



SVENSKA NATIONALKOMMITTÉN FÖR ASTRONOMI

Minutes from the National Committee for Astronomy 2018-11-15

Datum: Thursday 2018-11-15, kl 10.00 – 15.00

Location: Karlavagnen, M2091V, in building M at the Linnaeus University Växjö campus

Participants: Paul Barklem (UU), Yvonne Becherini (Linnéuniversitetet), Alexis Brandeker (SU), Sofia Feltzing (LU), Dan Kiselman (SU), Mats Larsson (SU), Hans Olofsson (CTH), Mark Pearce (KTH), Wouter Vlemmings (CTH), Eva Wirström (CTH)

Not present: John Conway (OSO), Susanne Höfner (UU), Anders Johansen (LU), Garrelt Mellema (SU), Jan-Erik Wahlund (IRFU), Göran Östlin (SU)

1. Acceptance of the agenda

The agenda is accepted as it is.

2. IAU

Dainis Dravins was the Swedish official representative at the General Assembly of IAU and has written a report from the meeting. The National Committee (NC) thanks DD for his efforts.

Junior membership: Applications to junior IAU membership are to be vetted by the NC every year. The requirements for a junior membership are a PhD and active research in or related to astronomy. For Swedish junior membership applications, an additional requirement is to have reference letters from two Swedish senior IAU members. To simplify the letter writing, the NC will provide a simple template. The application deadline for 2018 is on December 31. The applications are to be reviewed by the NC by February 15, 2019, at the latest. PB will send out a call for applications, probably to department heads for further distribution to the relevant target group.

3. IAU 100 yr events

DK: Next year the IAU is 100 years old and this will be celebrated in various ways during the year. In particular, on April 11-12 there will be a “100 years under one sky” celebration flagship ceremony for those invited. PB and SF have been invited. The NC thinks at least one representative from Sweden should be present. In addition, in 2019 will be 50 years since the first moon landing. Svenska Astronomiska Sällskapet (SAS) also turns 100 next year. It is reported that Robert Cumming has assembled a group to engage in the IAU 100 activities.

4. Astronomdagarna 2019

DK: The dates will be Thursday-Saturday, 24-26 October and location Stockholm. No answer yet about funding from KVA. Main organiser contact is Jesper Sollerman.

5. Plan S for Open Access

SF informs about an initiative for “golden open access” for published research by 2020. SF volunteered to investigate how this initiative is perceived by the Swedish research communities.

6. CTA

YB reports that the CTA Large telescope on La Palma was inaugurated in October. The northern site is progressing faster than the southern site.

7. ESO

HO reports from ESO council meetings: Ireland is the newest member state. Its annual fee will constitute 1.17% of the ESO budget. In addition, a special entrance fee will be 14.66 M€, out of which part will go into funding of ELT instruments. All Brazil interim arrangements have been cancelled. ESO has introduced a new kind of membership: partnership. Smaller countries can join together and become partners for 10 years. There is also an option to become ELT partners. **ALMA:** 42% of ALMA papers are led by European PIs. The Cycle 6 call produced 800 proposals, resulting in an oversubscription factor of 6. Observing efficiency has improved to 85%, with typically 42 antennas in simultaneous operation. Data processing is improving: 90% of data delivered within a month. Sean Dougherty is the new directory since February. **Las Silla/ Paranal:** Commissioning has been completed for the MATISSE AO facility and ESPRESSO. Paranal calls for third generation instruments. **APEX:** band 9 is now open and performs very well. **ELT:** dome and main structure preliminary design review (PDR) delayed by 6 months. **CTA** south will be operated by ESO as a new ESO programme. ESO will get 10% of the observing time on CTA. A draft agreement between CTA and ESO exists. A site agreement between ESO and Chile for CTA already exists. There is a new agreement between ESO and A&A for new a publisher. Catarina Sahlberg, ESO council vice president, is on leave of absence and will be replaced by Camilla Jakobsson. **Regarding principles for GTO on the ELT:** the allowed reserved time for GTO was raised from 15% to 20%. There will be opportunities to purchase time, with twice the rate cost for non-member countries. It will be allowed to allocate GTO time for public surveys.

SF: GÖ is PI for RFI funded Swedish contributions to ELT instruments HIRES and MOSAIC. In February (2019) there is an ELT for all meeting in Lund. In connection with that meeting there will be an ELT instrumentation community day.

8. European Solar Telescope

DK: EST is in a preparatory phase financed by some European money, including some in-kind and cash contributions from Sweden. The host country Spain is expected to provide 25% for the project, and currently Czech Republic is committed. Germany is waiting for their national roadmap to be finalised (expected by the end of the year). The strategy is to form a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC).

In the current government budget proposal, published today, permission is asked for Sweden to join the EST-ERIC. A model of the EST in scale 1:100 is coming to Stockholm in the end of November.

9: SKA

(HO reads report from JC): SKA is under a pre-construction phase. New countries have joined: Spain and France. Germany is not committed yet but makes contributions. Sweden has initialled the inter-governmental organisation (IGO), but has not signed. The goal is for the organisation to become operational by 2020 with construction starting late 2020, verification in 2025, and phase A completion by 2027.

10: National balloon programme, PoGO+

MP presented the 2016 flight of PoGO+ - a balloon-borne hard X-ray polarimeter flown from Esrange. The flight provided new results on the nature of Crab emissions and the geometry of the Cygnus X-1 accretion corona. To further develop the research programme, the PoGO team have now joined the X-Calibur mission which adopts a more sensitive instrument approach based on X-ray optics. An follow-up mission, XL-Calibur, has potential for simultaneous observations with IXPE (NASA small explorer mission scheduled for launch in 2021). It was proposed to adapt the PoGO+ technique for gamma-ray burst polarimetry in the SPHiNX (Satellite Polarimeter for High eNergy X-rays) mission - this was chosen for phase A in the SNSA small satellite programme, but was not selected for implementation.

11. Preparing for the next National Committee

HO: Proposal to KVA is that the new NC for 2019-2021 will be: Yvonne Becherini (Linnéuniversitet), Alexis Brandeker (SU), John Conway (OSO), Sofia Feltzing (LU), Ulrike Heiter (UU), David Hobbs (LU), Kay Justtanont (CTH), Oleg Kochukhov (UU), Josefine Larsson (KTH), Jorrit Leenaarts (SU), Garrelt Mellema (SU), Jesper Sollerman (SU), Vouter Wlemmings (CTH), Jan-Erik Wahlund (IRFU), Göran Östlin (SU).

12 Other items

No feedback has been received from VR regarding funds for a potential Sweden - South Africa collaboration.

13 Next meeting

SF will call the next NC in January-February 2019.

Minutes taken by

Approved by

Alexis Brandeker (secretary)

Paul Barklem (chair)