

**Summary of the Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Organizing Committee of the  
IAU Commission on Massive Stars  
21 February 2018  
by skype**

All members, Artemio Herrero (AH), Jorick Vink (JV), Nicole St-Louis (NSL), You-Hua Chu (YHC), Asif ud-Doula (AU), Jose Groh (JG) and Gregor Rauw (GR) are present.

*Massive star meeting proposals*

We discuss the two proposals that have been submitted for the organization of the next massive star meeting. The first is from Roberta Humphreys, Terry J. Jones, Patrick Kelly, Massimo Marengo, John Monnier, Sally Oey and Marc Seigar who propose two locations. The first is in Duluth, Minnesota on Lake superior (Duluth waterfront and canal park) and the second is on historic Mackinac Island between lakes Michigan and Huron. The second proposal is from Jonathan Mackey from the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (Astronomy & Astrophysics Section), DIAS. Dr. Mackey proposes two possible locations, The Royal Dublin Society or a regional location outside Dublin (many possibilities).

After a short discussion, during which factors such as cost of the accommodation and accessibility of the venue were taken into account, members unanimously favored the Dublin location, although both propositions are very attractive. We briefly discussed the two options in the Dublin area and decided that we preferred the second one, i.e. regional location outside Dublin, where all participants can stay at the same hotel to facilitate interactions between participants, during and also outside the formal meeting times.

*Elections of the new Organizing Committee (OC)*

We discuss if we should encourage specific people to stand for election in order, for example, to try to have a gender and/or geographical balance or more people from outside Europe and the US.

We come to the conclusion that we should encourage others to consider joining the committee in order to insure that there are enough candidates for the elections, but to do so in an informal way as we do not wish to intervene too much in the election process. We decide that we will try to find out from the IAU secretariat who has already expressed interest in running for election in order to try to have a balanced geographical and gender distribution, at least in the list of candidates.

*Situation with the Webpage and the Newsletter*

The Webpage and Newsletter have become worrisome issues. JG has now trained a student to help produce the Newsletter but they often do not have access to the UNAM server where the abstract repository is located. This is essential as to download all the contributions to produce the Newsletter, one needs to SSH into the UNAM server and also create the links to the abstracts manually. We discuss moving the Website to another location. JG reiterates that if we move the Webpage to another location, the IAU site for example, we would need some support and a person

that has the resources and the time to adapt the scripts that Raphael Hirschi wrote to insure that they work on the new server. He says that it would probably be easier to produce a completely new system with more modern tools instead of trying to adapt what is existent. In any case, the present Webpage has an old layout and should be modernized.

The Webpage and Newsletter situation has become worse in recent times with many broken links and delays in uploading our meeting summaries. We decide that we will try once more to email our contacts at UNAM, Gloria Koenigsberger and Liliana Hernández Cervantes who is in charge of Information Technology (IT) in order to re-establish the link to the server and upload our meeting summaries.

### *General Assembly (GA) in Vienna*

We briefly discuss who among the organizing committee will attend the next GA in Vienna next August. We decide that there will be no formal face-to-face meeting of the commission organizing committee during the GA since too few members will be present.

### *Triennial report*

The deadline for our first three-annual report is set to March 15. A draft will be prepared by the president and revised by all members before the deadline.

### *Next meeting?*

We decide to hold our next meeting in about two months.