



Report to the SAC Commission VI 2 October 2011

Geoffrey Languedoc - Chair
Olga Bannova - Vice -Chair
Susmita Mohanty - Secretary

1. Commission VI convened on Academy Day with the following agenda:
 - Welcome and introduction of COM VI new leadership
 - Review of existing Study Groups
 - Permanent Study Group – History
 - Reports from Current Study Groups
 - New Study Group Ideas
 - Overview of Cape Town IAC sessions
 - Proposals for Beijing IAC
 - Overview of IAA approaches to space and society issues, especially COM VI/IAF cooperation
 - Call for volunteers to be COM VI representative at the IAF Space Societies Committee
 - Call for volunteers to be COM VI representative at the IAF Space University Administrative Committee (SUAC).
 - AOB
 - There are four permanent committees with one [and a half] being in COM VI: SETI, Small Sats, History, Scientific-Legal. The question is how shall we interface with them?
 - The Permanent Committee on History: lack of coordination between IAF, IAA and IAS history committees' activities.
 - SETI: needs COM VI support.



2. Welcome

The chair and co-chair were in attendance along with voting members and friends of COM VI. The following attended the COM VI meeting: C. Swan, P. Swan, G. Languedoc, D. Vakoch, R. Malina, K Doetsch, P. Jung, Y.J.A. Chong, O. Bannova, E. Malitikov, B. Dickman, J. Maclure, M. Masmoudi, N. Frischtuf.

3. Study Groups

- 6.3 Interstellar Message Construction: in the process of closing and producing a final report.
- 6.7 50th Anniversary of the Space Era in 2007: closed out
- 6.8 Space Expectations: submitted report to SAC (approved) – now waiting for a response from the Academy.
- 6.9 The Architecture of Space: Tools for Development in the 21st Century: Final report was reviewed according to the BoT comments and re-submitted one year ago, waiting for a response from the Academy.
- 6.10 The 50th Anniversary of the Space Era Edition of the IAA Multilingual Dictionary: 6 books published, closed out.
- 6.11 Competency Based Space Systems Engineering Education: to be closed unless some action appears.
- 6.12 Lunar Laser Reflectors for First Moon-Light timing and Navigation Applications: report was submitted and available on the IAA website.
- 6.13 Space Terminology for Africa: a report should be presented during the IAC on October 6th.
- 6.14 Communications with Extraterrestrial Intelligence: in progress.

New Study Groups

The COM VI leadership solicited suggestions for topics from its members and interested others. There are several new study groups being proposed:

- revisit an old study “Space for the World” focusing on benefits that space can offer to the society
- investigate private access to space issues (citizen science comes to space)
- create a database of the activities of all IAA Study Groups for use by media to promote the Academy’s activities and stimulate publishing
- water resources and space.

The forms need to be filled out and circulated to COM VI members.



4. Brief summary of Cape Town IAC Sessions

COM VI participates in activities relative to its interests in Space and Society. Within the 21st Symposium on Space Activity and Society, COM VI organized three main sessions:

- E5.1. Future and current space missions: including and expanding all aspects of human life aboard and in other worlds – Chairs and a rapporteur are present
- E5.2. Tech Transfer #1- Chairs and a rapporteur are present
- E5.3. Tech Transfer #2- Chairs and a rapporteur are present

The History Group has four sessions within the 45th History of Astronautics Symposium. These sessions relate to the IAA 50th Anniversary, Memoirs and Organizational Histories, Scientific and Technical History, and History of African contributions to astronautics.

COM VI also is contributing to Session D4.3 on Space Elevators and Joint Session D3.4 on Space Technologies and Program Management practices. As COM VI has done for the last few years, we are supporting Commission I activities on SETI, to include supporting a session. The Multilingual Astronautical Terminology Symposium is also being supported.

5. Proposals for Naples IAC

During the Naples IAC, COM VI will participate in the following activities, similar to the past three symposia:

Within the 22nd Symposium on Space Activity and Society, COM VI will organize five main sessions:

- Space Architecture
- Art
- Tech Transfer (two sessions)
- Space support measurement to Natural Disasters [case study approach].

The History Group will hold four sessions inside the 45th History of Astronautics Symposium. COM VI also will be contributing to the session on Space Elevators, the Joint session on Space Technologies and Program Management practices, as well as the special topic of space and society (continued from 2010) in E1. Support for the multilingual dictionary will also continue.



6. Call for Session proposals for Beijing

COM VI will support the usual topics of its interest and welcomes new proposals. One proposal has already been submitted by Susmita Mohanty: “Democratizing Access to Space.” Another one was proposed by Jeff Maclure: “Water Resources and Space”

7. COM VI/IAF cooperation

COM VI and the new IAF Space Societies Committee are working together to help ensure that engagement of the general public in space increases over the years. Members asked for more information about IAF committees in order to consider volunteering to be COM VI representatives.

8. AOB

- Designate four permanent committees within IAA, that will be responsible for each? The History Committee would work within the infrastructure of COM VI for things such as discussion location, study sponsorship and general support. The SETI Permanent Committee would work within Commission I, while the Small Sats and Scientific-Legal Permanent Committees would work within other Commissions.
- The Permanent Committee on History has taken on the responsibility of identifying the historic events which have occurred and should be recognized. This will be discussed during the History Committee meeting and a determination will be made as to how delivery of the information would best be accomplished: web-based, Academy web structure, etc.
- COM VI will review proposals with respect to the UN COPUOS and determine if we have any input for the summer meeting.

ACTION: Pete Swan to distribute topics to Commission members

- Space for Africa and Africa in Space activities within COM VI focus around the History Session named for that activity. In addition, all other actors from our Commission are including as many African authors as possible in the studies, sessions and symposia.

9. Com VI membership discussion

Members discussed membership rules and by-laws and suggested that the SAC should implement the following rule: Any major decision affecting a Commission should be made in consultation with the leadership of that Commission.