

Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie
68th meeting of the Board of Directors
Apr. 2, 2015 12h30 - 14h30 PST
Conducted by Videoconference

Minutes

<i>Present:</i>	Christine Wilson	President
	Robert Abraham	Vice-President
	Nicole St-Louis	Treasurer
	James Di Francesco	Secretary
	Lorne Nelson	Director
	Pauline Barmby	Director
	Stéphane Courteau	Director
	Sarah Gallagher	Director
	Laura Ferrarese	Past President

1. **Adoption of agenda [Wilson]**
 - **Motion to adopt the agenda (Courteau/Ferrarese): Carried.**

2. **Approval of the minutes of the 67th Board of Directors meeting [Di Francesco]**
 - **Motion to approve the minutes (Abraham/Gallagher): Carried.**

3. **Matters Conducted by E-mail [all]**
 - *End-of-Year CASCATrust reminder:* Wilson asked Di Francesco and St-Louis to send an end-of-year reminder to the membership of the benefits of donating to CASCATrust.
 - *Investments:* On 22 December 2014, St-Louis asked the Board to approve a motion to purchase of ~\$30K of shares as recommended by Mr. Scott Miller the manager of our investments at Scotia McLeod. The motion was voted on by e-mail and carried.
 - *Discover the Universe:* On 12 January 2015, Julie Bolduc-Duval reported that the Discover the Universe outreach program had secured a budget of \$86K for 2015 from a variety of sources (NovaScience, IAU, NSERC PromoScience, and CASCA.)
 - *New NSERC Open Access Research Journal Policy:* Di Francesco circulated news to the membership that Minister Ed Holder announced that new NSERC grant holders will be required to publish in open access journals or have their papers freely available only within 12 months of publication.

- *CASCA Awards*: The Board discussed and approved by e-mail the recommendations of the Awards Committee for the Petrie, Plaskett, Qilak, and Martin Awards. Wilson sent announcements of the winners to the membership via the Exploder.
- *Support for IAU 2021*: Wilson sent a letter from CASCA to the IAU in support of the Montreal bid to host the IAU General Assembly in 2021.
- *Non-members on CASCA exploder*: The Board discussed and decided in favour of allowing non-members join the CASCA Exploder mailing list.

4. Review of the Action Items List [all]

- *CASCA Websites*: Nelson reports that the EPO Committee would like to move forward on new CASCA educational websites, regardless of their name. This issue likely needs to be folded into the overall discussion of the CASCA EPO strategy, as described in the EPO Committee's LRP Mid-Term Review white paper (see discussion below).
- *Use of WESTAR Funds*: part of the same set of issues as above. An integrated CASCA EPO strategy is needed (see discussion below).
- *French translation of CASCA websites*: Courteau to translate Ethics Statement the week of April 7 and be on call for other translation needs.
- *Spectrum management*: Barmby contacted Greg Falhman in January about the need for an "empowered person" to take on spectrum management issues. Falhman aware of issue but trying to find someone suitable to take it on. Falhman to be reminded at CASCA 2015.
- *Graduate student committee (GSC)*: Abraham has interacted with executive of GSC to improve its effectiveness. Committee needs way to retain memory as members rotate off after graduation, e.g., guidelines for future members. Also, they request the inclusion of feedback on the CASCA webpages about stipend top-ups for grad students by universities across the country and for effectiveness of grad student days at annual meetings. Also, they propose the creation of a student-only CASCA mailing list. Discussion revealed a need to incentivize students to join CASCA, especially foreign students not intrinsically connected to Canada. CASCA to set up a "student only" Exploder e-mail list, and a Society LinkedIn account to improve communication.
- *2017 CASCA meeting*: Queen's has declined hosting the 2017 CASCA meeting but could host the 2020 meeting. Alberta has been contacted for 2017.
- *NSERC issues*: With three non-Canadian astronomers rotating off the NSERC Discovery panel this year, Wilson will resend a letter to NSERC with the names of Canadians willing to sit on the panel. Gallagher to check first if those who agreed last year are still available and update the letter accordingly. An NSERC representative will be attending the CASCA meeting this May.
- *CAP issues*: CASCA has requested a Board member attend the CAP/NSERC liaison meeting. CAP will discuss the issue at their next Congress in June.
- *International Year of Light*: Di Francesco circulated posters and postcards about IYL received from the IAU to 25 public science centres across Canada.

The EPO idea of CASCA purchasing diffraction glasses for Canada Day was scrapped.

- *Heritage Committee*: Abraham reports that Lee Robbins of the Dunlap Institute has joined CASCA and specifically its Heritage Committee.
- *Solar System Committee*: The Board recommends that this committee be resuscitated and be informed of a new membership and chair by the next Board meeting. A minimal report from the new committee would also be welcome.

5. New business

5.1. President's report [Wilson]

- *TMT Update*: Fate of Canada's participation in TMT will be learned by April 21st with the release of Federal Budget.
- *MTR Update*: Town hall meetings with panel were held last week. Attendance in Toronto and Montreal was surprisingly and disturbingly low, possibly due to the relatively low stakes of the review. Victoria attendance was relatively high, however.
- *LRPIC*: The committee still meets monthly to have discussions on LRP-related issues.
- *Canadian Space Agency (CSA)*: The Agency has new President, Sylvain Laporte.
- *ACURA*: There was a Board meeting held at the end of January where Canadian Coalition for Astronomy and TMT issues were discussed. No report from CASCA was requested.
- *EPO Committee white paper*: The EPO Committee requests that the CASCA Board discuss a national strategy for EPO (see page 4 of their white paper), including "engaging the community." The strategy likely needs an open conversation about it at a dedicated session during the annual meeting. EPO is hard though, since it is not most peoples' top job priority and very hard to sustain meaningfully. Also, there have been lots of interesting suggestions are passed around but it's hard to implement them. Perhaps CASCA employing someone dedicated to the task is needed. For example, the Perimeter Institute employs ten people for EPO. Also, Dunlap Institute decided to devote three FTEs for outreach as a strategic priority. CASCA itself has few resources to devote to such a job though. (Could WESTAR funds be used? Annual returns from investments difficult to predict but may be possible.) Alternatively, perhaps teaming up with someone at DI or Perimeter would be OK, but this approach maybe not as effective as we'd like given their own foci. Making contact with Perimeter about methods maybe effective, however. CASCA meetings could also be cast as an event for EPO committee members to convene and brainstorm about national education and public outreach coordination. Wilson asks the Board to review the EPO MTR white paper and other associated documents and consider ideas for a fuller discussion at the next Board meeting in May.

5.2. Directors' reports [Nelson, Courteau, Barmby, Gallagher]

- *Improved Board Communication [Barmby]*: Recent e-mail discussions have gotten hard to follow with many people replying or not everyone getting included, etc. Is there some way to improve efficiency? For example, quicktopic.com could be used for a “forum-like” discussion. Abraham also suggests an online action items list, e.g., via asana.com, may be more productive as well. Though e-mail can be overwhelming, adding something new might itself be difficult. Wilson reminds us that there is a “Board-only” section of the CASCA web pages. Yet, perhaps something out there can help. Barmby and Gallagher to examine issue further and determine the best thing to do (e.g., Slack, HipChat, GitHub) and give us a demo next Board meeting.
- *WESTAR Lectureship [Nelson]*: Nelson will discuss issues at F2F in May in relation to overall EPO strategy

6. Date of Next Meeting [all]

- All-day F2F meeting in Hamilton on May 24, 2015. LOC co-chair Allison Sills will be taking care of rooms / catering at hotel.

7. Other Business [all]

- No other business discussed.

8. Adjournment [Di Francesco]

- **Motion to adjourn (Di Francesco/Abraham): Carried.**