

# Report to the SAC Commission VI Meeting 30 September 2012, Naples

Mr. Geoffrey Languedoc, Chair  
Prof. Olga Bannova, Vice Chair  
Dr. Susmita Mohanty, Secretary

## DRAFT

### 08:00 – 10:00

Commission VI convened on at the 63<sup>rd</sup> IAC in Naples, Italy with the following agenda:

- 1 Welcome and introduction of newcomers
- 2 Review of minutes of Commission VI Cape Town meeting
- 3 Study Group updates
  - .1 Reports from Current Study Groups
  - .2 New Study Group Ideas
- 4 Program Committee updates
  - .1 Overview of abstract submissions - 63<sup>rd</sup> IAC sessions E5.1, E5.2, E5.3, E5.4, E5.5
  - .2 Other IAC 63<sup>rd</sup> sessions with COM VI participation
  - .3 History Group sessions - 46<sup>th</sup> History of Astronautics Symposium E4.1, E4.2, E4.3.
  - .4 Review of proposals for 64<sup>th</sup> IAC in Beijing
- 5 Permanent Committee updates
  - .1 History Committee
  - .2 SETI
  - .3 Small satellites
  - .4 Scientific-Legal
- 6 Discussion points
  - .1 Academy Day vs Academy Weekend during IAC
  - .2 Concern re Board of Trustees review process
  - .3 SETI conference coverage within IAC and elsewhere
- 7 AOB

Next meeting – Paris March 2013

## 1.0 List of Attendees

Twelve people attended the Commission VI meeting in Paris on 12 March 2012.

### Members Present (4)

Geoffrey Languedoc  
Yean Joo Chong

Bernard Foing  
Philippe Jung

### Former Members, Past Chairs, and Friends of the Commission (8)

Pete Swan  
Cathy Swan  
Radu Rugescu  
Dragos Rugescu

Philippe Jung  
Doug Vakoch  
Seth Shostak  
Richard Clar

## 2.0 Review of minutes of Commission VI Cape Town meeting

The Minutes had been previously distributed. Philippe Jung asked that they be amended to record that three Highlight Lectures and two Plenary Panel topics had been suggested by Commission VI for the Naples Congress; none were endorsed. The Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended.

## 3.0 Study Groups Status

### 3.1 Reports from Current Study Groups

6.3	Interstellar Message Construction	Vakoch/ Tarter	In the process of closing & producing final report
6.7	50th Anniversary of the Space Era in 2007		Closed out
6.8	Space Expectations	Raitt/ Swan	Final report submitted; next steps: approval + publishing of the report
6.9	The Architecture of Space: Tools for Development in the 21st Century	Bannova/ Tolyarenko	Final report submitted. BoT reviewed report and sent comments. Study team responded to BoT comments.
6.10	The 50th Anniversary of the Space Era Edition of the IAA multilingual dictionary	Ninomiya	Completed & closed out
6.11	Competency Based Space Systems Engineering Education	Larson	Will be closed unless some action appears
6.12	Lunar Laser Reflectors for First Moon-Light timing and Navigation Applications	Ayari/ Fellows	Commission 6 rejected the study proposal on the grounds that the study does not belong here

Note re SG 6.3 The report has been finalized by the SG and submitted to Commission VI for Peer Review.

### 3.2 New Study Group Ideas

Two new Study Group topics were proposed in Paris in March:

#### NEW STUDY

6.14 Communications with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence	Vakoch/ Languedoc	In progress
---	-------------------	-------------

#### PROPOSED STUDY

6.XX Outer Space Prospecting for Water on the Water Planet	Frischauf/ Malina/ Languedoc	Looks promising. Comm 6 has requested a 'formal' proposal using the IAA format
--	---------------------------------	--

Three other new SG topics were proposed during this meeting:

6.xx Astrobiology and Society – the societal impact of discovering life beyond Earth from the perspective of the Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts. Focus on historical and sociological contributions.

6.xx History of COSPAR – this idea will be discussed with the IAF History Committee during the Naples IAC.

6.xx Space Transportation – a potential joint SG with Commission 3 will be discussed during the Naples Congress.

## 4.0 Program Committee updates

### 4.1 Overview of abstract submissions for 63<sup>rd</sup> IAC sessions

Session Chairs – E 5.5A and 5.5B were both led by Richard Clar. The comments below were presented in March regarding the Naples sessions:

E 5.1 Auditing the Impact of Space Technology on Society	Nona Cheeks, Kevin Cook, Peter Swan	Enough good abstracts to constitute a good session
E 5.2 Space Visualization Tools: Effect on Societal Needs	Nona Cheeks, Kevin Cook, Peter Swan	Few abstracts; Commission 6 recommended merging it with another session e.g. E 5.3
E 5.3 Human Habitation Beyond Low Earth Orbit	Brent Sherwood, Olga Bannova, Barbara Imhof	25 abstracts received
E 5.4 Space as an Artistic Medium	Richard Clar, Al Wunderlich, Regina Peldszus	19 abstracts received
E 5.5 After the Storm - Case Studies	Peter Swan, Geoffrey Languedoc	Poor Response; Commission 6 recommended substituting this with an additional session using abstracts from, say E5.4

### 4.2 Other 63<sup>rd</sup> IAC (Naples) sessions with Commission VI participation

Commission VI is participating in session D 4.3 focusing on Space Elevators being hosted under Commission III.

### **4.3 History Group Sessions**

The History Group status is strong and active, as always. Philippe Jung summarized the session titles and abstract responses for the “History Group Sessions” at the 46<sup>th</sup> History of Astronautics Symposium. The sessions were included in the March meeting Minutes and are repeated here:

E4.1: Memoirs & Organizational Histories

E4.2: Technical Histories

E4.3: Italian Contribution

### **4.4 Review of proposals for IAC 64<sup>th</sup> IAC in Beijing**

The Commission decided more or less mirror the sessions that were to take place at the 63<sup>rd</sup> IAC in Naples for the 64<sup>th</sup> IAC in Beijing next year.

### **5.0 Permanent Committee updates**

5.1 History Committee: see the note in Para 2.0.

### **6.0 Discussion Points**

6.1 Academy Day vs Academy Weekend

The membership of Commission VI is opposed to the proposed change to make Academy Day into a 2-day event. There are several reasons why this proposed change is not endorsed:

- members will not have the extra day of absence from job and additional costs approved by employer

- members have other important meetings to attend on Saturdays, one example being the IAF International Program Committee meeting

- members are already very busy with meetings and sessions and would like to have an afternoon to spend enjoying the location of the IAC alone, or with accompanying family.

The membership of Commission VI feels that enough time will be available on Sunday if efficiently used, to meet the needs of Academy members to be well-informed about the activities of the Academy and of fellow Academicians.

Commission VI wishes to advise the Executive of the Academy that any significant changes such as this one should be the subject of specific endorsement by the membership of the Academy before implementation is undertaken.

6.2 Board of Trustees review process

Concern was expressed that the Board of Trustees review process of SG reports can result in significant changes to a report, with no endorsement of the changes by the author(s)/contributor(s) prior to publication. The lack of acknowledgment of the complete list of contributors to a report was cited as an example.

The Academy is requested to ensure that the final draft of a report that has been the subject of material changes be sent to the author(s)/contributor(s) for a final OK prior to release.

### 6.3 SETI coverage at IAC and in other conferences

SETI activities are covered by a variety of events each year. There are few people who earn their living in the full-time study of SETI, and the discussion revolved around how the broad SETI community can best be served by means of conferences (including IAC) throughout the year.

This conversation will be continued in the next meeting of Commission VI and within SETI.

### 7.0 AOB

Members present understand that a list of 'Recommendations' is to be submitted to the Secretariat prior to the end of the year. Commission VI will consult with the other Commissions in the preparation of the Recommendations.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Paris in March 2013.