CHAPTER IV

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Executive Committee 2003 - 2006

1.1. Composition of the Executive Committee

During the triennium 2003 - 2006, the Executive Committee was composed as follows:

Ronald D. Ekers President
Catherine J. Cesarsky President-Elect
Oddbjørn Engvold General Secretary
Karel A. van der Hucht Assistant General Secretary
Beatriz Barbuy Vice-President
Chen Fang Vice-President
Kenneth A. Pounds Vice-President
Silvia Torres-Peimbert Vice-President
Brian Warner Vice-President
Robert Williams Vice-President
Franco Pacini Adviser
Hans Rickman Adviser

1.2. Meetings of the Executive Committee

The IAU Executive Committee met as follows during the triennium:
- 78th Meeting, 25-26 July 2003, during the IAU XXV General Assembly, Sydney, Australia
- 79th Meeting, 24-26 May 2004, at the Instituto de Astronomía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico
- 80th Meeting, 18-20 April 2005, Monte Mario Osservatorio, INAF, Rome, Italy
- 81th Meeting, 13-23 August 2006, during the IAU XXVI General Assembly, Prague, Czech Republic

The business conducted by the Executive Committee is recorded in the Minutes of these meetings. Summaries of the minutes have appeared in the IAU Information Bulletin (IB 94, p. 30; IB 95, p. 27; and IB 97, p. 72-73).

1.3. Officers’ Meetings

Between the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Officers (President, President-Elect, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary) met at the IAU Secretariat on 2-3 February 2004, on 7-8 February 2005, and on 27-28 March, 2006.

1.4. International Year of Astronomy 2009

At its General Assembly in Sydney in July 2003, the International Astronomical Union voted unanimously in favor of a resolution asking that the year 2009 be declared the Year of Astronomy by the United Nations, in recognition of the significance of Galileo’s
introduction of the astronomical telescope in 1609. The proclamation was subsequently prepared by the ‘Year of Astronomy 2009’ Working Group, and forwarded to the Executive Board of UNESCO. We were very happy that UNESCO General Conference, in October 2005, recommended that the United Nations General Assembly at its 60th session adopts a resolution declaring 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy. In its recommendations to the UN General Assembly, the General Conference of UNESCO recognizes “that the study of the Universe has led to numerous scientific discoveries that have great influence not only on humankind’s understanding of the Universe but also on the technological, social and economic development of society” and “that astronomy proves to have great implications in the study of science, philosophy, religion and culture”, The Division XII WG on Communication Astronomy with the Public agreed to assist the EC in developing a structure of the role and participation in this big global event, in consultation with Commission 41 on History of Astronomy. This WG is arranging a plenary session on the IYA in Prague.

1.5. Definition of a planet

The discoveries of Trans-Neptunian Object 2003 VB12 (= 90377), also referred to as Sedna, and 2003 UB313, which appeared to be comparable in size to Pluto, led to the IAU to establish a definition of a planet. A new Working group of IAU Division III, called Definition of a Planet was created with the objective to advise the IAU on this matter. The Working Group, counting 19 members, was chaired by the Division III President, Iwan P. Williams (UK).

The difficulty that brought the whole topic to the forefront of discussion is that the boundary between (major) planet and minor planet had never been defined. In the early days this was not a problem since the gap between Mercury (the smallest planet) and Ceres (the largest minor planet) was enormous. Since Pluto was, at discovery, thought to be larger than the Earth, there still was not a problem. Indeed, even with the current value for the size of Pluto it would not be a problem (the gap from Pluto to Ceres is still large), were it not for the discovery of Trans-Neptunian Objects. Now at least one is larger than Pluto.

The Division III Working Group on Definition of a Planet was unable to agree on one definition of a planet, and on 15 November 2005 the WG Chair forwarded to the General Secretary a split recommendation from the WG, containing three alternative definitions which all had varied support among its members. The WG Chair subsequently informed the General Secretary that the WG had agreed that a further discussion would not lead to a consensus. The Organizing Committee of Division III accepted that the WG had completed its mission, and it formally decided that the WG be immediately discontinued. Recognizing the broad interest on this issue beyond the planetary scientist and astronomers, the Executive Committee decided to seek supplementary advice from a broader based, small Advisory Committee, before taking a decision on this matter, which was seen to be of notable concern and interest among the public and in the media.

In March 2006 the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group to the EC, on the planet issue, that should cover history of astronomy, science writing, publishing and education, plus having a solid knowledge and background in planetary sciences. The Committee was chaired by Owen Gingerich (USA). Its six members, including the President of IAU Division III, covered more than one of the named disciplines. The Committee met in Paris, 30 June 1 July 2006, and forwarded its unanimous recommendation on 7 July to the IAU President. The Executive Committee subsequently reviewed the recommendation during a telephone conference on 24 July 2006, and appointed a sub-group
with the task to present the Committees recommendation as a Resolution by the EC to be discussed and voted on at the General Assembly in Prague.

2. Membership of the Union

2.1. National Membership

During the IAU XXV General Assembly, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly welcomed Nigeria, Serbia, Romania and Tadjikistan as new National Members of the IAU.

Due to five years of non-payments of dues, the CAAA National Membership was terminated (IAU Statutes §7).

2.2. Individual Membership

The number of new Individual Members admitted to the IAU XXV General Assembly was 894, and as of 28 July 2006 the total number of IAU Individual Members is 8,488. In addition, were registered 567 Consultants. In 2006 the IAU National Committees for Astronomy (NCA) were asked to update their membership lists and report to the IAU Secretariat who were no longer active members and who should no longer remain Individual Members. The advice and recommendations thus received from the NCAs led to the current number of Individual Members stated above.

The IAU Executive is saddened to report the death of the following 172 members of the Union, which have been reported to the IAU Secretariat since the IAU XXV General Assembly:

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<td>T. de Groot</td>
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<td>Donald J. Faulkner</td>
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<td>Nzhet Gökdogan</td>
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<td>Vera L. Khokhlova</td>
<td>Michael J. Klein</td>
<td>I. G. Kolchinskij</td>
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3. Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups

3.1. Working Groups of the Executive Committee

The EC Working Groups on Women in Astronomy and on The Year of Astronomy 2009 were created at the General Assembly in Sydney. A new Advisory Committee for the IAU Executive Committee, on Impact Threats to the Earth, is being proposed for decision at the IAU XXVI General Assembly in Prague.

3.2. Working Groups of Divisions and Commissions

A new Working Group on Communication Astronomy with the Public under Division XII was created in 2004.

3.3. Minor Planet Center

The present contract between the host of IAU’s Minor Planet Center (MPC), the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA, USA) and the IAU expires by the end of the
IAU XXVI General Assembly in August 2006, unless a new agreement would be in place by then. Extensive discussions with the CfA Director, Dr. Charles Alcock and the IAU Negotiation Team led to a Memorandum of Agreement that will ensure the continued operation of the IAU Minor Planet Center, with financial support from NASA, at Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. This MoA was signed by the CfA Director and by the IAU General Secretary on 5 June 2006.

In July 2006 the IAU General Secretary was informed by the leadership of CfA and the MPC, that Dr. Brian Marsden (USA) would resign as MPC Director by end of the IAU General Assembly in Prague and that Dr. Timothy B. Spahr (USA) would take over, as interim Director.

3.4. Reviewing of Commissions and Working Groups

It is an expressed aim of the Union to ensure that it is relevant and serves the best interest of its membership as well as the non-astronomical World. The Commissions, Working Groups and Programme Groups are the bodies upon which the Unions scientific research and educational activities are based. In accordance with the IAU Statutes and Bye-Laws, these bodies shall therefore be reviewed by their parent Divisions every three years. Based on the result of these reviews the Divisions have forwarded their recommendations to the IAU Executive Committee about necessary changes in the current structure in order to meet the demand and challenges for the next triennium and beyond.

This implies that some Commissions, WGs and PGs, may be subject to notable changes, or even be discontinued, and that entirely new bodies will be needed to deal with new fields or activities of concern to IAU. Since all Commissions and the large majority of WGs and PGs have existed for more than six years already, these decisions will be made at the first meeting of the EC at IAU XXVI GA, in consultations with the IAU Division Presidents.

4. Scientific activities

4.1. Scientific meetings

The number of IAU Symposia and Colloquia supported in the previous years are, respectively: six and four in 2003, five and three in 2004, six and three in 2005, and there will be a total of nine Symposia in 2006, of which six will be held at the General Assembly. The location and dates of these various events are given from the list of publications below.

Two Regional IAU Meetings were supported in 2005, namely the 9th APRIM in Bali, Indonesia, 26 - 29 July, and the 11th LARIM in Pucón, Chile, 12-16 December.

4.2. Publications

Given the large number of international meetings every year of the size of IAU Colloquia, and given the fact that organization of these meetings can usually be handled on a time scale shorter than the IAU would do it, the EC decided at its 80th Meeting in Rome, April 2005, that the IAU support for international meetings will from then on be given to, on the average, nine IAU Symposia every year. The support for two Regional IAU Meetings in years between General Assemblies will remain a high priority.

The following are IAU Proceedings published in 2003 - 2006.

4.2.1. IAU Transactions, published in 2003 - 2006

Transactions of the International Astronomical Union
Volume XXVA, Reports on Astronomy 1999 - 2002
4.2.2. *IAU Symposium Proceedings, published in 2003-2006*

Published by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, USA (print):

**IAU S199**
The Universe at Low Radio Frequencies
30 November - 4 December 1999, Pune, India
Eds. A. Pramesh Rao, G. Swarup & Gopal-Krishna

**IAU S201**
New Cosmological Data and the Values of the Fundamental Parameters
7-11 August 2000, Manchester, United Kingdom
Eds. A. N. Lasenby & A. Wilkinson

**IAU S202**
Planetary Systems in the Universe - Observation, Formation and Evolution
7-11 August 2000, Manchester, United Kingdom

**IAU S206**
Cosmic Masers: from Protostars to Blackholes
5-10 March 2001, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Eds. V. Migenes & M. J. Reid

**IAU S208**
Astrophysical Supercomputing Using Particle Simulations
10-13 July 2001, Tokyo, Japan
Eds. J. Makino & P. Hut

**IAU S209**
Planetary Nebulae: their Evolution and Role in the Universe
19-23 November 2001, Canberra, Australia
Eds. S. Kwok, M. Dopita & R. Sutherland

**IAU S210**
Modelling of Stellar Atmospheres
17-21 June 2002, Uppsala, Sweden
Eds. N. Piskunov, W. W. Weis & D. F. Gray

**IAU S211**
Brown Dwarfs
20-24 May 2002, Honolulu, Hawai‘i, USA
Ed. E. Martn

IAU S212
A Massive Star Odyssey: from Main Sequence to Supernova
24-28 June 2002, Lanzarote, Canary Island, Spain
Eds. K. A. van der Hucht, A. Herrero & C. Esteban

IAU S213
Bioastronomy 2002: Life Among the Stars
8-12 July 2002, Hamilton Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia
Eds. R. P. Norris & F. H. Stootman

IAU S214
High Energy Processes and Phenomena in Astrophysics
6-10 August 2002, Suzhou, China
Eds. Xiang Dong Li, V. L. Trimble & Z. R. Wang

IAU S215
Stellar Rotation
8-12 November 2002, Cancun, Mexico
Eds. A. Maeder & P. R. J. Eenens

IAU S216
Maps of the Cosmos
14-17 July 2003, Sydney, Australia
Eds. M. Colless & L. Staveley-Smith

IAU S217
Recycling Intergalactic and Interstellar Matter
14-17 July 2003, Sydney, Australia
Eds. P.-A. Duc, J. Braine & E. Brinks

IAU S218
Young Neutron Stars and Their Environment
14-17 July 2003, Sydney, Australia
Eds. F. M. Camilo & B. M. Gaensler

IAU S219
Stars as Suns: Activity, Evolution and Planets
21-25 July 2003, Sydney, Australia
Eds. A. K. Dupree & A. O. Benz

IAU S220
Dark Matter in Galaxies
21-25 July 2003, Sydney, Australia
Eds. S. D. Ryder, D. J. Pisano, M. A. Walker & K. C. Freeman

IAU S221
Star Formation at High Angular Resolution
22-25 July 2003, Sydney, Australia
Eds. M. Burton, R. Jayawardhana & T. Bourke

Published by Cambridge University Press, UK (print and on-line):
(e-book see: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=IAU>)

IAU S222
The Interplay among Black Holes, Stars and ISM in Galactic Nuclei
1-5 March 2004, Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
Eds. Th. Storchi-Bergmann, L. C. Ho & H. R. Schmitt

IAU S223
Multi-Wavelength Investigations of Solar Activity
14-19 June 2004, St. Petersburg, Russia
Eds. A. V. Stepanov, E. E. Benevolenskaya & A. G. Kosovichev

IAU S224
The A-Star Puzzle
8-13 July 2004, Poprad, Slovakia

IAU S225
Impact of Gravitational Lensing on Cosmology
19-23 July, 2004, Lausanne, Switzerland
Eds. Y. Mellier & G. Meylan

IAU S226
Coronal and Stellar Mass Ejections
13-17 September 2004, Beijing, China
Eds. K. P. Dere, Jingxiu Wang & Yilua Yan

IAU S227
Massive Star Birth: A Crossroads of Astrophysics
16-20 May 2005, Catania, Sicily, Italy
Eds. R. Cesaroni, M. Felli, E. Churchwell & C. M. Walmsley  

IAU S228  
From Lithium to Uranium: Elemental Tracers of Early Cosmic Evolution  
23-27 May 2005, Paris, France  
Eds. V. Hill, P. Francois & F. Primas  

IAU S229  
Asteroids, Comets, Meteors  
7-12 August 2005, Bzios, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil  
Eds. D. Lazzaro, S. Ferraz-Mello & J. A. Fernández  

IAU S230  
Populations of High-Energy Sources in Galaxies  
15-19 August 2005, Dublin, Ireland  
Eds. E. J. A. Meurs & G. Fabbiano  

IAU S231  
Astrochemistry: Recent Successes and Current Challenges  
29 August - 2 September 2005, Monterey, CA, USA  
Eds. D. C. Lis, G. A. Blake & E. Herbst  

IAU S232  
The Scientific Requirements for Extremely Large Telescopes  
14-18 November 2005, Cape Town, South Africa  
Eds. P. A. Whitelock, M. Dennefeld & B. Leibundgut  

4.2.3. IAU Colloquium Proceedings, published in 2003-2006

IAU C189  
Astrophysical Tides: Effects in the Solar and Exoplanetary Systems  
16-20 September, 2002 Nanjing, China  
Eds. S. Ferraz-Mello & I. P. Williams  
Celestial Mechanics and Dynamical Astronomy 87 (Kluwer), Nos.1-2, 2003

IAU C190  
Magnetic Cataclysmic Variables  
8-13 December 2002, Cape Town, South Africa  
Eds. S. Vrielmann & M. Cropper  
ASP-CS 315 (San Francisco: ASP) ISBN 1-58381-170-2, December 2004

IAU C191  
The Environments and Evolution of Double and Multiple Stars
3-7 February 2003, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico
Eds. C. Allen & C. Scarfe

IAU C192
Supernovae (10 years of SN1993J)
22-26 April 2003, Valencia, Spain
Eds. J. M. Marcaide & K. W. Weiler
Book title: Cosmic Explosions. On the 10th Anniversary of SN1993J

IAU C193
Variable Stars in the Local Group
6-11 July 2003, Christchurch, New Zealand
Eds. D. W. Kurtz & K. R. Pollard

IAU C194
Compact Binaries in the Galaxy and Beyond
17-22 November 2003, La Paz, B.C. Sur, Mexico
Eds. G. Tovmassian & E. M. Sion

Published by Cambridge University Press, UK (print and on-line):
(e-book see: < http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=IAU >)

IAU C195
Outskirts of Galaxy Clusters: Intense Life in the Suburbs
12-16 March 2004, Torino, Italia
Ed. A. Diaferio

IAU C196
Transits of Venus: New Views of the Solar System and Galaxy
7-11 June 2004, Preston, U.K.
Ed. D. W. Kurtz

IAU C197
Dynamics of Populations of Planetary Systems
31 August - 4 September 2004, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
Eds. Z. Knezevic & A. Milani

IAU C198
Near-field Cosmology with Dwarf Elliptical Galaxies
14-18 March 2005, Les Diablerets, Switzerland
Eds. H. Jerjen & B. Binggeli
IAU C199
Probing Galaxies through Quasar Absorption Lines
14-18 March 2005, Shanghai, China
Eds. P.R. Williams, Chenggang Shu & B. Mnard

IAU C200
Direct Imaging of Exoplanets: Science and Techniques
3-7 October 2005, Nice, France
Eds. C. Aime & F. Vakili

At the end of 2005, the IAU Colloquium series was terminated, at the benefit of the expansion of the IAU Symposium series.

4.2.4. Proceedings of Regional IAU Meetings, published in 2003-2006

Proc. 8th Asian-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting, Vol. I
2-5 July 2002, Tokyo, Japan
Eds. S. Ikeuchi, J. Hearnshaw & T. Hanawa

Proc. 9th Asian-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM 2005)
26-29 July 2005, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia

Proc. 11th Latin-American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM 2005)
12-16 December 2005, Pucón, Chile
Eds. M. Rubio, L. Infante & S. Torres-Peimbert
Revista Mexicana de Astronomia y Astrofisica - Serie de Conferencias,
(in press, due August 2006)

For a complete list of Proceedings Regional IAU Meetings, please check:
< http://www.iau.org/Regional_Meetings.121.0.html >

4.3. IAU Publisher

The contract with the IAU Publisher, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific - Book Publishing Company (ASP), expired in 2003, and the Executive Committee resolved that a new publishing strategy should be worked out in the contract with the a Publisher. It was decided to go for an electronic version of the IAU Proceedings of IAU Symposia and Colloquia, supplemented by a paper. A Call for Tender of the IAU Proceedings Series was issued in the fall of 2003, and a contract was signed with Cambridge University Press (Cambridge, UK), February 2004.

It shall be noted that the IAU is formally a business partner in the new contract with the CUP and thereby will be sharing the net income from the book sales.

An IAU Editorial Board was created to ensure good communication between the Publisher and the Editors of the individual Proceedings, which also would serve to shorten
the time between the time of a meeting and the publication of the corresponding Proceedings. The Editorial Board is chaired by the Assistant General Secretary. For the past two years the average lead time for publishing of individual IAU Proceedings range commonly between six and nine months, which signals a very positive development and improvement compared to earlier years.

5. Educational activities

Educational programmes under IAU Commission 46 on *Astronomy Education and Development* represent a high priority activity and responsibility of the IAU. The Executive Committee recognizes the many successful and promising results from its Program Groups.

5.1. Commission 46 PG International Schools for Young Astronomers

The Program Group on *International Schools for Young Astronomers* (PG-ISYA) arranged very successful ISYAs in Morocco in 2004 and in Mexico in 2005. We refer to reports of these in IAU *Information Bulletins* no. 96 (pp. 29-30) and 97 (pp. 74-76).

5.2. Commission 46 PG World Wide Development of Astronomy

The Program Group on *World Wide Development of Astronomy* (PG-WWDA) has initiated and conducted wide reaching programs and promotion of interest for astronomy in developing countries. An overview of visits to Mongolia, Kenya, Thailand, Iraq, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago is given in IAU *Information Bulletin* no. 98, pp. 71-74.

5.3. Commission 46 PGs Teaching Astronomy for Development and Exchange of Astronomers

The Program Groups on *Teaching Astronomy for Development* and *Exchange of Astronomers* (PG-TAD and PG-EA) initiated a new program at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco in July, 2004.

6. Relations with other scientific organizations

6.1. ICSU

The International Council for Science (ICSU) has prepared a strategic plan for 2006-2012 with the objective to identify the continued needs for a strong, independent scientific organization like ICSU in a rapidly changing World. Of concern and interest to the IAU are in particular ICSU’s establishing of Regional Offices in regions where also the IAU promotes astronomy education, a programme that identifies Natural and Human-Induced Hazards and ICSU’s Principle of Universality. The IAU is grouped in a relatively loose cluster structure with 5 Geo-Unions of ICSU. The idea is that grouping of its current 27 member Unions in so-called clusters will stimulate Inter-Union collaboration.

The planning of the International Polar Year 2007-2008, which is part of the ICSU strategy for 2006-2011, is progressing well.

ICSU is greatly concerned about the continuing problem of obtaining in time visa for scientists from, in particular, Asian and Arabic countries, to attend scientific meetings in some countries. The problem is gradually becoming more widespread. ICSU follows the situation closely and it has offered to provide an overview of the increased lead time for visa applications to various countries.
Astronomy is in the forefront of taking advantage of new technological opportunities to accelerate the quality and effectiveness of its science. As a result, our science faces great challenges in managing increasing amount of data. Our science is under time pressure to develop and agree on a set of guiding principles for how to manage astronomical data. IAU Commission 5’s Working Group on Astronomical Data, chaired by Ray Norris, has been actively involved in a consortium under ICSU and CODATA in developing guidelines for safeguarding the future of astronomical data. As astronomers we are also accustomed to enjoy the freedom to establish open access to astronomical data bases in collaboration with colleagues across all boarders on this planet. Many of us have been comfortably unaware of recent legal threats to this privilege and the successful war that has been endured by and won on our behalf by ICSU and CODATA to safeguard this important condition for fostering and promoting scientific co-operations.

6.3. FAGS
The ICSU General Assembly, held in Suzhou, China in October 2005, decided to extend ICSU’s sponsorship of the Interdisciplinary Services called Federation of Astronomical and geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS) for an additional period of three years, during which FAGS will continue to fulfill its role of coordination among the Services, while ICSU examines integration of this function within its activities in data and information.

6.4. UN-COPUOS
The IAU representative to the UN Committee on Peaceful Use of the Outer Space (UN-COPUOS), IAU Assistant General Secretary Karel A. van der Hucht, attended the annual sessions of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee of UN-COPUOS. His addresses and overview of relevant IAU activities were well received.

6.5. OECD Global Science Forum
The OECD Global Science Forum has arranged two Workshops on Future Large-Scale Projects and Programmes in Astronomy and Astrophysics in, respectively, 2003 and 2004, with participation of members from the IAU Executive Committee. The Workshops recognized that ground-based and space-based observatories are vital and complementary for the future astronomy.

6.6. IAU Representatives to international organizations 2003 - 2006

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<td>Planets and Small Bodies of the Solar System</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>including Planetary Magnetospheres</td>
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</table>
7. Financial matters

The table in Appendix II comprises the Budget, Income and Expenditure for the years 2003-2005, and the Budget for 2006. The proposed Budget for 2007-2009 is presented in chapter II, p. 30, (Appendix I) of these Proceedings. The Budget for 2003-2006 was approved by the previous General Assembly. Triennial accounts for the years 2003-2005 have been certified by the IAU Auditor, Msr. Arnaud de Boisanger.

The Finance Sub-Committee, chaired by Dr. Robert W. Milkey, provided most helpful advice and guidance to the General Secretary on all financial matters of the Union.

7.1. Comments on Income

As in previous years, the main source of income is the yearly dues from the Adhering Organizations. An increased minor income is foreseen from sales of IAU Proceedings in accordance with the contract with the new IAU Publisher.

7.2. Comments on Expenditure

The expenditure excess of general office expenses is due to the extra cost of creating and implementing a new IAU data base and web server in 2005. The IAU Executive Committee accepted this extra expense at its 81st meeting 18-20 April 2005 in Rome.

A major part of the bank expenditure in 2004 and 2005 was balanced in January 2006 by a back-payment from the ABN AMRO bank.

7.3. Comments on Budget

The budget for the years 2007-2009 was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting April 18-20, 2005, in Rome. The Executive Committee recommended, at the
same meeting, an increase of the staff in the IAU Office in Paris, which is reflected in the proposed increase in salaries of the administrative staff.

8. Administrative matters

8.1. Revision of Statutes, Bye-Laws and Working Rules

The IAU XXV General Assembly adopted a major revision of the Statutes and Bye-Laws. These changes were followed by a thorough revision of the IAU Working Rules which were adopted by the Executive Committee at its 80th Meeting in Rome 2005. As a result of the revised Statutes and Bye-Laws, the EC resolved to modify the Working Rules accordingly.

A few minor changes in the Statutes and Bye-Laws will be presented for voting at the General Assembly in Prague. These modifications concern the voting on issues of primarily scientific nature at General Assemblies, the nomination of Individual Members and the range number of dues units that are available for the National Members annual contributions to the IAU.

8.2. Miscellaneous

At its 80th Meeting in Rome in April 2005, the Executive Committee adopted a set of guidelines to advise countries inviting to host of IAU General Assemblies.

In July 2005 the IAU General Secretary signed a contract with the company Oxford Abstracts to host the server for submission of all abstracts to scientific events of the IAU General Assembly. The submitted abstracts were reviewed for decision separately by the 29 event organizers. At the closing of the abstract submission on 26 June 2006, a total of close to 2,400 accepted abstracts were downloaded from the server and prepared for inclusion in the Abstract Book. This task was previously handled by the General Assembly organizers, and from the experience gained this time the Executive Committee will decide whether it is a solution for future General Assemblies.

The IAU Secretariat has since 1988 enjoyed the privilege to use office space and one storage room in the building of the Institute d’Astrophysique (IAP), 98bis bd Arago, Paris. A new contract between the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the IAU for IAP’s continued hosting of the IAU Secretariat was signed in July 2006.

The IAU decided in January 2006 to discontinue its more than 70 years of banking relation with ABN AMRO in Utrecht, the Netherlands, due to a long-lasting dispute concerning transfer of funds to Sydney in 2003. The bank finally accepted its mistake.

8.3. Update of Data Base and Web Site

The IAU data base, which initially was located in Uppsala, Sweden, was transferred to a server of the Institute d’Astrophysique, Paris, during the early phase of this triennial.

An upgrading of the IAU web server was due for quite some time and this work started in 2004. The IAU Secretariat became involved in a painstaking detailed planning of the structure and layout of the new data base and server, and the follow-up and checking as the work progressed. The work with the data base and the web site was contracted with the AMEOS company in Strasbourg, and the layout of the actual web pages were done by Ms Alice de Miramon. The local staff of the IAU Secretariat Mme Claire Vidonne and Mme Monique Orine are thanked for their conscientious and invaluable work with the data base and server that has led to the new data base and web site that became available for use of the membership in January 2006.

Among the new features available with the new system is the Individual Member’s web page form which enables them to check and, when necessary, notify the IAU Secretariat.
about changes or corrections of one's personal profile. The updated membership list has led to the issuing of an IAU Newsletter at semi-regular intervals, in addition to the IAU Information Bulletin that is normally issued twice per year, which serves to keep the membership updated on the work and activities of the Union.

8.4. Secretariat

The IAU Secretariat is dealing with a steadily increasing workload on the two employees, Executive Assistant Mme Monique Léger-Orine and Administrative Assistant Mme Claire Vidonne. The dedication and efficiency in their work for the IAU are gratefully appreciated. In order to ensure adequate maintenance and necessary upgrading on the IAU computer systems, one has signed contracts with Msr. Laurent Pezeron, who is paid by the hour. Additional, part-time personnel was being hired to assist in the work of the Secretariat when necessary.

The proposed budget for 2007-2009 takes note of the need to strengthen the personnel situation of the IAU Secretariat.
## APPENDIX II

### TRIENNIUM 2003 - 2005

#### STATEMENT OF INCOME (CHF)

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<th>2003 - '05</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<td>--</td>
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Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. IP address: 54.70.40.11, on 04 Jul 2021 at 07:20:05, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/S174392130802365X
## STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE (CHF)

### SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

#### General Assemblies

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| **sub-total SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES** | 497121| 324891| 256618| 1078630    | 526100|
|                                       | 526100| 341500| 341500| 1209100    | 587500|
## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>PG-TAD</th>
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<td>2005</td>
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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### Sub-totals

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| net result                  | -44461    | 103946    | 386360    | 445845     |           |
|                             | -118000   | 54510     | 57020     | -6470      | -112540   |

### GENERAL FUND

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