

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ASTRONAUTICS
SETI PERMANENT STUDY GROUP (SPSG)

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 30 September, 2010

10am-noon Prague Congress Centre, Room MR 3.4
61st International Astronautical Congress, Prague, Czech Republic

Present:

Seth Shostak (Chair)
Paul Shuch (Co-Chair)
Carol Oliver (Secretary)
Richard Clar
Doug Vakoch
Ivan Almar
Kathryn Denning
Alex Ollengren
Paulo Musso
Lori Walton
Bob DiBiase
Margaret Race

1. Welcome and approval of minutes from 2009 Daejon meeting

Shuch proposed and Oliver seconded the 2009 minutes be accepted as per the record, and this was carried unanimously.

2. Review of SETI sessions

Size of SETI I and SETI II room:

- Discussion took place on both the inadequate size of rooms for SETI I and SETI II on 29 September, 2010, which were both held in the same 40-seat room. In SETI I the audience number reached 58 while in SETI II there were 80. Isolated locations for SETI sessions are common. Denning moved and Oliver seconded that a request be made at the SETI session in Paris for a room for up to 100 people in a less isolated location.

Other comments on sessions:

- Shostak noted his evening plenary lecture was public, but that the public were turned away as not being registered.
- Shostak noted the high standard of papers in SETI I and SETI II sessions and a large proportion being from non-SPSG members.
- Denning suggested a paper be presented in a future session on simple strategies for incorporating SETI observing into the thesis work of students.
- Almar noted chairs did not tell the audience which papers had been withdrawn. Shostak to produced instruction set for chairs and rapporteurs for future sessions.

3. Next year's meeting at Capetown International Convention Centre, 3-7 October

Pesek and Billingham lectures:

- No Pesek lecture was given this year.
- Discussion took place on whether the Billingham lecture, now unfunded, should be invited as per the Pesek lecture. Denning proposed, and Shuch seconded the proposal that:
 - a. The chair seeks financial support for the Billingham lecture
 - b. If this fails then selection for the Billingham lecture should proceed as a non-funded honorary lecture

Carried unanimously.

- Selection of Billingham lecture process assuming no funding: Denning proposed that the candidate be solicited by the SPSG, with attention to choosing someone likely to attend, preferably from the host country. Shuch seconded, and it was carried unanimously.
- Denning moved Allen Tough be thanked for his support, seconded by Oliver. Shostak said a letter should go from the SPSG to Allen. Carried unanimously.

Leadership for Capetown, 2011

- Coordinators will be Maccone and Shostak
- SETI 1 chairs Shuch; Shostak; rapporteur Oliver
- SETI II chairs Antonities; Vakoch; rapporteur Traphagan

Leadership for Naples, 2012

- Coordinators will be Maccone and Shostak
- SETI 1 chairs Montebugnoli, Clar; rapporteur Vakoch
- SETI II chairs Musso, Walton; rapporteur Shuch

4. Revised Protocols: approval and adoption by IAA

- Shostak noted that in voting via email some members had suggested minor amendments to the proposed revised Protocols. After some discussion Vakoch proposed the document be voted on as it stands, and Almar seconded. This was carried unanimously.
- Shostak moved that the document be accepted as is and be forwarded to the Board of the IAA. Almar seconded. It was carried unanimously with Shostak noting one and maybe two abstentions among the email votes.

5. Publication of SETI papers in *Acta Astronautica*.

- Shostak noted that Elliott had successfully brought together a special SETI issue of *Acta Astronautica* to cover ten years of papers. It is hoped that newer papers can now be published promptly.

6. Status of subgroups

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- Since Maccone was absent from the meeting no report was possible

Post-Detection

- Post-Detection Deputy Chair Oliver reported the group had met at the Congress with 12 members in attendance. The previous meeting was at Arizona State University in 2008 for which funding was available. Meetings are intended to occur on an annual basis with contact via a password protected website. A public website will also be created. The chair Davies is donating some of his webperson's time to this task. The group will extend membership to relevant. Davies said he would like to see a shift from managing 'the Big Day' to the societal implications in the longer term as well as public promotion of relevant items such as the Rio and London scales. The group continues to be active.

7. New membership requests (vitae submitted)

- The following were unanimously voted onto the SPSG:
 - Martin Dominik
 - Denise Herzing
 - Salvatore Pluchino

8. New business

- Shuch raised the question of rotating off inactive members. After some discussion Vakoch moved, and Oliver seconded, that the Chair undertakes the task of addressing the question of inactive members. This was unanimously carried.
- It was noted that there is a new SPSG Task Group for Active SETI, led by Vakoch.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12.15pm