| COMMISSION 20 | **POSITIONS AND MOTIONS OF MINOR PLANETS, COMETS AND SATELLITES** *(POSITIONS ET MOUVEMENTS DES PETITES PLANETES, DES COMETES ET DES SATELLITES)* |

PRESIDENT	**Julio A. Fernandez**
VICE-PRESIDENT	**Makoto Yoshikawa**
PAST PRESIDENT	**Giovanni B. Valsecchi**
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	**Steve Chesley,**
	Yulia Chernetenko,
	Alan Gilmore,
	Daniela Lazzaro
	Karri Muinonen,
	Petr Pravec,
	Tim Spahr,
	Dave Tholen,
	Jana Ticha,
	Jin Zhu

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS SESSION, 12 August 2009

1. Membership of the commission

We have for this General Assembly 25 new applications for C20 membership, which represents about 10% increase with respect to the total number of members. We are very satisfied with the increase rate of our commission membership, which reflects the high degree of activity in our field. Nevertheless we note that there are not many people involved in the commission business.

2. Past IAU meetings sponsored by the commission

During the last triennium C20 supported several proposals of meetings, the list includes: "Mathematics and Astronomy - A Long Journey" (Proposed to be held in Madrid, Spain in November 2009), "The Role of Astronomy in Society and Culture" (Proposed to be held in Paris in January 2009, and approved by the IAU Executive Committee as IAU Symposium 260), and "Icy Bodies in the Solar System" (Proposed as one of the symposia in connection with the IAU General Assembly, and approved by the IAU Executive Committee as IAU Symposium 263). In particular, the last proposal was considered for us key to attract the planetary community to the General Assembly.

3. Organizing committee

The C20 organizing committee had 13 members until the GA. Dr Giovanni B. Valsecchi, after ending his term as past President, stepped off, thus reducing the size of the organizing committee to 12 members. There were no proposals of new members for the OC, nor anybody from the OC renounced or reached the term-limit for stepping off. Dr. Makoto Yoshikawa (not present at the

meeting) was appointed as the new President of the commission, Dr. Steve Chesley as the new vice President, whereas the undersigned will remain in the OC as past President. A discussion followed on the new Secretary. Dr. Daniela Lazzaro was considered a very suitable candidate for this post and her nomination finally approved by acclamation.

4. Permanence of Commission 20

There was next a discussion about the pertinence of keeping C20 as an independent IAU commission against other options, in particular the possibility of merging with Commission 15. There were arguments in favor of keeping C20 based on the little overlapping of the membership of C15 and C20 (about 10%), and also on the different science methods and interests.

5. Discovery credit rules

There was a discussion on whether we need to change to a lesser or greater degree the existing rules. There was a consensus that this issue deserves to be reviewed, whether or not we finally conclude that changes need to be introduced. A Task Group was accordingly set up, led by Dr. Giovanni Valsecchi, and constituted by a mixture of professionals and amateurs with the following criterium: to keep the people of a previous task group, namely Tim Spahr, Steve Chesley, Dan Green, Jana Ticha, Juri Medvedev, David Dixon, Peter Birtwhistle, Robert McNaught, and adding as new members Zoran Knezevic and Jin Zhu, whereas the undersigned, who was a member of the prevous task group, stepped down. It was given to the Task Group a two-year period (i.e. one year before the next GA) to present a report back to the OC.

6. Upcoming meetings

There was finally a discussion about future meetings of interest for C20 members and the need to keep an active role in sponsoring such meetings when appropriate, and even playing an active role in the organization of such meetings. It was informed that Drs. Hal Levison and Wing Ip have interest in organizing meetings in USA and Taiwan respectively, and that the next ACM meeting, that will be held in Japan in 2011, might become an IAU meeting.

Julio A. Fernández
President of the Commission