

DIVISION VII

THE GALACTIC SYSTEM (*SYSTEME GALACTIQUE*)

PRESIDENT

Ortwin Gerhard

VICE-PRESIDENT

Despina Hatzidimitriou

PAST PRESIDENT

Patricia A. Whitelock

BOARD

**Charles J. Lada, Ata Sarajedini,
Rosemary F. Wyse, Joseph Lazio**

PARTICIPATING COMMISSIONS

Commission 33

Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic System

Commission 37

Star Clusters and Associations

DIVISION WORKING GROUPS

The Galactic Center

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS SESSION, 7 August 2009

1. Introduction

Division VII provides a forum for astronomers studying the Milky Way Galaxy and its constituents. Several meetings directly relevant to his subject were held at the General Assembly in Rio: IAU Symp. 262 *Stellar Populations*, IAU Symp. 265 *Chemical Abundances in the Universe*, IAU Symp. 266 *Star Clusters*, Joint Discussion 5 *Modeling the Milky Way in the Era of Gaia*, and Special Session 5 *The Galactic Plane*. Division VII therefore did not organize a separate science session at Rio, but business meetings were held for both the Division and for Commissions 33 and 37.

2. Business Meeting

The brief Division business meeting was held on 7 August 2009. The president briefly described to those present the developments in the previous months. The suggestions for members of the new Board (see below) had already been approved by the outgoing Board via email as several of its members could not come to Rio. The Working Group on the Galactic Centre will be discontinued in the new triennium. The reports of Division VII, its Commissions 33 and 37, and Working Group over the period 2006-20060 can be found in *Reports on Astronomy, Transactions IAU Volume XXVIII* (2009, Ed. K. v.d. Hucht). The activities of the Division primarily involve sponsoring IAU Symposia.

3. New Division Board

The established practice of Division VII is for the Board to comprise the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Past Presidents of Commissions 33 and 37. This process will be continued.

The past practice of the Division has been for the Presidency to alternate between Commissions 33 and 37 from one triennium to the next. Within these terms the new President would be from Commission 37. The new Board is therefore as follows:

- Giovanni Carraro (Italy, Vice-President Commission 37)
- Bruce G. Elmegreen (USA, President Commission 37)

- Ortwin Gerhard (Germany, Past President Commission 33)
- Despina Hatzidimitriou (President, Greece, Past President Commission 37)
- Birgitta Nordström (Denmark, Vice-President Commission 33)
- Rosemary F. Wyse (Vice-President, USA, President Commission 33)

Ortwin Gerhard
President of the Division