Davies, Thanu Padmanabhan,
Rachel Webster**

PARTICIPATING COMMISSIONS

Commission 28

Galaxies

Commission 47

Cosmology

DIVISION WORKING GROUPS

Supernovae

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS SESSIONS, 12 August 2009

1. Introduction

The business meeting of Division VIII was held on 12 August 2009 14:00-15:00 in room R2.6 together with the business meeting of Commissions 28 and 47.

2. Reports of the Presidents

Division VIII President, Sadanori Okamura, mentioned the conventional rule by which the Organizing Committee (OC) members of Division VIII were elected. The committee consists of the President who is normally promoted from the previous Vice President, Vice President elected by the previous OC members, past President, and five more people, i.e., Presidents and Vice Presidents of the two participating Commissions and a Webmaster.

According to the conventional rule and elections made within the Commissions, the new OC members of Division VIII are the following: Elaine Sadler (President), Françoise Combes (Vice President), Sadanori Okamura (past President), Roger L. Davies (C28 President), Thanu Padmanabhan (C47 President), J. S. Gallagher (C28 Vice President), B. Schmidt (C47 Vice President). There will not be a webmaster any longer and a Secretary will be appointed later by the President.

The President summarized the 2006-2009 triennial report of the Division, which can be found in *Reports on Astronomy, IAU Transactions Volume XXVIIA* (2009, Ed. K. A. van der Hucht), quoting the concluding sentence in the report; "Division VIII, the largest division (with 1544 members), will continue to contribute to our understanding of the properties of galaxies, the formation and evolution of galaxies and large scale structure, and the content and fate of the Universe."

Then, President of Commission 28, Françoise Combes, reported the activity of Commission 28 during 2006-2009 triennium and reported the names of the new OC members. President, Rachel Webster, and Vice President, Thanu Padmanabhan, of Commission 47, could not attend the GA, and Luis Campusano, on behalf of Webster, reported the activity of Commission 47 during 2006-2009 triennium and reported the names of the new OC members.

3. Coordination of Large-Scale Surveys

Mark Birkinshaw, Webmaster, sent a proposal to the President that it would be useful if some kind of coordination is made on large scale surveys because there are currently many preferred survey areas being used, with less overlap in the different wavebands than would be optimal. The President introduced a statement made in the Executive Committee (EC) meeting of IAU officials with Division Presidents on 2 August that an IAU-maintained web page of various large-scale surveys would be useful. He also mentioned that there was a WG on Sky Surveys in Division IX. After some discussion, we decided to make effort for this coordination and handed the job to the incoming President and OC.

4. New IAU Rules

The President explained the new IAU rules, especially those on the election of President, Vice President, and OC members. They became effective at XXVI General Assembly at Prague but unfortunately they were not well disseminated among Presidents until fall 2008. The President also explained that the EC generously allowed us to follow the conventional rule in the election this time and that we should follow the new rule in the next election.

Several points were raised in the following discussion.

- The rule says, "Before each General Assembly, the Organizing Committee shall organize an election from among the membership, by electronic or other means suited to its scientific structure, of a new Organizing Committee to take office for the following term. Election procedures should, as far as possible, be similar among the Divisions and require the approval of the Executive Committee."

- We understand that the EC wishes more involvement of the IAU members at large and a more democratic procedure by introducing voting by all members.

- The long-term nature of the commitment required for activity on IAU Commission and Division Boards (normally at least 6 years, and could possibly be as long as 12 years) is somewhat daunting.

- Not all the people are willing to accept the job.

- Our Division has the largest number of members (~1500; ~1000 in Commission 28, ~650 in Commission 47).

- The OC needs good geographical distribution and gender balance.

We reached the conclusion that blind voting and simple majority rule may not work well. Accordingly, we need a well-designed election system in accord with the EC's intention. This is an important and immediate task to be tackled by the incoming President and OC.

Finally, incoming President, Elaine Sadler, spoke of her hopes and expressed her thanks to the outgoing President and OC members.

Sadanori Okamura
President of the Division