

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 99
Town and Country Hotel, San Diego
30th April 2006

1 In Memoriam

In some ways, the period between ECM 98 and ECM 99 has been a sad one for IUUSTA. You will recollect that shortly before ECM 98, I heard that Mr A.S.D. Barrett had died. He was one of the Founders of IUUSTA. At ECM 98, we were informed that Alain Roche, Councillor for France and Chair of the publications Committee was very ill. We learned later that he had died on 8th October 2005. More recently, we heard that James Lafferty, a former President, had died on 26th March 2006. A few days ago, we received the shocking news that Massimo Sancrotti, the Scientific Director of the last Triennium, also had passed away.

Obituaries of the first three are in the papers for this meeting and that for Massimo will be prepared shortly.

All of these men made major contributions to the work of the Union of their time, which we acknowledge with thanks and profound gratitude. Alain and Massimo were still very active in our affairs up to their untimely deaths and will be sadly missed.

2 General

Much of the relevant (and some of the irrelevant) information that crosses my desk is now posted on my pages ("Meantime") in the Members' Area of the website, so is not reported here. If you do not have a password to this area, please ask me for one.

With my retirement from my full time position and relocation of my office from the Laboratory to my home office, I am afraid that there was a delay in attending to some matters in the early part of the year. I trust that everything is now reasonably up to date.

I have placed a re-edited version of the Procedures Manual on the site. Please look at the relevant portions and inform me of any corrections. For this version, I have removed some material, e.g. Statutes and By-Laws, to separate documents.

I would like to thank Bill Sproul, Phyllis Greene and the AVS for making the arrangements for this meeting.

3 Minutes and Mailing

The Minutes of ECM-98 were posted on the web site somewhat later than expected since much of the requisite material was supplied very late.

I would like to remind all Committee and Division Chairs that they need to ensure that their reports and minutes are sent electronically to the Recording Secretary in good time after each meeting, and certainly by the date announced. The selected dates give sufficient time for the writing and editing process. It is important that all such items go into the record as they are printed and archived as part of the official records of the Union.

4 Secretary General's Matters

Can I remind you once again of the importance of depositing proxies? Many of you have given proxies for the Triennium and that is very useful. If we do not have two thirds of the possible votes present at an ECM either in person or by proxy, then the meeting cannot transact any business. If you have not yet done so, please complete a form and return it to the President, copied to me. There are four Societies for whom no votes are available at this meeting.

5 Web Issues

Maintenance and updating of the current website was disrupted by the untimely death of Alain Roche, but I arranged access to the whole site. I have updated some of the information, although

there is still some to be done. Please email me with any updates or highlight any information you believe to be incorrect.

The work on the new website is proceeding slowly. M-G Barthes has taken this under her wing and it is hoped that the Publications Committee will be able to progress this matter at their meeting.

6 Interactions with other Bodies

6.1 International Bodies

Most material now comes from UNESCO, ICSU and ISO by email, although there is an ever-growing pile of printed material in my study, especially from UNESCO. If you spot anything of interest on the website from these bodies, please ask and I will gladly send it on to you.

There are two recent letters that I have received from UNESCO which may possibly be of some interest to some members. These seek nominations for candidates for Rector and Council Members of the United Nations University. I will have these letters with me at the meeting if you wish to see them for further details.

A few months ago ICSU had a clearout of reports and some members requested some of them, which were duly obtained and sent on.

6.2 Commercial Bodies

Many convention centres, travel agents, etc., contact me with offers to host our meetings. Details of the main ones are again on the website. If particular ones are of interest to your Society, please contact them directly if there is a link or contact me if it is hard copy.

7 National Vacuum Societies

The Iranian Vacuum Society has forwarded corrected copies of its Statutes and their application for membership will be considered at this meeting.

I recently had an email from Romania saying that there was interest in re-establishing contact between the Romanian Vacuum Society (currently suspended from membership) and IUVSTA. I responded indicating pleasure at this and await further information that the Society is again functioning.

I have had an email regarding a possible Thin Film Congress in Morocco which might lead to the formation of a Moroccan (or even African) Vacuum Society.

I have had no further information on a possibly Vacuum Society in Turkey.

8 Future Executive Council Meetings

ECM 100 will be held in Seoul Korea, between 20th and 22nd September 2006, preceded by a special seminar including our Triennial Highlights Seminar. The Korean Vacuum Society will make a presentation at the ECM.

I have had one invitation for ECM 101 from the Swiss Vacuum Society, to host the meeting in Basel, Switzerland at a date suitable to the Executive Council. This has to be before 4th March 2007 to meet the timetable for the General Meeting. I am suggesting 16th – 18th February 2007 to give me sufficient time to send out the Draft Agenda for GM 16. Since neither Pierre Strubin nor Harald Brune is able to be present in San Diego, I will present the information on this invitation.

Ron Reid

April 2006

v1.0