

Re: The IAU is people by lunatics and old geezers

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Sam Wormley wrote:

Rich wrote:

I saw the shots of their meeting. They all look like they are pushing 60 years of age or older.

Those are the only reasons they came up with the idea including Pluto in the list of planets and expanding the list to twelve.

They decide that two characteristics make a planet, while they ignore a slew of others. Like one Virginia astronomer said, in 10 years we could see 100 or more objects designated as "planets." What would be the purpose of this?

60 doesn't seem so old looking from 42 (43 in less than a month, yikes!).

From a teaching perspective, I'm hoping for a sensible outcome

- o four small terrestrial planets
- o asteroids
- o four gas giant planets
- o Kuiper belt objects (icy bodies)
- o comets and other debris

Seems reasonable to me. Some just can't see demoting Pluto. Maybe it messes up a mnemonic they learned as a kid, or it's a Disney thing. Silly really.

By the definition I read, a planet/satellite system has its barycenter within the planet's surface. Pluto and Charon are "double planets" because their barycenter is outside of both bodies. The Sun/Jovian barycenter is above the Sun's surface. Does this mean Jupiter will be more than just a planet? Or will they ignore this inconsistency?

Shawn

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