

# ESO/Chile Committee meeting – January 9, 2008

## *Draft Minutes*

**Participants:** L. Campusano, T. de Zeeuw (ESO DG), G. Mathys, F. Mirabel, H. Quintana (Chairman), A. Ramírez, M. Rubio, M. T. Ruiz, M. West

**Excused:** D. Geisler, M. Catelan

1. The Chairman welcomes the new member of the Committee, A. Ramírez.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were already approved by email. It is agreed that as a rule, one should try to have the minutes finalised within a month of the meeting.
3. The DG gives a brief report about recent developments at ESO.
4. Recent developments in Chile are presented by the Chairman and M.T. Ruiz; A. Ramírez gives an overview of the growth of the astronomy department at the University of La Serena since 2000.
5. G. Mathys reports that no final answer has been received yet from the Danish contact person to the questions asked at the previous meeting about the access of the Chilean astronomers to the Danish 1.5m telescope, as consultation between various involved parties is still in progress in Denmark. However, the Danish contact person has asked to be informed about the expectations of the Chilean community. The Committee will evaluate the scientific and technical interest of the community in this telescope and the Chairman will send the information to G. Mathys once a decision has been adopted.
6. M. West reports that as part of the ESO studentship programme, 2 positions have been recently given to students from Chilean universities, who are due to start to work at ESO soon. ESO plans to offer 2 such studentships to Chilean students every year. Announcement of this opportunity at the recent SOCHIAS meeting was received with great interest; ESO will take the necessary steps so that the programme is better advertised in the future. The Chairman suggests that M. Catelan be consulted to improve the coordination of the timing of the annual announcements with the universities.
7. G. Mathys reports that the suggestions made by the Committee about nominations of Chilean astronomers on the OPC Panels were well received by the OPC Nominating Committee, who gave its recommendations about their priorities. The process of invitation of the Panel members is starting; as part of it, the selected Chilean astronomers will be contacted.
8. G. Mathys presents the statistics of time allocation to the Chilean astronomical community in Period 81. This information will be communicated separately to the Committee.

9. All present agree that the process of nomination of the OPC, and in particular of the appointment of Chilean members of the OPC and of its Panels, is now clear. For the STC, the DG reports that clarification of the process by the Council is still in progress. Nevertheless it is clear that there will be consultation with the ESO/Chile Committee for the choice of a Chilean representative.