

Minutes from the March 26, 2015 SETI PC Meeting in Paris, France

Attendees:

Jean-Michel Contant
Claudio Maccone
Michael Garrett
Andrew Siemion
Richard Clar
Alberto Villa
Giuseppe Savio
Alexey Topunov
Paulo Musso
Pierpaolo Pari
Andrea Melis
Stephane Dumas
Morris Jones
Daniela De Paulis
Shin-ya Narusawa
Alan Penny
James Anderson
Kurt Klaus
Roberto Crippa
Elsabeth Piotelat

Begin at 14:30

The meeting was opened with a welcome from Jean-Michel Contant (JMC), Secretary General of the IAA

JMC: SETI has been part of IAA since 1970

JMC: There exist additional opportunities for engagement by SETI scientists in IAA activities - meetings, working groups, etc.

JMC: IAA Membership: There were 214 applications for 100 seats this year. The SETI PC should consider nominating additional PC members for IAA membership.

Claudio Maccone (CM) introduces the occasion of this meeting of the PC, the March 27 Symposium on the Search for Life Signatures, and offers his thanks to Mike Garrett (MG) for volunteering to be General Rapporteur for that meeting.

MG requested additions to the circulated agenda, and the agenda is approved unanimously.

AS moves that the minutes for the previous PC meeting (2014 Toronto) be approved, and the minutes are approved unanimously.

Topunov made the suggestion that we should have a mailing list for 'interested persons' in PC business. MG, JMC and Andrew Siemion (AS) all agreed that communication needed to be improved.

Action Item: AS offered to create and manage such a list, in consultation with the IAA and JMC.

CM offered his report as chair after 2.5 years:

- PC was run by someone from the SETI Institute for a long period of time, and it has been a challenge to rejuvenate the PC
- reviews that AS and MG have been appointed to the PC exec, but more profound changes are needed

- Claudio discusses the anomalies of the SETI PC pointed out by JMC's letter
- As indicated in the letter, all sub-committees have been dissolved

JMC: doesn't mean that the activities of the sub-committees should be stopped. Rather, these should be study groups, not standing groups - these study groups must produce a result.

JMC: there are some criteria for study group, the chair must be a member of the academy

JMC informed the PC that unlimited information technology resources are available to the PC, including for web and email mailing lists.

Claudio discusses his COSPAR SETI meeting and possible SETI meetings at future COSPAR meetings.

AS recommends that future meetings of the PC should include a membership review of the PC.

Action Item: Claudio: will establish of a rubric for PC membership

AS recommends that at least 1 and up to 2 members of the PC will be nominated for IAA membership each year.

Action Item: MG to produce a new set of terms of reference based on input from the rest of the executive committee. Currently recommended changes include:

- How PC members are selected should be added to the terms of reference

- The procedure for voting on issues should include the opportunity for PC members not in attendance to exercise their voice.

- New terms of reference will be enacted in Jerusalem

Action Item: Claudio to email all members of the PC as to the dissolution of the subcommittees, including suggesting that all sub-committee chairs notify their respective members and will request final reports from dissolved sub-committees.

A lengthy discussion on METI was had.

AS: suggested that perhaps looking at METI could be a part of a study group.

Alan Penny: Probably not possible to ever get the two opposing sides together on this issue to participate in a Study Group.

AS nominates Stephane Dumas (SD) to take over from Paul Shuch as Webmaster of the IAA SETI PC. MG and CM approve. SD appointed webmaster and will appoint a deputy as he desires.

No new members of the PC will be appointed until the terms of reference are sorted out.

MG, AS: Report on SETI on the SKA. Many opportunities for SETI, contact MG or AS if interested.

New meetings were discussed:

CM: 7 papers in each of SETI I and SETI II for IAC 2015.

MJ: notes there will be an upcoming Astrobiology Meeting in Perth.

CM: 2016 Big History Association conference in Amsterdam.

Richard Clar (RC) There will be an art and space symposium at the Jerusalem.

CM: IAC with 10 accepted papers in Jerusalem.

Topunov: There are too many meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 17:15