



SVENSKA NATIONALKOMMITTÉN FÖR ASTRONOMI

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

Tid: 2026-04-16, 10-12.

Plats: Online in Zoom

Närvarande ledamöter (Zoom): Jorrit Leenaarts (ordförande, JL, SU), Oleg Kochukhov (vice-ordförande, OK, UU), Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare, JK, CTH), Elvire De Beck (EDB, CTH), Erik Zackrisson (EZ, UU), Henrik Hartmann (HH, MU), Thomas Bensby (TB, LU), Alexander Mustill (AM, LU), John Conway (JC, CTH), Felix Ryde (FR, KTH), Barbro Åsman (BÅ, SU), Angela Adamo (AA, SU)

Anmält förhinder: Kelley Hess (KH, Chalmers) @@@TO BE CHECKED STILL.

Frånvarande: -

Övriga närvarande: -

[VR Vetenskapsrådet, SNSA Swedish National Space Agency, LU Lunds universitet, KTH Kungliga tekniska högskolan, UU Uppsala universitet, CTH Chalmers tekniska högskola, SU Stockholms universitet, IRF Institutet för rymdfysik, MU Malmö Universitet, SAS Svenska Astronomiska Sällskapet, FAS Finnish Astronomical Society, DAS Danish Astronomical Society]

1. Meeting is opened

JL opens the meeting at 10:00

2. Approval of the meeting agenda

The agenda is approved.

3. IAU membership report

JL gives a report on new membership applications.

4. EAS membership report

OK describes the arrangement regarding the EAS membership: National committee is an affiliated society, and astronomers can get the EAS membership via the national committee. OK notes that there are 14 new members so far and the total number of members is about 170.

A discussion on when, and how, to remove people from the membership list. A discussion also on differences with the IAU in which membership is personal.

Conclusion: OK sends the EAS membership list around and the local institute contact persons go through it and determine who should be removed. This is to be done in next January when the membership update becomes timely. OK flags that his term at the national committee ends next year and someone else will be responsible for the memberships afterwards.

10:15: AA joins the meeting

JC points out the practical consequences of accurate IAU membership numbers. A discussion about monitoring the IAU members and checking if someone should be removed. OK points out that IAU manages the members itself.

Conclusion: JL will contact IAU to find out what we can do from the Sweden perspective in this matter.

5. Report on EAS business meeting

OK gives an introduction to the EAS business meetings. In general, there are two main meetings: a business meeting and business lunch. OK points out the problem that travels to the meetings are not being funded. Zoom attendance possible but the point of meetings is networking. OK describes the typical meeting content. On the upcoming meeting agenda, OK notes the EAS long-term strategic document.

Discussion related to Dark Skies initiatives and involvement. OK explains that EAS focus is strongly on lobbying European Parliament members. Discussion follows on whether this could be done in Sweden. JC points out that Michael Lindquist from Chalmers is involved.

Conclusion: AA will contact ESO to find out what is their approach and if that can be "joined". JL: For the fall national committee meeting, we should ask VR/RS their view on the topic.

6. Terminations of EAS memberships

Was discussed during point 4.

7. Report on Swedish international representation

JL reports that OK is the new A&A board member, Eva Wirström (Chalmers) is the new astronnet board member. Discussion on the short notice that was given for nominations before the holidays; JL has asked VR to give more time next time.

8. ESO update

AA: The new ESO director Andreas Kaufer, starts in Fall. AA describes instrumentation updates and a call for new instruments at VLT. Horizon 2040 continues with a science conference in July; currently, four prominent projects are included: Panoramic IFU; ALMA 2040; AtLAST; Kilometer Optical interferometer.

9. Astronomdagarna 2027 and Nordic-Baltic meeting

OK gives an update about astronomdagarna organisation in Uppsala 2027. Discussions for organization started. The chair of the SOC is EZ, the chair of the LOC is Erik Stempels.

Conclusion: National committee (JL) should apply for funding for the astronomdagarna in December this year.

10. Report from KVA and chairs of other national committees

JL gives a report from a meeting of NK chairs. The rationale of the meeting was that KVA

wants to have an overview of what the committees are doing. JL notes and circulates the Common Statutes for all committees. JL notes that KVA funds one meeting for NK. National committees should submit an annual report by the end of March; this is not done yet. JL notes that NK is not an organization – any signatories or similar should go through KVA.

Discussion on relations between NK and KVA and representation in different bodies. NKs role in IAU discussed. KVA is a member of COSPAR, Per Magnusson is the contact.

11:23: AA leaves the meeting.

Discussion on the role of NK as an interface with schools/teachers; we are not active in this area. EDB notes that there may be benefit in coordinating this with Physics. BÅ notes that Physics NK has a sub-group that works with teachers.

Discussion on the role of NK in making connections to industry. Discussion on how/if industry could be included in NK. Role of Big Science Sweden discussed.

Discussion on the ambitions and goals of NK. Discussion on resources vs. ambition.

JL notes that NK can be asked to give a “remissvar”.

Discussion on the interface of NK and the Klass of astronomy at KVA.

Discussion on webpages. NK pages are now hosted by Astronomiska Sällskapet. There is a broad spectrum of websites among national committees. KVA will not host webpages due to costs. Discussion on possibilities. Conclusion: no changes to our webpage approach.

11. Update on dark skies initiatives

Discussed partly during point 5.

Discussion on the initiatives and committees linked to the Dark Skies. Discussion on the possibilities to get involved; significant involvement by NK would seem to require a substantial effort. No major conclusions.

12. AOB and next meeting

No AOBs.

Discussion on the next meeting.

Conclusion: JL will Doodle the time for the Fall meeting. Spaceboard and VR should be invited for reports. The meeting will take place in person in Stockholm.

JL ends the meeting at 12 noon.

Vid protokollet:

Justerat:

Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare)

Oleg Kochukhov (vice-ordförande)