

Appendix E

Advisory Committees

Time allocation committees

Under Article 5 (1) of the Supplementary Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement, observing time on the AAT and use of associated facilities is shared between the Contracting Parties in proportion to the value of the contributions to the annual Joint Programme of the AAO.

The Board has chosen to exercise its responsibility for the allocation of time on the AAT through arrangements made with the two government agencies responsible for implementing the AAT Agreement and its amendment, namely the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) in the UK, and the Department of Education, Science & Training (DEST) in Australia. Under guidelines set by the Board, these agencies operate through a single joint Time Allocation Committee - the Anglo-Australian Time Allocation Committee (AATAC) - which ranks all proposals for observing time on the AAT on the basis of scientific merit, and assigns each one an appropriate number of nights.

At 30 June 2006, membership of AATAC was:

Dr M Asplund (RSAA) *Chair*

Dr S Ryan (Herts) *Deputy Chair*

Dr M Drinkwater (Qld)

Dr R Webster (Melbourne)

Dr J van Loon (Keele)

Dr P Tuthill (Sydney)

Dr S Oliver (Sussex)



The AAO Users' Committee

The AAO Users' Committee (AAOUC) consists of six members external to the AAO: three members from each of the UK and Australia.

Its terms of reference are:

1. To provide advice to the Director on operational and developmental issues relating to the facilities provided by the AAO. These include the Anglo-Australian Telescope, the UK Schmidt Telescope and all aspects of support provided by the AAO.
2. To make recommendations to the Director that seek to maximise the scientific productivity and maintain the competitiveness of the Observatory, taking into account the likely resources availability.
3. To consult widely with the community, liaising where necessary with national time assignment groups, to establish priorities for both operational and instrumentation initiatives.
4. To interface with the design review panels, commenting on any issues arising from these panels that impact on the delivery of key user science requirements.
5. To provide a written report through the Director for submission to each September meeting of the AAT Board.

At 30 June 2006 the six AAOUC members were:

Australia	United Kingdom
Dr Andrew Hopkins (Sydney)	Dr Ian Parry (IoA) (Chair)
Dr Peter Wood (RSAA)	Dr Alastair Edge (Durham)
Dr Baerbel Koribalski (ATNF)	Dr Ian Howarth (UCL)