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IAA Commission 1 'Space Physical Sciences'
Paris, 23 March 2004, 08:30 – 10:45

Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Stamatios Krimigis, Claudio Maccone, Vittorio Manno (C1 member), Bill O'Neil, Peter Wenzel (C1 chair), Jim Zimmerman.

1. Welcome/Introduction

The Chair welcomed the attendees. Apologies had been received from 3 of three Commission 1 (C1) members, including the Vice-Chair and the Secretary. He pointed out that all recommendations and suggestions from this meeting would be directly reported to the Scientific Activities Committee (SAC) Meeting later this morning. The draft agenda that had been posted on the Commission's homepage, was adopted.

2. Minutes from Bremen Meeting

The Chair pointed out that the minutes of this meeting in late September 2003 had been posted on the IAA website.

3. Activities since last Meeting

The Chair summarized the various activities, undertaken since the Bremen meeting. Multiple attempts to establish contact with Study Group 3.3 to explore the suggested a potential transfer from C3 to C1 had failed. C1 will therefore recommend to the SAC to eliminate S3.3 from the list of Studies. The Chair also commented on the apparent lack of interest of several Commission members in the IAA activities which could partially be explained by the fact that scientists' generally do not attend IAC and IPC meetings.

4. Study Group Activities

S1.1 Next Steps in Exploring Deep Space

B. O'Neil, with the help of viewgraphs and supported by J. Zimmerman, highlighted the objectives and conclusions of the Study, articulating a vision for the scientific exploration of space in the 1st half of this century. Discussion included the selected progressive step-by-step processes and international coordination aspects. The Chair thanked the presenters and congratulated the Study Group under the leadership of Wes Huntress to this impressive achievement.

The draft report of this Study had recently become available on the IAA website. All C1 members had been informed and asked for initial comments. The Commission accepted the report ready for peer review. The Chair brought this recommendation to the attention of the SAC.

Following endorsement by the SAC, the peer review process was initiated.

S1.2 Lunar Farside Radio Laboratory

The results had been reported at the IAA meeting in Paris on 28 March 2003. A publication submitted by C. Maccone to Acta Astronautica was still pending. The Chair confirmed his help to inquire about its status. It was agreed to delete this study from the list of active Study Groups.

S1.3 SETI

This is a permanent Study Group. C. Maccone reported that the SETI Study Group has members in all 4 IAA Sections. The SETI Permanent Study Group website is under responsibility of one of the participating organizations and can be accessed via the domain <http://iaaseti.org>. The Chair acknowledged the quality of this site, but noted that updating of the membership and address list on the Commission homepage was required.

New topics/ proposals?

C. Maccone suggested a study on 'Relativistic Interstellar Flight By Breakthrough Propulsion Physics (BPP)'. The Chair advised him to submit a proposal (relevant form on web) for evaluation.

5. Vancouver Congress Status (IAC-2004)

Technical session status

The Chair showed a viewgraph identifying all proposed sessions related to Commission 1. As requested by the SAC Vice-Chair, all session coordinators had been contacted to ensure a sufficient number of abstracts to justify and find approval of their session at the forthcoming IPC meeting. No response had been received for events IAA 1.1.2 and IAA 3.6.3 which were therefore under threat of cancellation.

Plenary event/Highlight lecture status

CI had submitted 3 proposals for Plenary Events/Highlight Lectures. One of these has been tentatively selected as 1 of 9 Plenary Events: 'Next Steps in Exploring Deep Space' which will be a presentation of the results of the IAA Cosmic Study (see above). The organizer is Wes Huntress. The Pluto-related event was not selected.

There will 4-5 Highlight Lectures which are open to the public. The SETI proposal was not selected.

The Chair pointed out that, in order to be successful in a tough competition, it was important to formulate a proposal in a clear and appealing way for a larger audience.

6. Fukuoka Congress Planning Status (IAC-2005)

Technical session/Symposia status

Since Bremen, the Scientific Activities Committee (SAC) had issued a procedure/proposal form for a Symposium/Technical Session, to be downloaded from the web. The only proposal submitted by the February deadline was on SETI (IAA 1.3, Coordinator/Chair: Oliver/Tarter) consisting of 2 parts: SETI I on 'Technical Aspects' (IAA 1.3.1, Shostak/Maccone) and SETI II on 'Interdisciplinary Connections' (IAA 1.3.2, Billingham/Vakoch).

C. Maccone suggested IAA interest in a Moon-related session.

Plenary event status

The deadline for proposals will likely be in late 2004/early 2005.

7. Next Meetings and Work between Meetings (contains information available after this CI meeting)

The main near-term activity will be the organization of the S1.1 peer review to be organized by email.

COSPAR Scientific Assembly, Paris, 19- 24 July 2004

The Chair proposed to organize an IAA Commission 1 meeting, open to all IAA Section 1 members, during the above COSPAR Assembly. The likely date is Wednesday, 21 July at 19:15 after the Panel session (TBC).

IAC, Vancouver, October 2004

The Commission meetings are scheduled on Sunday, 3 October 2004 from 09:00 – 12:00. These are followed by the ACADEMY DAY in the afternoon. The SAC meeting is planned for Monday, 4 October from 13:00 – 15:00.

IAA, Paris, March 2005

The date for the IAA meetings will be fixed in the near future.

8. Any Other Business

The chair drew attention to the Commission's homepage being located under IAA Scientific Activities on the IAA website and thanked all participants for attending.