

DRAFT 22 April 2008

## Term of the IVOA Chair

### Background

When the IVOA was first established, a need was recognized for the timely sharing of leadership responsibilities among the various members of the IVOA. One of the consequences of this was the relatively short term of one year for the Chair of the IVOA. This term allowed for the frequent transfer of leadership among the IVOA members. The IVOA has now become a stable and more mature organization, and as a result there is a growing need for longer term programs and policies. The development and execution of such policies can often exceed one year, and this process would be made more effective if the term of the IVOA Chair were to be extended beyond one year. This would allow continuity in leadership to bring longer term programs into being. A proposal to extend the term of the IVOA Chair to two years has been recently discussed at some length among the current, past and future IVOA Chairs. While a two year term would meet the needs for continuity, there is still some concern about the value of frequent rotation of the Chair among the various IVOA members. Such rotation is seen as a benefit to both the IVOA and to the individual member VO projects.

### Proposal

As a result of the considerations outlined above, it is proposed that the term of the IVOA Chair be changed from one year to a term of 18 months, beginning with the term of the next IVOA Chair. The term of the current Chair ends on 31 August 2008; the next term would extend from 1 September 2008 to 28 February 2010, followed by 1 March 2010 to 31 August 2011, and so on. Each term would encompass three Interop meetings.

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