

Minutes: IAA Commission II Meeting

March 18, 2002, 2-4 PM, Aero Club of France, Paris

Present: Ron White (Chair), Nick Kanas (Recorder), Rupert Gerzer, Anatole Grigoriev, Alan Mortimer, Inessa Kozlovskaya, Jancey McPhee, Jacques Simon

Old Business

1. Review of previous meeting in Toulouse

R. White reminded the group that plans were underway to make IAA business web-based. He also reviewed some recent changes in the structure of the IAA, especially as they pertain to the organization of the Commissions. He and A. Mortimer recollected that some new study groups were proposed in Toulouse: monitoring biological and chemical hazards (D. Schmidt); ethical issues involving space travelers (L. Young); multicultural issues during long-term missions (A. Mortimer); and rehabilitation after returning from space (I. Kozlovskaya). However, no formal information has been submitted to the IAA from the proposers concerning study group scope, mission, members, or plan.

RECOMMENDATION: R. White will contact the above proposers and ask them to submit specific study group information to the IAA.

New Business

1. World Space Congress in Houston (October 2002)

We discussed the progress of a plenary session we are organizing that deals with Earth-related medical benefits from space missions. A number of distinguished speakers are being lined up, including Michael De Bakey and Jeff Sutton. Other non-U.S. participants are being considered as well (A. Mortimer and I. Kozlovskaya are looking into this). But a problem has emerged in that COSPAR has expressed reservations about having a medical focus, and they are asking to have a couple of non-medical speakers included. However, this would alter the unified focus of the session.

RECOMMENDATION: After much discussion, the members are recommending that this session remain focused on medical benefits, even if it means that COSPAR will withdraw its cosponsorship of this session.

2. Humans in Space Symposium in Banff (May 2003)

A. Mortimer distributed a hand-out and reviewed the plans for this important meeting. A total of 21 scientific sessions are being considered over a 3-½ day period. The meeting dates are May 18-22, and the site is the Banff Center. The co-chairs are A. Mortimer and R. Thirsk. Several proposed themes were discussed. N. Kanas suggested being clear about soliciting abstracts on psychosocial issues versus human factors engineering issues, since both have been lumped as “human factors” during other meetings. R. White also suggested making a distinction between basic science versus applied science topics. Some members felt that the proposed time between the selection of papers and the conference dates was too short, with the suggestion that the former time be advanced. It was also suggested that a possible plenary session might be tourism in space.

RECOMMENDATIONS: R. White asked A. Mortimer to send a copy of the final proposal to him. He also asked A. Mortimer to send plans for a budget to him and to J.M. Contant.

3. IAC in Bremen (October 2003)

R. White stated that there were errors in how life sciences activities are presented in the written material involving this Congress, but that the web-site information is correct. He stated that our Commission is proposing five sessions (in order of priority): Public Health, Integrative Physiology, Exobiology, Human Factors, and Bioregenerative Life Support. The members concurred with this proposal.

RECOMMENDATION: R. White will track the progress of our proposed sessions.

Announcements

1. R. White announced that Austria and China are being considered as possible sites for the Humans in Space Symposium in 2005.

2. I. Koslovskaya announced that the registration response has been excellent for the Space Biology and Aerospace Medicine Conference in Moscow, June 10-14, 2002. She anticipates a successful meeting.