**IAU WORK ON ETHICS**

**Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) Annual Conference**

*Uppsala University, Sweden, 18-19 September 2014*

On September 19, 2014 during the 26th Annual Conference of the Magna Charta Observatory at Uppsala University, Sweden, the IAU Secretary General chaired a Workshop on Ethics in Education and Research, featuring the IAU-MCO Guidelines for an Institutional Code of Ethics for Higher Education (http://www.iau-aiu.net/content/complete-list). The MCO conference theme: *University Integrity Society’s Benefit* brought together university leaders, students and faculty members and was held, for the first time outside of Bologna University and did not include the traditional ceremony of signing the Magna Charta Universitatum, which will from now on take place only every other year in Bologna.

The participants in the Workshop on the IAU-MCO Guidelines confirmed the need for the IAU MCO guidelines to be more widely circulated, and confirmed that the general idea behind their development remains as pertinent as ever. Two speakers discussed the Guidelines from rather distinct perspectives with Prof. Sven Widmalm, Professor of History of Science and Ideas, from Uppsala University taking a more general and philosophical perspective while Dr. Inga Žalėnienė, Vice Rector for Research and International Relations, Mykolas Romeris University, and member of the Working Group offered a practical commentary on how such Guidelines could be used in a university. The Chair of the IAU-MCO Working Group, Prof Stephen Freedman, Fordham University, USA was, unfortunately not able to take part in the conference.

IAU and MCO are exploring ways to move forward in bringing the Guidelines to the attention of institutions while encouraging the sharing of experiences about how they may be used during the review or development of institutional policies.

This MCO conference also coincided with the Council meeting during which a new Secretary General, David Locke was appointed. Mr. Locke is Director of International Projects at the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education. He will retire from this position in April and until then he will combine both responsibilities.

"I am very pleased with this appointment and am looking forward to co-operate with him. He is a quite experienced university man with a vast international network and a strong commitment to the Magna Charta ideals and goals" said Dr Sijbbolt Noorda, the President of the Observatory.

Mr Locke said "I am deeply honoured to have been offered this appointment and look forward to working with the President, Council, Signatories and other universities to extend and enhance the work of the Observatory."