

COMMISSION 35: STELLAR CONSTITUTION

(CONSTITUTION DES ETOILES)

PRESIDENT: Don A. Vandenberg

VICE-PRESIDENT: Wojtek Dziembowski

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: J. Christensen-Dalsgaard, F. D’Antona,

J. Guzik, N. Langer, G. Meynet, G. Michaud, A. Renzini, H. Saio,

A. Tutukov, G. Vauclair, J.-P. Zahn

A short business meeting was held on Monday, July 21, 2003 with 10 members of Commission 35 in attendance. (The turnout was expected to be low, given that only one of the Joint Discussions/Symposia proposed by Division IV was accepted by the IAU, with the consequence that most of the membership chose not to attend the Sydney General Assembly. Undoubtedly, the high costs involved also contributed to their decision.)

D. Vandenberg briefly summarized the changes to the IAU Statutes and By-Laws that will be taking effect in 2006. From that time onwards, it will be easier for the Executive Council both to create a new commission or to terminate one (on the advice of the appropriate Division). It will be especially important in future years to demonstrate the vitality of our commission via strong meeting proposals that lead to IAU colloquia or symposia, as well as our triennial report. Doing so should make the case for continuation of Commission 35 fairly obvious and avoid the need for a special activity report or strategic plan. According to the new By-Laws, the Organizing Committee should *normally* consist of 4–8 persons elected by the Commission membership. Whereas it is our practice to involve the membership in the election of new OC members, our OC has generally consisted of 12 members. It seems unlikely that we will be forced to reduce its size to 8 persons, given that our commission is a large one, and a 12-member OC has worked very well to date.

D. Vandenberg then presented the names and credentials of the new candidates for membership in Commission 35, and after a short discussion, their memberships were all approved. This was followed by a report on the current status and planned enhancements of the commission website at <http://iau-c35.stsci.edu> by C. Leitherer. The new website was launched in February 2003 with the goal of supporting the administrative and scientific needs of the commission. Currently the website has pages listing (i) contact information of the Organizing Committee, (ii) the membership directory, (iii) links to commission reports, (iv) conference announcements, (v) bibliography related to stellar constitution, (vi) resources and research tools, and (vii) regularly updated news items. Our goal is to add more content and functionality in the next 6 to 12 months so that as many commission members as possible will turn into regular website visitors. In order to evaluate the needs and preferences of our members, we will perform an on-line member survey on the website. The survey will give us a snapshot of the member demographics and allow us to prioritize future work based on user preferences.

In addition, we discussed several new initiatives that would be of value to the commission members. Among them, the following received the most support from the attendees of the business meeting: (i) add more links to the resource pages; (ii) create and maintain a calendar with upcoming conferences related to stellar constitution; and

(iii) develop a script based search engine to browse relevant literature, in particular from the IAU and ASP conference series.

On behalf of the entire membership, D. VandenBerg thanked C. Leitherer for his invaluable contribution to our commission in creating what is very likely the best website associated with any commission in the IAU, and one that is steadily getting even better. He also expressed the thanks of the commission to G. Michaud, A. Renzini, A. Tutukov, G. Vauclair, and J.-P. Zahn for their years of service on the OC, and welcomed the new OC members C. Charbonnel, R. Larson, J. Liebert, and E. Müller. Best wishes from all present were expressed to W. Dziembowski and F. D'Antona, who became the new commission President and Vice-President, respectively, at the end of the meeting. Just before the session closed, W. Dziembowski thanked D. VandenBerg for all that he was able to accomplish during his term as president.

Don A. VandenBerg
President of the Commission