

But of even greater concern to us is the fact that we could not find, in your letter, any indication that NSERC views the lack of Canadian representation to be an issue. Past panel co-chairs have indicated to us that the “in-depth orientation and mock review sessions” are not sufficient nor intended to familiarize the reviewers with the Canadian system. Likewise, the fact that Canadian referees are consulted is hardly a substitute for an in depth understanding of the structure, priorities, and workings of the Canadian astronomical community during the face-to-face deliberations.

I understand that at this time new panel members are being selected to replace those whose term has expired. I reiterate our strong view that Canadian astronomers must be represented. Ultimately, our goal is the same as NSERC’s: to ensure a fair and balanced outcome that reflects the needs and priorities of the community. CASCA would be more than willing to work with and assist NSERC – for instance by suggesting names for consideration from within the Canadian community – to ensure that this goal is reached.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Ferrarese

CASCA President

Addendum: Astronomy representation in the Physics 1505 Conference

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Edmund Bertschinger | (MIT, USA) | Theoretical cosmology |
| Jean-Philippe Bernard | (CESR, France) | Observational cosmology, dust |
| James Cordes | (Cornell University, USA) | Radio pulsars, neutron stars |
| Karl Gebhardt | (University of Texas, USA) | Galaxy dynamics, stellar populations |
| Lee Mundy | (University of Maryland, USA) | Galactic star formation |
| Edward Wright | (UCLA, USA) | Observational cosmology |