

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE
Minutes for the thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting
Monday May 16/Lundi 16 Mai, Université de Montréal

Jim Hesser, the President of CASCA called the meeting to order at 4:00PM with about 120 members present

- 1) The agenda, as follows, was approved by acclamation

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE
Agenda for the thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting
Monday May 16/Lundi 16 Mai 16:00

1. Adoption of the agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour (President/
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2004 AGM / Adoption du compte rendu de la réunion de l'an 2004 (President)
3. Selection of scrutineers / Sélection des surveillants d'élection (President)
4. Nominations to the Nominating committee / Nominations pour le comité de nomination (President)
5. Business arising from the minutes / Affaires découlant du compte rendu (Secretary)
6. President's report / Rapport du président
 - a) Board actions & issues, 2004-2005
 - b) CASCA office
7. Secretary's report / Rapport du secrétaire
8. Treasurer's report / Rapport du trésorier (start 16:30)
 - a) Financial statements
 - b) CASCA dues
9. Election of Auditor / Election du vérificateur (Treasurer)
10. Envelope funding in NSERC for Astronomy (16:50) (document pre-circulated by E-mail) (President; K. Wilson)
11. Discussion of Mid-Term Review of the Long Range Plan (President)
 - a) Brief overview and questions (17:20) (Seaquist)
 - b) Promotional activities of the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy (17:35) (G. Harris and M. Joliffe)
12. Committee reports / Rapports des comités (First Vice President)
13. Motions from the floor / Propositions de l'assemblée (President)
14. Future CASCA meetings / Prochaines réunions de CASCA (Second Vice President)
 - a) Calgary 2006
 - b) RMC Kingston 2007
 - c) 2008
15. Results of the election / Résultats des élections (President)
16. Call for nominations to the Nominating committee / Appel de nominations pour le comité de nomination (President)
17. Other business / Divers (President)
18. Adjournment / Levée de l'assemblée (President)

2) Moved (Rice/Crabtree) that the minutes of the 2004 AGM held in Winnipeg be approved. Carried with no changes.

3) Volunteers were recruited to be scrutineers to count the ballots for election to the Board.. The scrutineers volunteering and accepted by acclamation were Margaret Milne and James Di Francesco. They retired to count the ballots.

4) Nominations were requested for the 2006 Nominating committee. The President noted that the Board had observed that the LOC Chair of the most recent CASCA meeting was particularly effective in this capacity. The following nominations were made:

Pierre Bergeron (Serge Demers/Bill Harris)

Rachid Ouyed (Ernie Seaquist/JJ Kavelaars)

Moved that nominations close (C. Wilson/ A. Wehlau) **Carried**

5) There was no business arising

6) **President's report**

a) Jim Hesser noted that the Board's goals for this AGM included ensuring adequate time to discuss: i) the dues proposal distributed with the registration materials, ii) the NSERC envelope funding issue for which material had been sent to the membership in advance of the meeting, and iii) the outcome of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the LRP and the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy's current and planned efforts. He then reported on several issues that have arisen in the past year which received considerable attention from the Board:

- i) Obtaining financial and other support from CASCA, NRC and NSERC in support of the Mid-Term Review process, including printing, as well as for the Coalition's efforts to secure the funding called for therein. He thanked Greg Fahlman (NRC) and Kate Wilson (NSERC) for the financial support.
- ii) Establishment of a CASCA web discussion forum to gather feedback from members regarding the draft proposal on Major Science Investments distributed by the Office of the National Science Advisor, to which the CASCA Board had responded by the 15 May deadline. CASCA noted the importance of CSA being involved in any resulting MSI processes.
- iii) Actions on the six MTR recommendations specifically mentioning CASCA:
 - o The Town Hall meeting today at the CSA to discuss the steadily increasing importance of access to space for Canadian astronomy, and the resulting commitment made by President Garneau to work more closely with CASCA
 - o The NSERC/ACURA summary of the pros and cons of the proposed envelope funding system to be discussed at this AGM, with CASCA committing to summarizing for transmission to ACURA for action
 - o CADC has been requested to advise CASCA committees on a format or set of questions that would support the review of data retrieval and analysis requirements of the LRP facilities

- The Board is supporting the Education and Outreach Committee's efforts to conduct fund raising to sustain the successful programmes begun in the past three years
 - Discussion at the recent Board meeting of how to implement the LRP's recommendation to use 1.5% of the funding for each LRP telescope or HPC project in support of an authoritative and visually striking website. The Board proposes to establish a subcommittee with a web-knowledgeable representative from each of the organizations identified in the MTRC.
 - When ACURA is ready to discuss possible new models for developing and managing large facilities, CASCA will participate with enthusiasm, as it is participating now in the Working Group established by the Coalition to discuss related issues with the agencies.
- iv) Investigation of the pros and cons of the Canada offering to host the 2012 IAU General Assembly (following unsuccessful bids to host the 2006 and 2009 GAs). Second Vice President Paul Hickson will provide further information and members interested should let him know by the deadline so that the Board can inform the IAU.
- v) Recognition that current airline fare structures no longer offer incentives for CASCA meetings to include a weekend, leading to the Board recommending that future meetings normally be planned during the Monday-Friday period.
- vi) The Board wishes to encourage participation by undergraduates in our meetings, initially through existing liberal interpretations of our existing policies, with the expectation that eventually the Bylaws would be suitably modified based upon the experience gained.
- vii) Similarly, we wish to encourage participation of those who are professionally engaged in Canadian astronomy through the development of software and/or instrumentation. Again we envision some experimentation followed by a Bylaws change, perhaps to create an Associate Member category.
- viii) Brenda Matthews and Michael Reid have volunteered to survey the community again to get statistics on women and minorities in Canadian astronomy. The suggestion is that a relatively simple web form be developed that departments and institutions could fill out annually (before records become difficult to access). Their proposal was gratefully accepted by the Board.
- ix) At the Board meeting last Fall, the Board agreed to increase our Office Manager's appointment from one to two days per week in reflection of the workload being consistently experienced. Furthermore, we are requesting that Queen's University conduct a review of the position to ensure that our employee is being fairly compensated. The decision must be ratified by the general membership at this AGM.

Moved That our Office Manager have her duty days increased to two days per week. (Rice/Bill Harris) **Carried Unanimously**

7) Secretary's report

The Mailman program for the CASCA E-mail exploder continues to function well. I have notified those applying for membership of the following pointer so that they can register for the E-mail service. Each such registration must be verified by the Secretary so that non-members do not subscribe. The rest of the membership should note that they can control the changes to their E-mail address through the Queen's server using:

<http://physics.queensu.ca/mailman/listinfo/casca-members>

The Mailman program is finding a substantial number of out-of-date E-mail addresses and is purging them. If you discover that you are no longer getting the messages from CASCA via the exploder, please go to the above http and re-register as new. If, for some reason, you are rejected as a non-member, please just send me an E-mail at rice@brandonu.ca and I will insert your new address into the Mailman program myself.

The statistics on membership are as follows (incremental changes since the AGM of 2004):

<i>Category</i>	<i>previous members</i>	<i>New members</i>	<i>current</i>
Corporate	4	1	5
Honorary	2	0	2
Student	89	57	146
Ordinary	334	36	370
<i>Total</i>	<i>429</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>523</i>

New Ordinary Members (36)

Michael Balogh	Waterloo	
Christopher Adam Blake	UBC	
Christopher Brook	Laval	
Scott Christopher Chapman	Caltech	
Laurent Chemin	Montreal	
Pat Côté	NRC-HIA	
Jean Dupuis	John's Hopkins	
L. Jonathan Dursi	CITA	
Laura Ferrarese	NRC-HIA	
Elizabeth Griffin	NRC-HIA	(retired)
Stephen Donald J. Gwyn	UVic	
Jeremy S. Heyl	UBC	
Henk Hoekstra	UVic	
Gilbert Holder	McGill	
Ray Jayawardhana	Toronto	
Roland Kothes	DRAO	

Chris Loken	CITA	
Maxim Lyutikov	UBC	
Francine Marleau	Caltech	
Christian Marois	Lawrence Livermore	(from student)
Margaret Milne	HIA-NRC	(from student)
Patrick McDonald	CITA	
Alexander Menshchikov	StMary's	
Marc-Antoine Miville-Deschênes	U.Paris XI (Orsay)	
Matthew Michael Pieri	Laval	
Ryan Ransom	York	(from student)
Mallory Strider Ellison Roberts	McGill	
Heather Scott	Ridley College	(from student)
Gopalan Srinivasan	Toronto	
Edward W. Thommes	CITA	
Hy Trac	Princeton	(from student)
Sylvain Turcotte	Bishop's	
Christopher Tycner	US Naval	(from student)
Joeri van Leeuwen	UBC	
Ludovic van Waerbeke	UBC	
Jennifer West	Manitoba	(from student)

New Corporate Member

AMEC (contact person Michael Joliffe)

New Student Members (57)

Leo Barriault	Laval	Steve Begin	UBC
Anne-Pier Bernier	Laval	Philippe Boisvert	Montreal
Silvia Bonoli	Toronto	Steve Boudreault	Montreal
Christy Lynn Bredeson	Calgary	René Breton	McGill
Carrie R. Bridge	Toronto	Denis Brousseau	Laval
Heather Champion	Manitoba	Christopher Copobianca	StMary's
Matthew Crosby	Queen's	M-M. de Denus-Baillargeon	Montreal
Jonathan Downing	McMaster	Marie-Andree Dumais	UBC
Pascal Elahi	Queen's	Rachel Friesen	UVic
Rodrigo Fernandez	Toronto		
Jean-René Gauthier	Toronto	Melanie Gendre	UBC
Alexandros Gianninas	Montreal	Melissa Graham	UVic
Julie Kristen Grant	Calgary	Olivier Hernandez	Montreal
Kelsey Hoffman	McGill	Joanne Hosick	McMaster
Stephanie Juneau	Montreal	Laura Kasian	UBC
Parandis Khavari	Toronto	Charles-Philippe Lajoie	Montreal
Jean-Francois Lavigne	Montreal	Jerusha Isabel Lederman	York
Laurie Patricia LeFevre	Montreal	Nathan Leigh	McMaster
Rita Kaur Mann	Hawaii	Soko Matsumura	McMaster
Damien Naudet	Montreal	Hilding Neilson	Toronto

Marie-Helene Nicol	Montreal	Caroline Pereira	Montreal
Nicolas Petitclerc	McMaster	David Puglielli	Queen's
Justin Rae	Queen's	Suzanna K. Randall	Montreal
Myriam Rioux	Laval	Jean-Francois Rochon	Laval
Amélie Saintonge	Cornell	Omar Seddiki	Laval
Sijing Shen	McMaster	James Silvester	Queen's
Melissa St-Pierre	Laval	Valerie Tanguay	Laval
Luis Valcarcel	McGill	Alfredo Villar-Sbaffi	Montreal
Michael Duncan Williams	Calgary	Wan Yan Wong	UBC

Resignations

Don Fernie
Bruce Hrivnak
John Liska
Stephanie Plante
Danny Summers
Cliff Toner
Tyron Tsui

8) Treasurer's report

a. The Financial Statement was presented by David Hanes (it is included at the end of these minutes).

Moved (Hanes/Martin) that the AGM of CASCA accept the treasurer's report. **Carried**

b. Hanes presented a proposal for revising the dues which had the backing of the Board. The background document presented by the Treasurer in support of his proposal is included at the end of the minutes.

Moved that dues be raised to the values in the report (Hanes/Rob Thacker)

Extensive discussion followed, generally voicing strong support. One comment was that the proposed late dues were punitive. It was suggested that maybe CASCA could make allowance for multi year payment since some of us are forgetful and we would not forget so often if we only had to pay every three years or so. The question was posed, would GST have to be collected? The Treasurer will seek advice.

Amendment: That the motion be changed to double the ordinary dues to \$120 instead of the \$100 proposed in the original motion with the student and retiree dues moving to \$50. (Joncas/Welch)

Amendment and Motion Carried

Moved That the Beals award be increased to \$1500 (Hanes/Martin) **Carried**

9) **Appointment of an auditor**

Moved that the Auditor for the next year be Dennis Crabtree (Hanes/G Harris)
Carried

10) **The NSERC Envelope Funding Discussion.**

The circulated document proposing an envelope funding scheme for NSERC granting in Astronomy was discussed. CASCA will establish a web forum for further discussion after the meeting.

Dick Henrickson was concerned that this could result in substantial loss of funds from the Discovery grant program. The funding balance between discovery grants and installations could become distorted by the inclinations of the GSC, leading to a situation where people might feel they could not afford to work on anything other than the big projects.

Gretchen Harris in reply commented on how Particle Physics deals with this problem and saw no difference in how they function compared with GSC 17

Tony Moffat was similarly concerned. He suggested that there is an insufficient number of astronomers on GSC 17 to ensure control over the direction of the funding balance and what affect this might have on Discovery grants.

Ken Ragan, who was on GSC 19 (Particle), saw that the envelope system did not squeeze out small grants.

Judith Irwin was concerned that overruns on major projects could squeeze out a lot of Discovery grants that are, of course, smaller and more vulnerable. A firewall is needed to protect smaller Discovery Grants.

Peter Martin sees it as an opportunity to go beyond the zero sum game, and would very much like to see large projects coming through NSERC at the, e.g., \$1M level. We should not expect, though, that this will mean a quick increase in total funding but might lead to a maturing of the system. To secure more funding, the acceptance of envelope funding would appear to be a necessary (but not necessarily a sufficient) condition.

The President encouraged members to continue this important discussion using the new web forum that will be established immediately after the Montreal meeting.

11) Discussion of the Mid-term Review of the LRP

The review of the MTR implementation and activities of the coalition for Astronomy was conducted through two presentations with questions.

a) First Ernie Seaquist gave an overview of the MTR itself. He pointed out that it did not substantially alter the LRP. Basically the MTR is an update of the financial picture, it reaffirms the place of JWST, ALMA and the SKA in the long range plans of Canadian Astronomy and the MTR gives the Thirty-Metre Telescope (TMT) project high priority.

The next steps in our planning are to deal with implementation. We must profile the rate of expenditure over the life of the LRP and beyond and seek funding. There

is an important leadership role for the agencies in this process, and he encourages all of us to work closely with the Coalition on implementation.

A question from the floor was about what the Canadian response should be to the possible de-scoping of the JWST project to a 4-metre telescope. Should we withdraw if that happens? The MTR did not develop a position on that issue.

b) Next, Michael Jolliffe reported on the activity of the Coalition.

He observed that the total funding secured for LRP projects due (at least in part) to the Coalition activity is \$88.8M since 2000AD. Some of the indicators of vitality include 23 Research Chairs, some 150 students and faculty working on LRP projects, and staff increments at HIA. He commented that it is an incredible testament to this community, and to the unity of its message that had garnered the support of all four political parties for the LRP. However, the community cannot take anything for granted.

We should not imagine the task to raise the remaining funds for the LRP will be easy, We will have to lobby hard since the LRP is in competition with health care and other critical social needs for the tax dollar. It is significant though that Astronomy has the strongest ties with industry of any academic discipline in support of discipline initiatives. Jolliffe commented on having had an excellent meeting with the graduate students during the Workshop on Saturday, where they had some excellent questions.

Discussion: Question (Jayanne English) What was the most popular Grad student question? Answer: Had the Coalition approached private sources? Question (Dennis Crabtree) What progress has been made in getting the 1.5% for Education and Public Outreach? He also asked about the multi-partisan support of the parties in Ottawa. Response: In a minority Parliament there had been many letters of support for the LRP and questions of the Government as to why the LRP was not in the budget. Question (Christine Wilson) What can individual members do to help with the lobbying effort? Answer: Approach their local member of Parliament to talk about the LRP and to emphasize the benefits of the LRP to you personally. Question (Tony Moffat) It is wonderful to see so much money coming to support the planned instruments, but can we match the increased instrumentation with a comparable increase in manpower so that we can make effective use of the instruments? Answer: The LRP has made specific suggestions for increases to personnel. Michael Jolliffe has confidence that the manpower issue will be resolved.

12) Committee reports

Peter Martin invited the members to go to the CASCA web page to see the reports. He advised that the Board has asked him to develop guidelines for a more uniform committee report style.

13) Motions From the Floor

There were none. However, graduate students asked about their request for more opportunity to give oral papers at meetings. The President noted that CASCA's Meeting Guidelines are going to be modified to request that future LOC's give more

emphasis to oral papers from the Grad students, and others in early career stages (e.g., post docs and new faculty).

14) Future Meetings.

The meeting plans for Calgary (2006) and RMC (2007) are developing well. The Board has accepted an invitation to hold the 2008 meeting in Victoria.

Paul Hickson introduced Rene Plume to report on the plans for the Calgary Meeting, 1-4 June 2006, which is being held back to back with the AAS.

15) Results of Election to the Board

Carmelle Robert and David Naylor have been elected to the Board of CASCA to replace Nancy Evans and David Turner. They were congratulated, and the other candidates were thanked for their willingness to serve Canadian astronomy through CASCA.

Motion to destroy the ballots (Hanes/Gretchen Harris) **Carried**

17 Other Business

The President thanked David Turner and Nancy Evans who were completing their terms as CASCA Directors, noting that both had made substantial contributions to diverse CASCA activities. There being no further business, the President thanked the members for their thoughtful discussion on the substantive issues on the agenda and called for a motion to adjourn.

18 Adjournment (Turner) 18:15

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
SOCIETE CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE
INC. 1983

Financial Statement as of March 31, 2005
(giving details since the statement of March 31, 2004)

Balance on March 31, 2004 (including GICs) **76,845.93**

INCOME

Membership dues (including Cascatrust donations) 24,176.24

Carryover in Queen's account (not explicitly included in previous annual statements)	526.58
GIC Interest (Sept 2004; general funds; reinvested with principal)	294.77
GIC Interest (Sept 2004; Petrie fund; reinvested with principal)	299.01
GIC Interest (Mar 2005; Beals fund; reinvested in full in a new larger GIC supplemented by next item)	304.64
GIC Interest (Mar 2005; from supplement to Beals GIC, purchased in Nov 2004 and cashed early to merge with Beals)	25.79
GIC Interest (prime-linked cashable, redeemed [prematurely] in Nov 2004 to extract \$5000 plus accrued interest to purchase Beals supplement; Residual then allowed to run to full term)	55.48
GIC Interest (Feb 2005; interest earned by residual fund described in item just above; reinvested in full)	102.53
TOTAL INCOME	25,785.04

EXPENDITURES

June Board meeting expenses	471.17
Auditor honorarium	100.00
December Board meeting expenses	339.94
Publicity Officer's expenses	1551.75
To Coalition in support of lobbying efforts	5000.00
Postage and stationery	2830.19
Printing of directories	1457.29
Photocopying	313.31
Bank charges	61.38
Safety deposit box	37.45
Transfer to CascaTrust (donations in 2004 memberships)	2088.31
Transfer to CascaTrust (from general accounts)	2000.00
VISA operating charges, imprinter rental + fees	53.40
VISA premium (3% of transactions)	313.58
VISA draft stationery	47.74
Mastercard premium (3% of transactions)	68.96
Minimum MDR fee + POS monthly fees	173.84
Annual Corporate re-registration	30.00
Domain name re-registration	83.46

Beals Prize (Seaquist)	1000.00
Beals expenses	1565.65
Student presentation awards at AGM (one oral, one poster)	500.00
Support of CASCA Office	7093.77
Miscellaneous	38.83
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	27,220.02
Balance on March 31, 2005	75,410.95
Balance held as follows:	
Bank account at Royal Bank	7,769.73
Carryover in Queen's account	3,128.57
GIC maturing Sept 15/06 (2.00%, 2.75%)	15,033.41
GIC (Petrie) maturing Sept 17/06 (2.00%,2.75%)	15,249.75
GIC (Petrie supplement, cashable) maturing Nov 23/05 (1.90%)	5,000.00
GIC (Beals) maturing Mar 01/07 (2.00%,2.50%)	22,310.11
Cashable certificate maturing Feb 28/06 (1.90%)	6,919.38

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY TRUST
CASCATRUST
EST. 1992
Financial Statement as of March 31, 2005
(giving details since the statement of March 31, 2004)

Balance on March 31 2004	11,211.88
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INCOME

Donations included in membership dues (of this, 375.00 was specified for student travel)	2088.31
Transferred from general accounts	2000.00
GIC interest (reinvested with principal)	107.54
TOTAL INCOME	4195.85

EXPENDITURES

Plaskett honorarium (J Brown)	600.00
Plaskett expenses	1077.04
Student travel awards for 2004 AGM (Winnipeg)	3000.00
Student travel awards for 2005 AGM (Montreal)	3000.00
Bank charges	1.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7678.04

Balance on March 31 2005	7,729.69
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Balance held as follows:

Bank account at Royal Bank	1664.01
GIC maturing Feb 28/07 (2.00%,2.50%)	6065.68

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE
WESTAR ENDOWMENT
Financial Statement as of March 31, 2005

Bank balance on March 31 2004 **18,607.49**

(Endowed principal held in three GICs totalling **369,537.29)**

INCOME

Interest from endowment 11,326.16
Bank interest 150.58

TOTAL INCOME **11,476.74**

EXPENDITURES

Chastenay attendance at *Musée amerindien* conference 1229.00
Bank charges 3.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **1232.00**

Bank balance on March 31 2005 **28,852.23**

A Proposal for Revisions to CASCA Dues

May 2005

Prepared by Dave Hanes, CASCA Treasurer

1. A Brief Chronology of the Society – Some Milestones

CASCA was born in 1971 but not incorporated until 1983; CASCATrust, its charitable arm, was created in 1992. Until 1995, the administrative responsibilities of the Board were carried out by the officers themselves on a strictly voluntary basis, but in that year, the CASCA office was established at Queen's University, with a one-day-a-week Administrative Assistant (Ros Hanes).

The first web version of the Society's newsletter, Cassiopeia, appeared in December 1997, but had no permanent home until the CASCA website itself was inaugurated in late 1999 – a year which also marked the identification of Robert Lamontagne as the Publicity Officer for the Society.

The Long-Range Plan (LRP) was the product of a year's work, 1998-99, which included information sessions, town hall meetings, and, subsequently, prolonged intensive lobbying. Its sister document, the Mid-Term Review (MTR), is a likewise extensive community study which is a subject of active current discussion. The MTR has relied on the CASCA website to provide a forum for public debate and contributions in ways which significantly shaped its evolution.

In 2001, CASCA became the holder of an endowed fund which was established by the dissolution of the Westar partnership, with the deeded intention that the income be used for education and outreach activities (and in particular for a 'Westar Public Lectureship'). In recent years, the CASCA office has also, at the request of the Board, managed grants for Education and Outreach from both NSERC and the Province of Ontario. The office now also handles the day-to-day financial dealings of the three-member Coalition (CASCA; ACURA; Industry) which is, through Temple-Scott Associates, carrying on extensive lobbying activities in support of the MTR.

In light of these increased activities and the considerable growth in responsibilities and workload, the Board decided at its December 2004 meeting to renegotiate the Administrative Assistant's position to a two-day-a-week job. (The Board actually agreed to increase this to 2.5 days/wk, but Ros Hanes requested that it move to 2 days at this time.)

2. Dues History

CASCA came into existence in 1971, at a meeting in Victoria which I was fortunate enough to be able to attend as a second-year MSc student out of the University of Toronto. The ordinary dues at the time were established at \$20 for full members and \$10 for students. In the intervening thirty-plus years, the dues have been amended upward from time to time, as summarized in the table which appears on the next page:

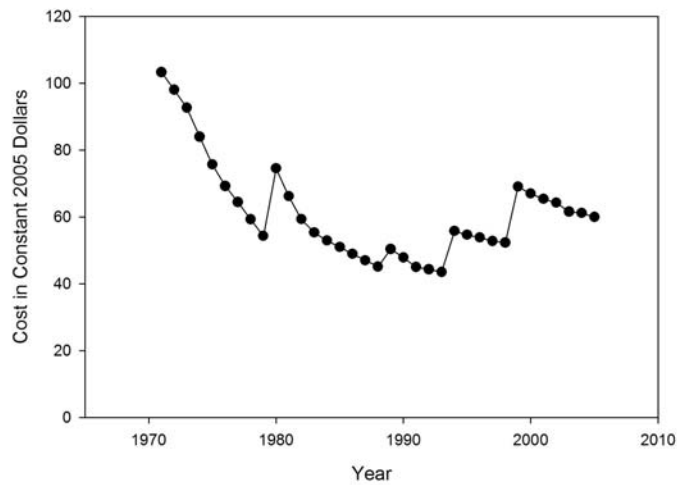
Years	Duration	Rate for ordinary members	Rate for student members	Rate for corporate members
1971-1979	9 years	\$20	\$10	\$50
1980-1988	9 years	\$30	\$12	\$75
1989-1993	5 years	\$35	\$14	\$75
1994-1998	5 years	\$45 (\$55 if late)	\$20 (\$25 if late)	\$75
1999-2004	6 years	\$60 (\$70 if late)	\$25 (\$30 if late)	\$75

While the table gives the impression of an increase which is monotonic, if a little irregular, the reality is that the purchasing power has been eroded by three decades of inflation. These effects can be estimated with the use of the inflation calculator provided by the Bank of Canada at http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation_calc.htm. Expressed in terms of constant 2005 dollars, the table above would be rewritten as follows (rounded to nearest dollars):

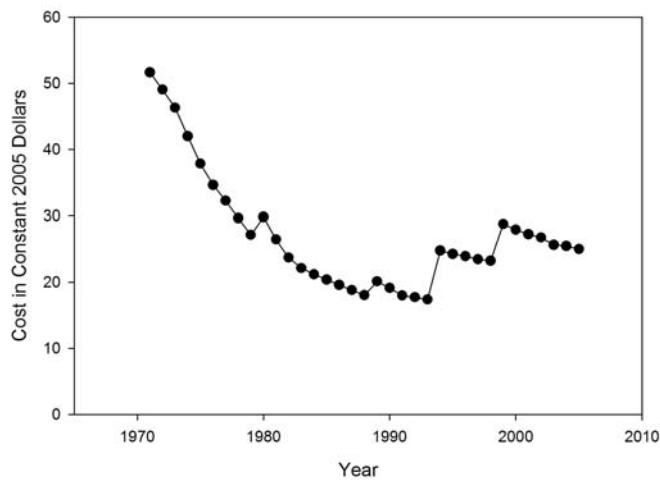
Years	Ordinary memberships	Student memberships	Corporate memberships
1971 - 1979	\$103 → \$54	\$52 → \$27	\$258 → \$135
1980 - 1988	\$75 → \$45	\$30 → \$18	\$186 → \$113
1989 - 1993	\$50 → \$43	\$20 → \$24	\$108 → \$93
1994 - 1998	\$56 → \$52	\$25 → \$23	\$93 → \$87
1999 - 2004	\$69 → \$60	\$29 → \$25	\$86 → \$76
Current rate	\$60 (\$70 if late)	\$25 (\$30 if late)	\$75

As can be seen, the relatively high inflation rates in the 1970s and early 1980s led to a rapid erosion in the purchasing power represented by the dollar equivalent of a membership fee, so that CASCA became increasingly a bargain. (I must say that I did not consider a \$10 student membership fee, equivalent to \$52 in today's dollars, an unreasonable rate in 1971!) Since the early 1980s, however, the real cost of membership has not changed dramatically, with periodic increases doing little more than re-establish a level hovering near the \$50-\$60 range (\$25 for students), in today's dollars. This is seen to best advantage in the pair of graphs which follow, where it is clear that the individual membership fee has not changed *in real dollars* since about 1975, despite the fact that the role played by CASCA has evolved enormously.

Ordinary Membership Dues in 2005 Dollars

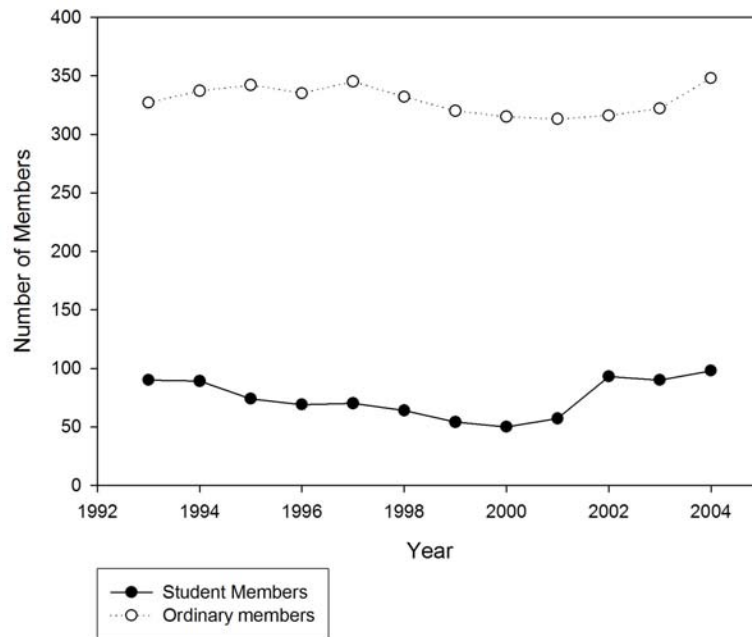


Student Membership Dues in 2005 Dollars



The stability of the dues (in real dollars) would have resulted in a nearly constant income to the Society for last two decades, were it not for the fact that there was, not surprisingly, a period of *real growth* in the membership in the early years of CASCA's existence. In 1985, for example, shortly after the Society was incorporated, there were approximately 250 members; by 2004, that number had reached about 450, with a modest drift towards a larger fraction of student members. In short, the exchequer grew with time through the early years.

There are, however, two countervailing effects. The first is that any increased revenue is offset to some extent by any costs which are tied directly to membership, such as the printing and posting of directories. More important, however, is the observation that the total membership has been less fluid over the last decade, as shown in the following figure:



The plots demonstrate that there has not been significant growth in the total membership for about a decade, although there was a conspicuous, and welcome, upward step in the graduate student enrolment at the time of the 2001 AGM hosted by McMaster – a meeting that set an attendance record.

(Parenthetically, it is worth noting that the graduate student numbers are more fluid than the ordinary membership. A fair fraction of the students who join while in graduate programs eventually drift away as a result of a subsequent change of discipline or, occasionally, through not completing their programs. The ordinary members represent a more persistent demographic group.)

The implication seems to be that we have very nearly reached saturation, except for whatever continuing growth we may enjoy in the population of Canadian astronomers as new positions are created – typically in modest numbers. In other words, CASCA seems already to have captured the large majority of potential members. This is a fact worth celebrating: it means that the Society’s voice truly is that of the professional astronomical community.

On the other hand, we are compelled to the conclusion that there is little likelihood of significant growth in the total CASCA membership, barring a change in the way we define ourselves (such as by extending memberships to non-professional astronomers or to undergraduate students.)

While there are potential members in foreign communities, and some number of expatriate Canadians not yet members of CASCA, they are not likely to swell the membership significantly.

Given the stable demographic, then, any increase in revenue is inextricably tied to the setting of the annual dues. The question of the adequacy of the dues currently in force must be addressed in terms of the programs which we seek to maintain through the use of the funds. It is instructive, therefore, to consider in detail some of the ways in which the Society has evolved over nearly thirty-five years.

3. The Prizes and Awards of the Society

The society maintains four prestigious prizes, with significant cash awards (Petrie, Beals, Hogg, and Plaskett, the latter two of which are co-sponsored by the RASC). Of these:

- The Beals Prize predates the Incorporation of CASCA, but was originally used to provide a grant for travel to an IAU General Assembly (every three years). In 1988, however, it was first awarded in its present form: in recognition of career achievements by an astronomer working in Canada. It is awarded, with a \$1000 cash prize, every second year.
- The Petrie Prize also predates our Incorporation, and was revived in 1977 after a lapse of some years, but has remained as originally established: a prize to a renowned (possibly international) astronomer of distinction, in memory of Robert Petrie. It is awarded every second year, alternating with the Beals Prize, along with a cash award of \$750.
- The Helen Hogg Lectureship and Award is shared with the RASC. It was introduced in 1985, with the winners selected by the two Societies together. Although it is awarded annually, the winner attends the CASCA AGM in odd-numbered years, and presents a public lecture; in alternate years, the Hogg Lecture take place at the AGM of the RASC.
- The Plaskett Prize, established in 1987, was originally a Medal. In 1999, a cash award of \$500 was added, and is provided by CASCA. (Our partners, the RASC, provide the medal itself.) This prize is awarded annually.
- In addition to these prizes, in the Society introduced an award of \$200 in 1996 for the best student presenter of a paper at the CASCA AGM, augmenting that to a pair of awards (one each for oral and poster presentations) in 1998.

In the tables on the next page, I present data which indicate the value of the various prizes as a function of time, both in notional and in current (2005) dollars. It is important to remember that the Beals and Petrie Prizes must be supported through the general funds; by contrast, the Hogg and Plaskett awards have strong outreach and educational elements, and can be supported through the CASCA Trust fund, which is made up from money donated charitably.

Year	Beals nominal	Beals 2005 dollars		Hogg nominal	Hogg 2005 dollars
1985	for IAU travel			\$400	\$680
1986				\$400	\$653
1987				\$600	\$940
1988	\$1,000	\$1,504		\$600	\$902
1989				\$600	\$863
1990	\$1,000	\$1,367		\$600	\$820
1991				\$600	\$771
1992	\$1,000	\$1,266		\$600	\$760
1993				\$600	\$746
1994	\$1,000	\$1,240		\$600	\$744
1995				\$600	\$728
1996	\$1,000	\$1,197		\$600	\$718
1997				\$600	\$704
1998	\$1,000	\$1,162		\$600	\$697
1999				\$750	\$863
2000	\$1,000	\$1,117		\$750	\$838
2001				\$750	\$817
2002	\$1,000	\$1,071		\$750	\$803
2003				\$750	\$770
2004	\$1,000	\$1,019		\$750	\$765
2005				\$750	\$750

Year	Petrie nominal	Petrie 2005 dollars		Plaskett nominal	Plaskett 2005 dollars
1985	\$400	\$680			
1986					
1987	\$600	\$940		medal only	
1988				medal only	
1989	\$600	\$863		medal only	
1990				medal only	
1991	\$600	\$771		medal only	
1992				medal only	
1993	\$600	\$746		medal only	
1994				medal only	
1995	\$600	\$728		medal only	
1996				medal only	
1997	\$600	\$704		medal only	
1998				medal only	
1999	\$750	\$863		\$500	\$575
2000				\$500	\$559
2001	\$750	\$817		\$500	\$545
2002				\$500	\$535
2003	\$750	\$770		\$500	\$513
2004				\$500	\$510
2005	\$750	\$750		\$500	\$500

Inspection of the tables shows that the awards associated with the Petrie and Hogg prizes are not much different, in real terms, from their value at the time of inauguration (although the Board's action of raising the Hogg Award to \$600 in 1987 represented a significant increase, an intention that has been eroded through inflation). The cash award accompanying the Plaskett is too recent an introduction to have suffered much erosion, but the Beals Award is striking in that it is the only award not to have been increased in nearly twenty years, with the effect that it is, in real terms, worth about two-thirds of its original value. I would suggest that an increase in its nominal dollar value is overdue – and would argue that the Hogg award may likewise be deserving of an increase, consistent with the community's earlier intentions as signalled by the Board in 1987.

Can these awards be made self-sustaining, as has long been the goal of the Society? Let us do some arithmetic.

To generate a *Beals Prize* of \$1000 awarded in alternate years, we need to generate an income of about \$500 annually. At current interest rates (~2.5%) for GICs, this requires an investment of about forty times that amount: \$20,000. We hold such a GIC, and the Beals Prize can (at its present nominal value) indeed be made self-sustaining – *for the award portion only*, of course; the Society also assumes the award winner's expenses, except that some of these may be assumed by the LOC of the AGM (or refused by the recipient, as has occasionally happened).

Similar arithmetic applies to the *Petrie Prize*, which (at \$750 in alternate years) requires a GIC investment of \$15,000 – which indeed we have in hand, so that Prize too is (just) self-sustaining.

The *Plaskett and Hogg Awards* are more problematic at present. CASCA pays the entire Plaskett prize (\$500 annually) and half of the Hogg Award (half of \$750 annually), so in the ideal model the CASCATrust fund would hold a dedicated investment of \$ 35,000, generating an income of ~\$900 annually. In fact, the sole CASCATrust GIC is in the amount of about \$6000, which generates scarcely \$200.

In other words, the CASCATrust holdings do not generate enough income for the two awards it supports, much less meeting the other demands (the most important of which is a payment of ~\$3000 per annum as a grant for student travel to AGMs; but there are also associated travel and support costs for the award winners).

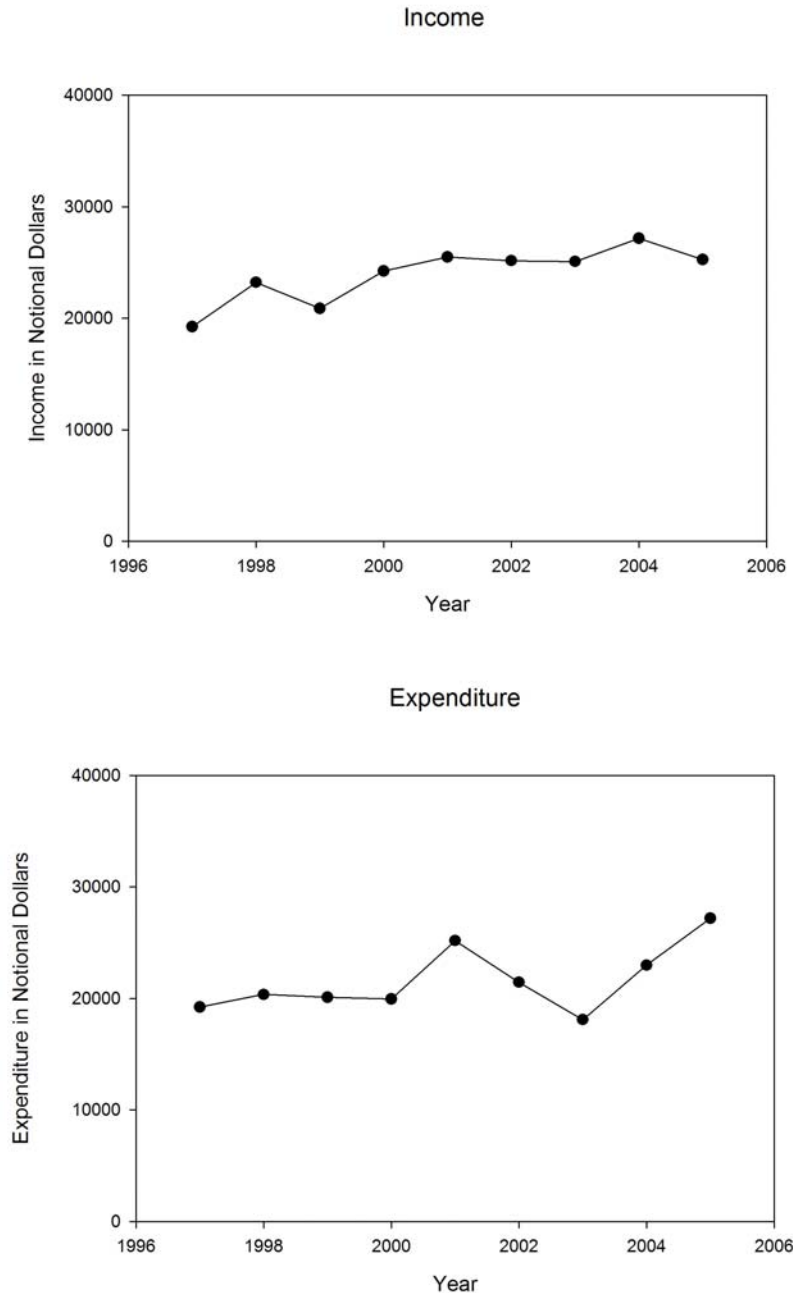
There would be no shortfall, of course, if CASCATrust were the recipient of large amounts of annual donations; and in fact our members generously donate, in the long term, an average of about \$2000 a year. The remainder is made up from the general accounts and from unpredictable income in the form of surpluses from AGMs.

Ideally, the CASCATrust holdings would be slowly augmented by regular transfers from the general account in excess of the needed expenditures, but tax legislation requires us to spend, on average, 80% of our annual charitable income to the Trust (that part for which we issue income tax receipts, that is), and only very slow growth in the CASCATrust holdings can ever be realized.

In short, the general accounts will need, for the foreseeable future, to continue to underwrite the real costs of the award programs. The GIC holdings (in the general accounts) and charitable donations (to CASCATrust) are, typically, just enough to cover the costs of the awards themselves, but all related costs – and any increase in the prizes! – will be a continuing running cost into the foreseeable future.

4. The Balance Sheet

In the Figure below, I present a figure which shows recent (since 1997) expenditure and income trends in constant 2005 dollars. The data used here come from our recent balance sheets – which is why I go back only to 1997, since no exactly equivalent summary of line items was produced in 1996. Some modest corrections have been made to reflect illusory effects, such as a large ‘phantom’ expense temporarily incurred by CASCA on behalf of an incipient Education and Outreach grant, promptly repaid when the bookkeeping arrangements for the new grant had been set up. In this way, I have tried to smooth over meaningless spikes and ripples in the data.



What do the long-term trends show, then? One striking observation is the near-equality of income and expenditure: there is little contingency. Moreover, the income side of the ledger is essentially flat in real dollars, thanks to inflation and the stable membership. By contrast, the expenditure panel shows an increase in recent years which is striking and (I would argue) quite real.

Why the recent growth? Partly it reflects the simple cost of running the CASCA Office, most directly in the salary of the Administrative Assistant as she moves from one to two days a week employment. (Many of the consumables are unaffected by this change, of course, as is the fact that the office space is completely subsidized by Queen's University. But there are also growing capital costs for items such as better computers, printers, and the like.)

In addition to these operational costs, there are other elements which are part of the changing sphere of activities in which we now find ourselves. We are, for example, financial contributors to the lobbying efforts which are likely to be a necessary part of our activities in coming years. Although the lion's share of the costs is covered by the institutional members of ACURA and the Industrial partners in the Coalition, we would be remiss not to contribute in some significant way. (In the most recent fiscal year, for example, we contributed \$5000 to this endeavour.) In like fashion, we felt an obligation to provide support to the enormous efforts represented by the Mid-Term Review, for which we covered the costs of translation from English to French. Although this is a one-time payment, our expectation is that similar opportunities *and obligations* will present themselves, and the Society must be ready to carry its share of the burden as we continue our efforts to win support and funding for astronomical research and facilities.

5. Cognate Associations

It is instructive to consider the membership dues for (and, indeed, some of the benefits provided by) some of our sister associations. A search through the association websites reveals the following:

- American Astronomical Society (AAS) – Full Membership \$115 US (\$143 CDN); Junior Membership \$40 US (\$50 CDN); Emeritus \$58 US (\$72 CDN). Journals are additional.
- Royal Astronomical Society (UK) – Full Membership £ 71.50 (\$150 CDN); Students under 30 £ 36.50 (\$85 CDN). Journal subscriptions are additional.
- Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) – Full Members \$162; recent PhDs (since 2001) and Retirees \$81; Graduate students \$44 (first year free). There are differential fees for members living in the USA.
- RASC: \$50 (but note that the RASC has separate income-production through the sale of observing calendars and the like)
- Astronomical Society of the Pacific: \$ 50 US (\$62 CDN) for general membership; about twice that for a technical membership with Mercury and the electronic journal. Note, however, that the fees are much higher for foreign members. Moreover, like the RASC, the ASP sells books and many other items, so has access to other revenue streams.

A quick examination of these suggests that the current CASCA dues are inappropriately low for the services provided and roles played on behalf of professional astronomy in Canada.

6. The Proposal(s)

In light of the analysis presented above, I propose to the membership:

(a) that the annual dues for membership to the Canadian Astronomical Society be amended to

Ordinary Membership	\$100	(up from \$60)
Student/Retiree Membership	\$ 40	(up from \$25)

with penalties of \$20 (\$10 for students and retirees) for late submission.

(b) that the Beals Prize be adjusted to an annual award of \$1500; and

(c) that the annual dues for Corporate membership be revised to \$250 (up from \$75) and that the Board reconsider the terms of Corporate membership – in particular, that we re-address the question of what benefits accrue to our Corporate members through their affiliation with the Society, with a view to attracting more such members.

I also propose that there be a mandatory review of the dues in 2007 and 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hanes
CASCA Treasurer