

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Australian National University, Canberra

on Wednesday, 17 December 1969

The meeting began at 1408 with the President, Dr. R.G. Giovanelli, in the Chair welcoming the 101 participants.

1. MINUTES

Motion (Bray, Mathewson): That the minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried.

2. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The report, a distributed before the meeting, was taken as read. The Secretary then read By-Law A5, concerning the sending of subscription reminders in January and June each year and adopted by the Council on 27 October 1969, which was to be part of the Report. Wild suggested that the last word in line 6 on page 2 should read 'printers' rather than 'publisher'.

Motion (Wood, Gottlieb): That the Report of the Council, as amended, be adopted.

Carried.

3. EDITOR'S REPORT

Wild reported that our Proceedings seem well established in the astronomical world. Our publisher, the Sydney University Press, works on a 10 to 12 week publication time table, depending on the size of the issue. Wild stressed that the time of publication is strongly affected by the timing of the submission of papers and the form in which the manuscripts and specially the Figures are submitted. He noted that, averaging over Proceedings Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6, \$2 of each Student Member's subscription and approximately \$3 of each Full Member's subscription had gone towards the publication of each issue of the Proceedings. He felt that the cost of publishing could be reduced, specially if the Figures were submitted at the exact size of publication. Wild also reported that the Government now payed a bounty of 20% on printing costs (for printing in Australia) which would help substantially to keep the cost to the Society down in spite of expected increases in printing costs.

Motion (Sheridan, Gascoigne): That the Editor's Report be adopted.

Carried.

4. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR AND THE TREASURER

The audited statement showed a surplus of income over expenditure of \$740 on 30 June 1969; this included the Proceedings in stock valued at \$2220. The Treasurer's Report and estimate to the end of December 1969 showed, after deducting 'Stock in Hand', a credit to the Society of \$1052. Shobbrook pointed out that this included publication costs for 3 journals (No. 4, 5 and 6 of the Proceedings) of which only 2 were selling at the new and higher price of \$3.

The Auditor's and the Treasurer's Reports were received and adopted on the motions of Shobbrook & Riddle and Wild & Christiansen respectively.

5. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Mr. J.L. Clark, Chartered Accountant, was nominated as Auditor by Wood and Shobbrook.

In the absence of further nominations Mr. Clark was declared elected.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

(a) Timing of Annual General Meeting

Smerd reported the outcome of an opinion poll in February 1969 on the timing of AGM's: 7 members had voted for and 8 members had voted against continuing AGM's in early December; 19 members were indifferent.

Following this indecisive poll and considering that some members at the various Universities could definitely not attend early December meetings because of examination commitments, the Council at its 8th meeting decided to 'recommend to the members at the 1969 Annual General Meeting that the following Annual General Meeting be held in May 1971 at a place to be decided'.

A motion by Ramsay and Wild 'That the time of AGM's should not be changed' was amended by Wood and Gascoigne 'That the Council's recommendation be adopted'. The amendment was carried and became the motion. After a brief discussion on the timing of other Society meetings and the eventual introduction at Australian Universities of two semesters to replace the present three terms the motion was put and was carried by 18 votes for to 6 votes against.

(b) Information Bulletin for the Southern Hemisphere

Wood outlined recent developments. When Dr. Searle, who had acted as Australian Correspondent, left Mt. Stromlo, Professor Eggen had suggested that another organization should provide the Australian Correspondent in the future. When nobody volunteered, Professor Eggen agreed to continue until August 1970, the time of the next General Assembly of the IAU. Flora Ogston said she had found a general lack of interest to contribute, that the work involved occupied some 4 to 6 days per year and that Mt. Stromlo had paid about \$100 per year for distribution, costs.

Wood linked continued co-operation with an expressions of interest to read and to contribute to the Bulletin and with somebody's willingness to act as the Australian Correspondent. Only 2 people at the meeting wished to read the Bulletin regularly, nobody wanted to contribute, while Mr. Miller of Mt. Stromlo was prepared to co-ordinate the Australian contributions. Christiansen agreed with previous speakers that the Bulletin was of little value to us but suggested that it may be more important to South-American astronomers, perhaps for political rather than scientific reasons. Wood pointed out that Dr. Sahade, Argentine, the Editor of the Bulletin realized the lack of Australian interest; he would be informed of the Society's views.

(c) In reply to a question Wood reported that the Executive of the IAU would recommend to the General Assembly in 1970 that the following General Assembly be held in Australia. If this was accepted, the 1973 General Assembly would be held in Sydney.

(d) Monaghan enquired about the possibility of charter flights to the 1970 General Assembly of the IAU and what financial support was available. Wood noted that the IAU gave support to young astronomers; this was usually too small to be of help to Australian astronomers. He pointed out that attendance at the General Assembly was for members of the IAU and for invited participants only. Australia had about 50 members and could count on 16 to 17 invited participants. The potential Australian attendance at the General Assembly in Brighton, 1970 was therefore less than 70 and could not be increased beyond that on the basis that there were cheaper charter flights for larger numbers. Christiansen had found in connection with the recent General assembly of URSI in Ottawa that substantial fare reductions existed also for smaller groups. He also pointed out that in three cases URSI grants had led to University assistance which had enabled three young radio physicists to attend the URSI meetings. He also claimed that the Australian URSI delegation had been the only one without Government support.

The discussion and an amendment by Riddle and Mathewson which was accepted by the original mover and seconder eventually led to the following motion (Monaghan, Goss): That the Council investigate the possibility of obtaining fare reductions for astronomers going to meetings.

Carried.

(e) Groeneveld thought the dinner charges (\$7 single, \$12 double for Full Members, \$5 for Student Members) rather high. Bray felt the same about the registration fees (\$5 Full, \$3 Student Members). Giovanelli pointed out that both these fees had, as usual, been proposed by the Organizing Committee and had to be approved by Council; he noted that the above dinner charges were only possible because Council had agreed that the Society should subsidize the Canberra dinner. Mathewson, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, reported that they had not been able to book the University Staff Club; this, it seems, is almost impossible at this time of the year and that, by the rather expensive Canberra standards the present meeting fees were lower than those of any other meeting he knew of. This view was supported by Gascoigne. Christiansen suggested that Australian Societies generally placed too much emphasis on 'eating'; they should aim for more frugal meetings, as he had found them in Holland, for instance. Mugglestone wanted to know what dinner charges would be considered reasonable by the meeting; it appeared that \$4 to \$5 would be so considered.

7. ELECTION RESULTS

Smerd reported that no nominations by members had been received. The following were therefore declared elected to the next Council:

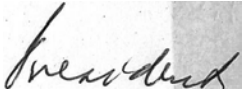
President	R.G. Giovanelli
Vice-President	O.J. Eggen
Secretaries	R.X.McGee, S.F. Smerd
Treasurer	A.G. Little
Ordinary Councillors	W.N. Christiansen, P.A. Dennison K. . Freeman, M.D. Waterworth, K.C. Westfold.

Two ex-officio members joined the Council:
H.W. Wood as Immediate Past President and J.P. Wild as Editor.

Giovanelli, the re-elected President, pointed out that even though Council membership must change by Constitution, the Council would like to encourage members to make outside nominations. Bray pointed out that the Constitution also provided for 'over-nominating' by the Council.

The meeting finished at 1540.

S.F. Smerd Secretary

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