

DIVISION X

RADIO ASTRONOMY

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Division X provides a common theme for astronomers using radio techniques to study a vast range of phenomena in the Universe, from exploring the Earth's ionosphere or making radar measurements in the Solar System, via mapping the distribution of gas and molecules in our own Galaxy and in other galaxies, to study the vast explosive processes in radio galaxies and QSOs and the faint afterglow of the Big Bang itself.

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DIVISION X COMMISSIONS

Commission 40

Radio Astronomy

DIVISION X WORKING GROUPS

Division X WG

Interference Mitigation

Division X WG

Astrophysically Important Spectral Lines

Division X WG

Global VLBI

INTER-DIVISION WORKING GROUPS

Division X-IX WG

**Encouraging the International Development
of Antarctic Astronomy**

Division X-XII WG

Historic Radio Astronomy

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS MEETING on 18 August 2006

1. Introduction

The Division X business meeting took place in two 1.5 hour sessions during the afternoon of 18 August 2006. The meeting started with the president presenting the agenda of the meeting to an audience of about 70 participants. The president noted that at the moment of the meeting the Division counts with 889 members and that there were 85 candidates for membership, that would take the number of members to 974 at the end of the General Assembly.

2. The Organizing Committee

The duties of the Organizing Committee were listed for the audience and some time was spent explaining the handling of the requests for support for IAU Symposia. The president noted that some 20 requests were received every year and that the Executive Committee approves about

9 of them, based upon the recommendations of the Division presidents. It was also reminded that the support is of 25,000 Swiss Francs for every IAU Symposium (to be used for grants for participants) and that the previous category of IAU Colloquia no longer exists.

Among the IAU Symposia for 2007, Division X is the main sponsor of IAU Symposium No. 242 on *Astrophysical Masers and their Environments*, in Alice Springs, central Australia, during 12-17 March 2007. This will be the third in a series of international symposia on this topic and it was suggested that the Division should try to keep these symposia as a tradition to take place every several years, like the successful series of Planetary Nebula symposia sponsored by the IAU.

The newly appointed members of the Organizing Committee were presented, with Ren-Dong Nan being the next president of the Division and Russ Taylor the next vice-president. It was also noted that the five older members of the Organizing Committee were replaced by other members of the Division.

3. In search of more involvement from the membership

Until the Prague General Assembly, the election of new members of the Organizing Committee has been made by the Committee itself. The Executive Committee of the IAU wants a larger involvement of the general membership on these decisions and in the next election previous to the Rio General Assembly in 2009, the Organizing Committee will take advantage of email to ask the membership for candidates to the positions.

4. Commissions

While some IAU Divisions like Division X (Radio Astronomy) and Division XI (Space & High Energy Astrophysics) have only one Commission that in practice is equal to the Division itself, others have many commissions, with the case of Division IV (Stars) having as much as five Commissions (Double & Multiple Stars, Stellar Spectra, Stellar Constitution, Theory of Stellar Atmospheres, and Stellar Classification). The audience was informed that the discussion inside the Organizing Committee favored maintaining the present structure, in the sense that Commission 40 (Radio Astronomy) should not disappear. There were comments from several members of the audience supporting this position.

5. Working Groups

The duties of the three Working Groups of the Division were summarized and a discussion opened on the convenience of transforming, disappearing, of merging the present working groups. There was considerable disagreement on this topic and it was concluded that we will keep the present structure, asking the Organizing Committee to look into these possibilities in more detail and come with a more clear point of view for the next General Assembly.

6. Final remarks

The president expressed that in the following few days there was going to be an important voting on the *'Endorsement of the Washington Charter for Communicating Astronomy with the Public'* and that the participation of the members of the Division was expected. He also noted that it appears quite likely that 2009 will be declared the *International Year of Astronomy* by the United Nations and that all IAU members should make an effort to participate with outreach to the public.

7. Presentations of the Working Groups

After the previous points were presented, we had two short presentation by Masatoshi Ohashi (Astrophysically Important Spectral Lines) and Tasso Tzioumis (Interference Mitigation), on the work made by these groups over the last three years. Ohashi emphasized the work made

in preparation for the important 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference, while Tzioumis discussed the new challenges faced by interference mitigation technologies.

The meeting concluded with seven short presentations on recent developments in radio observatories:

- 'The Submillimeter Array' (James M. Moran),
- 'RATAN-600 at the CROSS ROAD' (Yuri N. Parijskij),
- 'The Large Millimeter Telescope' (Alfonso Serrano),
- 'NAIC/Arecibo' (Murray Lewis),
- 'FAST - Five hundred meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope' (Ren-Dong Nan),
- 'EVLA: The Expanded Very Large Array' (Bryan Butler), and
- 'JIVE' (Mike Garrett).

Luis F. Rodriguez
president of the Division