

International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)
SETI Permanent Committee (SPC) Meeting - Minutes
66th International Astronautical Congress, Jerusalem, Israel
Monday, October 12, 2015 13:00 to 15:00, Room 305, Jerusalem Conference Center

Attendees:

Richard Clar

Daniela de Paulis

Amri Wandel

Peter Worden

Claudio Maccone (Chair)

Paul Shuch (Co-Chair)

Michael Garret (via Skpe) (Co-Chair)

Lori Walton

1. Approval of minutes from Beijing meeting

- Maccone proposed and Shuch seconded the 2014 minutes be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. Review of Jerusalem SETI Sessions

- Maccone reviewed details on the upcoming SETI presentations in Jerusalem.
SETI 1: Four talks – more time can be allotted
SETI 2: Four to five talks will be presented
- Maccone described the new Interactive Presentations at the Jerusalem IAC
 - Maccone prepared a presentation on Preliminary OSETI Activities at FOAM13 Observatory (ITALY) to be uploaded at the Jerusalem conference.

4. Next year's meeting in Guadalajara

- Maccone described the assignments for the 2016 meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico
- The Pesek lecture in Guadalajara will be presented by Shelley Wright.
- The Billingham Cutting Edge lecture will be given by Dr. Carlos Duarte from Mexico.

5. Status of former subcommittees

- Shuch clarified that the IAA has dissolved all the previous subcommittees.
- Maccone provided historical context and updated the group on the status of the Farside of the Moon study.
- Shuch noted that the SETI Subcommittees are still shown on the IAA website and there is a new IAA structure for working groups.
- Garrett asked Maccone if he has contacted the heads of the working groups to inform them that their committees are now defunct. Maccone said that no he has not yet, but will contact them.

ACTION: The Chair will send the message to the heads of the working groups and ensure that copies are sent to the Co-Chairs and Secretary.

6. Discussion on activities of SETI within the IAA

- Discussion took place on where SETI activities are placed within the IAA structure and commissions.
- It was noted that there are overlaps; for example the sending of messages is the purview of more than one group.

7. Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference (TOR) for the SETI Permanent Committee

- Garret described the proposed changes to the TOR.
- Shuch pointed out that TOR changes cannot be made by the SETI Permanent Committee - the IAA needs to approve the amended TOR.
- Shuch moved that the SETI Permanent Committee accept the proposed changes to the TOR. The motion was seconded by Maccone and unanimously approved.

ACTION: The Chair is to present the proposed changes to the IAA SETI Permanent Committee Terms of Reference to the IAA.

8. Proposed Changes to Operating Rules for the SETI Permanent Committee

- Garrett described the proposed changes to the operating rules.
- Shuch suggested some amendments to the proposed changes
- Discussion took place on the final wording of the changes.
- Maccone moved that the changes to the Operating Rules, as discussed, be accepted. The motion was seconded by Shuch and unanimously approved.

7. Introduction of New Member Nominees

- A slate of new member nominees was presented at the meeting.
- Two new member nominees, Daniela de Paulis and Peter Worden, were present at the meeting.
- The following were unanimously voted onto the SETI Permanent Committee
 - Daniela de Paulis
 - Peter Worden
 - Jim Cordes
 - Leonid Gurvits
 - Andrew Siemion
 - Eric Korpela
 - Joseph Lazio
 - Dan Werthimer
 - Steven Tingay
 - Nikolay Kardashev
 - Lev Gindilis
 - Ian Morrison
 - Michael Marchaud
 - Alexander Panov

- Andrea Melis
- Abraham Loeb

8. Additional New Business

a) Breakthrough Initiative

- Pete Worden was asked to describe the \$100 million (spread over ten years) Breakthrough Initiative announced July 20, 2015 to reinvigorate the search for life in the universe.
 - Worden is the Chairman of the Breakthrough Prize Foundation
 - Breakthrough Listen will provide funding for the scientific search for signs of intelligent life beyond Earth.
 - Breakthrough Message will fund an international competition to generate messages representing humanity and planet earth.
- The funding flow through UC Berkeley and other participating institutions
- Kepler telescope results shows that earth like planets may be common
- Data can be filtered using Silicon Valley technology
- Telescope time acquired at Green Bank, Parkes, and Lick
- Working with the square kilometer array telescope
- Direct imaging of planets is important, also interstellar probe design and research
- Building international partnerships with others, e.g. Chinese billionaires
- Committed to making all the data received available to the public
- Computer complexity is important, esp. quantum computing technology

b) Other

- Shuch noted that Maccone needs to set up a proxy procedure for SPC voting and to investigate further the possibility of electronic participation in meetings.
- Maccone noted that some buildings, for example the UNESCO building in Paris, do not allow internet.
- Garrett states that it is important for SPC members to stay in touch between IAC meetings.
- Garrett suggested 3 or 4 additional meetings per year would be helpful to engage the new members.
- The meetings could be informal.
- Discussion followed on whether two SPC meetings per year should be formally established.
- Maccone thanked Shuch for continuing to support hosting the SPC website
- It was noted that the structure of the IAA website is not adequate to support the SPC
- Shuch reminded everyone that content should be provided to him in PDF format.
- Garrett mentioned that the SPC needs to follow through on its work; for example the annual status reports sent by the Chair to the IAA

ACTION ITEM: Maccone will send to Shuch the most recent status reports by the end of 2015

- Garrett mentioned that an email list of all members, including the new members, needs to be developed.
- Garrett reported that the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has changed structure.
- The radio astronomy division is to set up working groups
- There is a proposed SETI working group within the IAU

9. Scheduling of no-host SETI dinner

- It was agreed that the annual no-host SETI dinner would take place Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 18:00
- The restaurant will be close to the Convention Centre, but is still undetermined

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30.