CHAPTER II

TWENTY EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BUSINESS SESSIONS

FIRST SESSION: Tuesday, 21 August 2012, 16:30-18:00

Chaired by Robert Williams, President of the IAU
China National Convention Centre, Beijing

1. Opening and Welcome

The President of the IAU, Prof. Robert Williams, welcomed the delegates and members to this first business session of the General Assembly. The President invited the General Secretary, Dr. Ian Corbett, to start the business session.

2. Representatives of IAU National Members

The General Secretary listed the representatives of the National Members (IAU member countries). They are given in the table at the end of this Chapter.

The columns list separately:
- the National Members
- the dues category
- the number of votes attached to each National Representative:
  (a) for ordinary votes, membership, etc.
  (b) for financial matters

Note: “Interim” National Members, or National Members in arrears of their dues, do not vote, even if they have appointed a Representative (countries indicated by a astrisk).
- the National Representatives, in their capacity to vote the budget and other issues on behalf of the National Members;
- the National Representative for Finance, in their capacity to discuss and vote on financial matters, as well as to propose nominations and elect the Finance Committee (formerly known as Finance Sub-Committee) for the triennium;
- the National Representatives for Membership Nominations, in they capacity to discuss and vote on individual membership issues, as well as to propose nominations and elect the Special Nominating Committee (SNC), and the Membership Committee.

For each National Member, the first line gives the names of the Representatives present during the first week of the GA, the second line, if present, gives the names of the Representatives present during the second week of the GA.
3. Adoption of Agenda
   The delegates approved the agenda of the meeting as published in the Program Book.

4. Reminder of voting rules
   The President reminded the delegates and the members about the voting rules, depending on the nature of the vote.

5. Appointment of Official Tellers
   The Official Tellers were duly approved.

6. Admission of New National Members to the Union
   The following new National Members were unanimously admitted to the Union:

   **Country:** The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea  
   **Category:** Interim  
   **Adhering Organization:** Pyongyang Astronomical Observatory, Academy of Sciences

   **Country:** Ethiopia  
   **Category:** I  
   **Adhering Organization:** Ethiopian Space Science Society

   **Country:** Kazakhstan  
   **Category:** I  
   **Adhering Organization:** National Center of Space Research and Technology

7. Revisions of Statutes and Bye-Laws
   The revisions of the Statutes and Bye-Laws, in particular those relevant to the changes introduced in the Division Structure, were presented by the General Secretary.  
   The revised Statutes and Bye-Laws are presented in Chapter V of these Transactions.

   The report of the Executive Committee was presented by the General Secretary, Dr. Ian Corbett, and is presented in Chapter XX of these Transactions.

9. Report of the Special Nominating Committee
   Nominations of the IAU Executive Committee for the triennium 2012-2015:

   - President-Elect: Silvia Torres Peimbert (Mexico)  
   - Assistant General Secretary: Piero Benvenuti (Italy)  
   - Vice-President: Renée Kraan-Korteweg (South Africa)  
   - Vice-President: Xiao-Wei Liu (China Nanjing)  
   - Vice-President: Dina Prialnik (Israel)

   The Special Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for IAU members for the Officers and Members of the IAU Executive Committee for the triennium 2012-2015:
10. Presentation of Proposed Changes to Divisional Structure

The Assistant General Secretary, Dr. Thierry Montmerle, presented proposed changes to the IAU Divisional structure, endorsed by the Division Presidents and the Executive Committee, in the form of a Resolution put to the General Assembly, as follows:

RESOLUTION B4

on the restructuring of the IAU Divisions,

proposed by the IAU Executive Committee

The XXVIII General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union, noting
(a) that both the IAU and astronomy as a whole have evolved considerably since the current Divisions were introduced in 1994 and formally adopted in 1997, and that it is therefore appropriate to consider re-optimising the Divisional Structure,
(b) the report and recommendations of the Task Group established by the Executive Committee to examine the case for restructuring the Divisions, and the Executive Committee response to these recommendations,
(c) that the Commissions, Working Groups and other bodies under the Divisions may also require reform,
(d) that the implementation of the Strategic Plan through the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) and other associated programmes requires the Executive Committee to establish appropriate oversight and governance provisions for all Astronomy for Development activities, including the Office of Astronomy for Development, ensuring a strong link between these activities, the Divisions, and the Executive Committee.

approves

the proposal of the Executive Committee to restructure the Divisions as follows:

Division A Space and Time Reference Systems
Division B Facilities, Technologies, & Data Science
Division C Education, Outreach, & Heritage
Division D High Energies & Fundamental Physics
Division E Sun & Heliosphere
Division F Planetary Systems & Bioastronomy
11. Proposal to host the XXX General Assembly in 2018

One proposal was received from Austria to hold the XXX General Assembly in 2018, with a venue in Vienna. This proposal was presented by the NCA of Austria. It was approved by the Executive Committee at its 91th meeting, Part II, on Aug.23, and the decision announced at the Second business meeting of the General Assembly.

Closure of Session

There being no other business items to discuss, the President declared the session closed.

Representatives of National Members (see Sect. 2)

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