

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting

Held at Monash University on Wednesday, 24 May 1972

The meeting began at 1405 with the President, Professor O.J. Eggen welcoming the 67 participants.

1. APOLOGIES:

Professor G.R.A. Ellis, Professor S.C.B. Gascoigne, Dr.M.D. Waterworth.

2. MINUTES:

"the Universities Grants Commission" was amended to "the Australian Research Grants Committee" on p.2 of the Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting. The spelling of "Symposium" on p.3 was also amended. With these amendments the Minutes were confirmed on the motion of Little and McLean.

3. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL:

The report of the Fifth Council, as distributed before the meeting was taken as read and adopted (Westfold, Melrose).

4. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR AND THE TREASURER:

These reports were distributed before the meeting. The Treasurer spoke on several aspects of the report including the cancellation of the book bounty, the state of the corporate membership, and the changes in banking arrangements. On the current financial position of the Society (p.2), the Treasurer indicated that the expected cost of Vol.2No.2 was now \$2153 rather than \$2700. On the assumption that 75% of outstanding subscriptions will be received, this will leave a balance of approx, \$5120 rather than the \$5182 shown. This is a reasonably healthy position.

The Treasurer raised the question of increasing the external subscription rates for the Proceedings, but it was felt that this might adversely affect the level of subscriptions. In reply to Giovannelli the Treasurer indicated that the value of existing stocks of the Proceedings was progressively discounted, numbers 1 - 4 of Vol.1 now being considered of no value.

The reports of the Treasurer and the Auditor, with amendments to the spelling of "Page" in two places, were received and adopted (Faulkner, Melrose).

5. EDITOR'S REPORT:

The report of the Editor was read. This dealt chiefly with the time delay in publishing the Proceedings, and it was generally agreed that manuscripts must be submitted at the conclusion of meetings if this delay is to be reduced. The report was received and adopted (Faulkner, Melrose)

6. ELECTION OF AUDITOR:

Mr. J.L. Clark, Chartered Accountant, was nominated as Auditor to the Society (Little, Faulkner). In the absence of further nominations, Mr. Clark was declared elected.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

(a) I.A.U. 1973

Reports were given of the several Symposia to be held in conjunction with the General Assembly.

"The Fine Structure of the Chromosphere" and "Coronal Disturbances" will be held at Surfers' Paradise. Giovanelli and Wild are chairmen of the Scientific Committees, while a joint Organizing Committee for both Symposia is headed by Smerd, Organization is well in hand and information available.

"The Formation and Dynamics of Galaxies" and "Stellar Instability and Evolution" will be held at Mount Stromlo Observatory, with E.M. Burbidge and Eggen chairing the Scientific Committees. The Local Organization is in the hands of Freeman and Rodgers. Again organization is well in hand.

Robertson reported on the Symposium on "New Problems in Astrometry" to be held in Western Australia under the Chairmanship of Fricke, with Harris conducting the Local Organization.

It was also reported that a Symposium on "Galactic Radio Astronomy" was being organized by Robinson, but no further information was available.

Fenton enquired about attendance restrictions at the General Assembly. Giovanelli indicated that, whereas in theory the number of invited participants a country may send is limited to 30% of the membership, it is intended that provision should be made for more than this quota to attend in this case. Membership of the Society would be regarded as a satisfactory criterion for attendance. Further enquiries should be directed to Dr Wood.

(b) Donovan Trust Fund

Little (the Secretary to the Fund) reported that the Fund had enabled three students to attend the Cosmic Ray Conference in Hobart. It was now intended to conserve funds for the I.A.U. meetings. The Fund income is \$300 - 400 per year.

(c) Meeting Arrangements

It was noted that the Society had not as yet received any further invitations to hold meetings after the present one. Roberts enquired whether it was intended to hold two meetings this year, in view of the I.A.U. meetings in 1973. There was some discussion as to how the Proceedings would be affected if no mid-term meeting were held in 1972.

As far as subscriptions were concerned, Wild pointed out that the difficulty could be overcome by charging per two issues rather than per year.

(d) Cost of Publication

Smerd enquired what cheaper forms of publication had been investigated. Little reported that the Sydney University Press had been consulted on several alternatives, but their view was that the present printing arrangements were the most practicable. Eggen outlined the procedure adopted by the Australian Mathematical Society who use off-set printing after retyping all contributions for uniformity. The Bulletin of the A.A.S. has a simple space allocation with no retyping done. There was some feeling that the saving in cost might be largely offset by the additional work involved.

(e) Announcements

Wild announced that an Australian Radio Astronomy Panel, with Professor Mills as chairman, has been created to advise on the allocation of time in the new 210 ft. telescope at Tidbinbilla. The panel would also advise on allocation for the smaller dishes in the space-track network and any other telescopes that become available. The formation of an Astronautical Society was also noted.

8. ELECTION DECLARATION

In the absence of any nominations by members, the following were declared elected to the Sixth Council,

President:	O. J. Eggen
Vice President:	S. C. B. Gascoigne
Secretaries:	D.J. Faulkner
	K.C. Freeman
Treasurer:	A.G. Little
Councillors:	P.A. Dennison
	K.B. Fenton
	D. Mugglestone
	J.A. Thomas
	S.E. Williams

Two ex-officio members joined the Council.  
R.G. Giovanelli as Immediate Past  
President and R.X. McGee as Editor,

The Treasurer raised the question of a fixed Society address. At present the address for subscription matters is c/o Treasurer, and this will create problems if this office should change hands. It was suggested that the Society obtain a Post Office Box for this purpose.

The meeting concluded at 1505.

DJ. Faulkner  
Secretary

President

