



## SVENSKA NATIONALKOMMITTÉN FÖR ASTRONOMI

**Protokoll från mötet av Svenska Kungliga Nationalkommittén för astronomi (National Committee for Astronomy, NCA) inom Kungliga vetenskapsakademien (KVA)**

**Tid:** 2022-10-06, 9.10 – 12, paus 10:10-10:30.

**Plats:** Gothenburg, Johanneberg campus and online via Zoom.

**Närvarande ledamöter:** Elvire De Beck (ordförande, EDB, CTH), Oleg Kochukhov (viceordförande, OK, UU), Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare, JK, CTH), Thomas Bensby (TB, LU), John Conway (JC, CTH), Henrik Hartman (HH, MU), Ulrike Heiter (UH, UU), David Hobbs (DH, LU), Cathy Horellou (CH, CTH), Dan Kiselman (DK, SU), Karin Lind (KL, SU, Zoom), Per Magnusson (PM, SNSA), Jorrit Leenaarts (JL, SU), Felix Ryde (FR, KTH), Barbro Åsman (BÅ, SU), Jan-Erik Wahlund (JEW, UU), Gabriella Stenberg Wieser (GSW, IRF), Göran Östlin (GÖ, SU).

**Anmält förhinder:** Jon Gudmundsson (JG, SU).

**Frånvarande:** -

**Övriga närvarande:** -

[LU Lunds universitet, KTH Kungliga tekniska högskolan, UU Uppsala universitet, CTH Chalmers tekniska högskola, SU Stockholms universitet, IRF Institutet för rymdfysik, VR Vetenskapsrådet, RFI rådet för forskningens infrastrukturer, SAS Svenska Astronomiska Sällskapet, SNSA Swedish National Space Agency]

### **1. Meeting is opened**

EDB opened the meeting at 9:10.

### **2. Approval of the meeting agenda**

The agenda was approved.

### **3. Accepting/adjusting minutes from the previous meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022)**

Notes have been circulated; minor comments can still be provided to JK before finalization.

### **4. EAS membership**

9:15 GÖ arrives.

OG introduces EAS and how to become a member. An important possibility is to have an affiliated national society whose members can obtain the EAS membership for free. Sweden is one of a few European countries that does not have an affiliated society. Possible options for such society are discussed. Especially, Svenska Astronomiska Sällskapet (SAS) is brought up as a possibility. Professional astronomers are active in SAS but the activities of SAS are mostly geared towards astronomy outreach in Sweden. Pros and cons of this arrangement are discussed, and how such role would fit into SAS agenda.

Another possibility was brought up by naming the NK as the affiliated society. This was seen

as a relatively simple solution. Pros and cons were discussed.

Short discussion on the possibility of establishing a new professional committee with very few functions, one of them being the EAS membership platform.

Conclusion: For the sake of the EAS memberships, the NK will be for now named as the affiliated society. GÖ will ask if KVA approval for this is needed and if there are any related formalities.

### **Coffee break 10:10**

## **5. Astronomy and Astrophysics journal, Swedish representation**

CH introduces A&A and its background. CH has been the Swedish representative in the board of A&A for two terms, and a replacement is needed by January 1., 2023. The appointment 6 years ago was done by VR (CH is not sure of the procedure). The NK would be the natural body to nominate or suggest the replacement.

CH introduces the open access and funding models of A&A, discussion on the details follows. Member countries pay to A&A according to GDP, Sweden pays 7 780 EUR. In exchange Swedish scientists publish for free in A&A and Sweden has a representative on the Board of Directors of A&A. A&A made the transition to subscribe-to-open open-access model in April 2022. A discussion followed on the income of A&A and how it affects the choice for the open access model.

The related workload is discussed; CH describes it to be one meeting per year for the board, but considerably more work in the executive committee.

Conclusion: CH contacts VR about the termination of the term and suggests that the NK is involved in nominating the candidate.

## **6. Mandate and goals of the NK from perspective of Space Science.**

GSW gives the background to the issue from the Space Physics perspective. Space physics feels to fall in between the NKs of geophysics and physical society and astronomy. It is unclear what the astronomy NK means for Space Physics/Physicists. Space Physics is part of many committees but not at the center of any. Discussion on the expectations and role in different NKs follows.

Conclusion: There is no clear conclusion on the matter. The NK reinforces the idea that from the perspective of the NK of astronomy, Space Physics representation is welcomed because the NK belongs to the Class ("Klass") of Astronomy *and* Space Sciences.

## **7. Astronomdagarna update**

EDB gives an update on Astronomdagarna. Large interest in the meeting, around 130 participants. The instructions for organizing are being updated. A discussion followed on practicalities and on the updates on the instruction document.

Discussion on the approval of SOC members by the NK.

UH points out that a representative of SAS is missing from the instructions text. Also the language recommendations are missing (both the instruction and recommendation for the meeting). It is agreed that in general the scientific meeting should be in English and the astronomy outreach session (traditionally held on a Saturday) in Swedish.

Further discussion on the wordings of the instruction – several suggestions made. Specific note about small universities not mentioned, the NK shall be aware that other institutes may have an interest in organizing, too. Ideas are given for practical notes to the organizer from Swedish perspective. The naming Kiruna/IRF should be changed to IRF.

The organization of the next astronomdagarna is discussed. It is Lund's turn.

Conclusions: The new instruction on the SOC member approval by the NK will be kept. The approval can be done via email among the NK. The programs of the meeting are to be stored in the SAS/NK webpage. EDB updates the instructions based on the discussions for the next meeting and the text will be voted for adoption. Lund will organize the next astronomdagarna; there is also a possibility for joint Lund-Malmö organization.

## **8. Communications in Swedish astronomy community**

JC brings up the recurrent question on an email exploder to the Swedish astronomy community. The idea suffers from legal problems with GPDR, and the continuation is unclear. Basic problem is how to harvest names of listed members. UH suggests appointing a person in the institute to be a contact. Assume that that person can send mails to a local exploder. Discussion on details of the arrangement follows.

Conclusion: A solution can be to have one appointed person in each institute as the first point-of-contact. List of these contact persons would be public. The list is to be reviewed regularly by the NK members.

## **9. IAU update**

EDB gives an update on IAU matters as information points. There will soon come a call for new member nominations. Updated contact info has been provided to IAU (IAU noted in the past bouncing emails). There will be a general assembly in South Africa 2024. Letters of Intent for IAU symposia has been published. Note that inactive former members need to give a written statement of agreement to be removed from IAU lists.

## **10. ESO User Committee update**

EDB gives a short update about the main recommendations from the past ESO UC meeting (information provided in the appended slide by EDB).

## **11. AOB.**

GÖ gives background on Quiet and Dark Skies. There is relatively lot of activity right now. The topic has been discussed in KVA Klass 2; not much to update from that, though. The NKs role in this movement is discussed – it would be a good body to connect with the astronomy community. KVA asks if the NK wants to have this as a standing point on agenda; the NK could inform the community about the activities of KVA.

Conclusion: The topic will be followed up and it will be a point in the next meeting.

EDB brings up PhD student representation in the NK. Discussion follows.

Conclusion: PhD student representation is not pursued. If it becomes relevant, the NK is open to considering routes to involve students in individual topics of discussion.

GÖ follows up on the issue of VR funding and gender balance. After the issue was brought up

a couple of years ago, it has been followed up; last year numbers in terms of gender balance were “OK”. Need for further follow-ups is discussed.

Conclusion: The VR representative is expected to join the next NK meeting and will be asked how the issue is being followed up.

EDB brings up an idea to conduct a survey for well-being in Swedish astronomy and space science (or similar). A good example of such survey, conducted in France, was presented in EAS (Webb et al. 2022):

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.01768>

Short discussion follows; OK mentions the responsibility of the workplace (employer) in well-being and raises a question of the NK’s role. EDB indicated that M. Maercker at Chalmers has agreed to possibly take the initiative forward. Further discussion is postponed due to lack of time.

Conclusion: The topic will be brought up in the coming meeting.

## **12. Next meeting**

There will be a Doodle for the timing of the next meeting in January (EDB).

## **13. End of meeting**

EDB ends the meeting at 12:10.

Vid protokollet:

Justerat:

Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare)

Oleg Kochukhov (viceordförande)