

**Second Meeting of the Organizing Committee of the
IAU Commission on Massive Stars
19 April 2016**

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

Description of our commission

AH has written a draft of the text describing our commission for the IAU web page. All other members will send comments on this draft to him and he will send it to the IAU on Monday April 25th.

Webpage -- new and old

For our new Webpage, we decide that JG will collaborate with Raphael Hirshi to prepare a document listing the content we wish to have in it and list the technical features that are required to achieve it. Afterwards we will enquire if UNAM can support the new Webpage. There is some discussion about hosting the new Webpage on a commercial site. The committee is not enthusiastic about this idea as it is not clear who would provide the funds for this and because these companies may potentially be unstable. We all agree that we need stability for our Webpage. As there is a lack of volunteers to our plea to help maintain this Webpage, we consider two possibilities: (a) send a new announcement or (b) directly contact specific people that we think may be interested in collaborating. Committee members prefer the second option. We devise to make a list of people that could potentially be interested in helping and contact them informally. Names of interested people should be sent to JG.

AuD suggests that this could perhaps be turned into an undergraduate student project. Committee members express doubts about the stability of such option and think that a more senior person amongst the astronomical community would be, in any case, required to supervise the student and provide the content. Nevertheless the committee agrees that it is a good idea and that it is worth looking into. AuD has volunteered to do this.

AH points out that at least the front page of the current Website hosted at UNAM needs to be urgently renewed because many aspects are out of date. Committee members agree and think that it is worth spending some time now to make quick changes before we have a final update later. GR has volunteered to go through the webpage and determine what needs to be changed quickly. The work will be distributed among members of the committee later. We also have a short discussion about the legality of putting the personal information of members on the webpage but conclude that it is public information so we are warranted to include it. The possibility of adding a sentence on the webpage to inform people that have registered that the information can be removed at their request is mentioned.

AH informs us that he has looked through the Web at newsletters of commission and working groups for ideas to improve ours. He found that most commissions and working groups don't even have a webpage or newsletter. The most elaborate one is the star-formation newsletter and we discuss the possibility of expanding ours inspired by it. We note that the star-formation newsletter has a large editorial board. We agree that we need to identify dedicated people that are willing to get involved on the long term for such improvements to be a success. We decide that it would be best to introduce new features in a progressive way rather than being too ambitious. With such improvements, a dedicated editor would have to be identified whereas at the moment, the production of the newsletter is done almost automatically by Raphael Hirshi. It is not even clear if there is a desire within the massive star community to see such additions as we are already overloaded with a lot of information. The committee decides to keep this idea as a long-term project but that it is best at this time to produce a good Website and consider improvements at a later time. We plan to ask the community for feedback on the Webpage and newsletter at the time of registration. AH will contact Bo Reipurth, the editor of the star-formation newsletter to ask how it is prepared, how much work is involved and how many people contribute to it.

ATHENA

GR informs the committee that the call for interest in ATHENA was published in the newsletter and that several people responded to it. The working group for star formation and stellar evolution now has new members who have been very recently appointed. The working group encompasses people from low mass stars and from star formation at higher redshifts; out of maybe 20 new members there are 4-5 which are massive star people. This working group is an advisory structure for the ATHENA science survey team which is formed in case there is a need to make a quantitative evaluation of de-scoping of an approved ESA mission (like evaluating the impact of changing the mirror size or changing the size of the pixels in the focal plane on the science that we can provide with the data later).

Problems with the newsletter and 24-hour abstract service

We discuss problems that have occurred with the server at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM). JG thinks that the source of the problem is most likely related to the fact that the automatic emails are sent from one machine and the rest of the webpage is stored on another machine and that there needs to be manual intervention to solve some of the problems. We decide to wait and see whether UNAM can provide the technical support for the new web page and solve the problems that we are having. We will also probably need some kind of backup or mirror of the Webpage to avoid losing everything if that particular server goes down. We discuss the current problem with the automatic abstract service; nothing has been sent out since March 11.

New initiatives for our commission

GR suggests that we perform a community-wide planning exercise to determine what ground-based or space-based facilities would best serve our needs to carry out our science and how we

can promote these facilities to a space agency or to a large organization on the ground like ESO. This could take the shape of lobbying or a white book describing the facilities that could be of interest for the massive star community in the future.

AuD proposes to set up on the webpage a tool with the aim of facilitating collaborations. Members could indicate which instruments or facilities they have access to and on which projects they would be willing to collaborate. Conversely, another member looking for help getting access to a facility or who is looking for someone with a particular expertise to collaborate could ask for interest in collaboration using this tool. We could advertise this when we invite people to register as members. The fact that it would be under the IAU umbrella would bring more credibility to the process. Committee members agree that this is a good idea.

Next meeting

AH proposes to hold meetings more often but keep them short. We agree to hold our next meeting between in June or early July. We agree on a quorum to hold the meeting of at least 5 out of 7 members.