

COMMISSION VI – Meeting in Valencia during 57th IAC October 2006

Attendance: Roger Malina (Chair), David Raitt (Vice Chair), Geoffrey Langedoc (Secretary), Karl Doetsch, Shinji Matsumoto, Gordon Whitcomb, Peter Wood, Barbara Wood (observer), Anne Brumfitt, Lachlan Thompson, Carol Oliver, Iván Almár, Olfrid Liepack, Päivi Jukola, Art Stephenson, Ingemar Skoog, Peter Swan, Barbara Wood

1. Welcome (Malina)
2. Approval of Agenda
The Agenda as distributed previously was adopted.
3. Approval of Minutes of the March Meeting
The Minutes from the March meeting of Commission VI in Paris were approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Minutes of the June on-line Meeting
The Minutes from the June on-line meeting of Commission VI were approved unanimously.
5. Discussion of the Commission VI Priority-setting Plan

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Priority-setting Plan. Specific actions that fall out of the Plan must be developed. These should include i.e. disaster management, assistance to Third World countries. Obstacle: COM VI has no members from any Third World countries.

COM VI could actively seek/promote for membership the people we need to accomplish the strategic goals we set for the Commission. Note: a Study Group requires only that the Chair be an IAA member. Other participants may be non-members, who may be encouraged to seek IAA membership.

Example: COM VI presently lacks a journalist, whose skills would help the Commission to effectively communicate our ideas. This topic has been explored in the past, and an initial plan was to make use of the media/press/publicity capabilities associated with each IAC. This has met with limited success and depends entirely on the arrangements made from year to year by the LOC.

COM VI may drive activities that IAA overall may undertake, ie programs in collaboration with UNESCO, the Scouting movement, etc.

Certain activities in which COM VI is involved – terminology, history etc -- may seem to be less critical than such areas as disaster management. However no other group is focussing its attention on the group of priorities compiled in the Priority-setting Plan, so it is important that we continue to embrace these topics in the work we do.

The Priority-setting Plan column entitled 'Education' might be re-named 'Support to Education' to capture the notion that COM VI work must be suitable to be put to use by educators at all levels, using materials specifically tailored to the needs of the students at specific levels (primary, secondary, university).

The most important focus of COM VI in education is to elevate the profile of space worldwide so that materials and initiatives that we develop will be recognized for their value and put to use. To achieve this it is essential that the spokespeople for space need to be recognized by society for their authority and stature as a prerequisite for any work done by COM VI to be effective.

Re the Priority-setting Plan matrix, no more than 1/3 of all drivers should be ranked as priority 1.

Roger suggested the following immediate steps:

1. Discuss the Priority-setting Plan during on-line meeting in January.
2. Adopt the result during IPC meetings in Paris in March

Madhavan Nair, Chair of the Scientific Activities Committee of IAA, addressed the topic of publishing of IAA SG reports, ref a report prepared by IAF about methods of collaboration between IAF and IAA. IAF is not happy with the report as it leaves out important issues. Input from COM VI has not been solicited. Roger asked that COM VI be given the opportunity to review the draft of this report.

6. Program Committees

a) Valencia

Everything under control, very few cancellations/no-shows.

b) Hyderabad

History, Innovation, Space Expectations, Impact, Architecture and the joint program with COM V all under control.

Underscore that COM VI wants to see a History plenary in Hyderabad.

c) Planning for Glasgow

Program suggestions must have been submitted to IAA before March '07 IPC meetings. Study Groups and IAC'07 program must be linked. Proposals should identify Chair plus Rapporteurs.

History – 3 sessions – 25 papers including 'Memoirs' papers + UK-focussed session

Terminology – could have a round table, can be linked with the web dictionary SG 6.10.

Space Architecture Study Group – will end in '08, so would be suitable

Space Expectations – how the public views space, may incorporate a technology transfer session

Ethical issues arising out of space activities: privacy and space surveillance, planetary protection

Co-sponsor an education session with another Commission

Plenary ideas: 50 years of the space age; space pioneers and International Geophysical Year anniversary. Ideas from Priority-setting discussion, other suggestions

7. Planning for stand-alone IAA Space and Society conferences

- 2nd Space and Society Conference at ESA/ESTEC in 2007 (Raitt)

- 3rd Space and Society hosted by the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute in Canada (Languedoc)

Upcoming 2007 conference title now 'Space Solutions to Global Challenges'. To date only 4 abstracts received. 2005 conference had many invited speakers, some had expenses paid. ESA will not pay expenses for speakers in 2007.

Delegate list from 2006 should be available from IAA to use in promoting 2007/08 events. UNESCO participated in '06 conference, is represented on the '07 organizing committee.

Perhaps invite AIAA participation via Angelo Iasiello.

Peer-reviewed papers are more likely to elicit academic sponsorship. Lachlan said his university might be able to offer sponsorship of the 2008 event in Canada.

8. Study Groups

a) Status of existing study groups

- 6.1 Multilingual Dictionary (Whitcomb)
Final report accepted unanimously
SG will be closed
- 6.2 Future of Education (Oliver)
Goal is to build a web-based portal for space education
- 6.3 Interstellar Messages (Vakoch/Tarter)
Probably will be closed in Jan '08; report awaited
- 6.5 Space Art Data Base (Woods)
Probably will be closed in Jan '08; report awaited
- 6.7 50th Anniversary History (Skoog)
Report has been submitted
- 6.8 Space Expectations (Swan)
Questionnaire content and wording has been finalized, need to develop distribution list and conduct beta test
- 6.9 Space Architecture (Clar or alternate)
Ongoing

- 6.10 50th Anniversary Multilingual Dictionary

This SG is taking over from SG 6.1, now closed. Goal is to produce a new, on-line dictionary for end 2007. Note: the existing dictionary took 10 years to produce, was published in 2002. Essential for completeness that each term included in the on-line publication be translated into all languages included, not just some of them.

- b) Consideration of new Study Group proposals

None reported.

9. Commission VI endorsement of other events

None reported.

10. Other business

Succession planning for COM VI – Vice Chair normally succeeds Chair. No established practice re Secretary succeeding Vice Chair. Positions change every 2 years, ideally being finalized in advance of the fall Congress.

Next year in Hyderabad, David Raitt will become Chair, Geoff Languedoc will become Vice Chair

11. Next meetings

2-week on-line meeting in January '07

March '07 meeting in Paris in March, in conjunction with Hyderabad Congress IPC meeting

12. Adjournment