

**Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie
77th meeting of the Board of Directors
May 29, 2017 9h00 – 16h30 MDT
CCIS 5-003, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB**

Minutes

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| <i>Present:</i> | Roberto Abraham | President |
| | Rob Thacker | Vice-President |
| | Nicole St-Louis | Treasurer (by video) |
| | James Di Francesco | Secretary |
| | Stéphane Courteau | Director |
| | Sarah Gallagher | Director |
| | Erik Rosolowsky | Director |
| | Kristine Spekkens | Director |
| | Christine Wilson | Past President |

1. Adoption of agenda [Di Francesco]

- **Motion to adopt the agenda (Courteau/Abraham): Carried**

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 76th Board of Directors meeting [Di Francesco]

- **Motion to adopt the minutes (Courteau/Rosolowsky): Carried**

3. Business Conducted Electronically [all]

- *e-Cassiopeia survey*: The Board approved a request from the e-Cassiopeia editors, Magdalen Normandeau and Joanne Rosvick, to conduct a survey regarding the readership of the quarterly newsletter. The results of the survey will be presented at the AGM in Edmonton, and summarized in the June edition of the newsletter itself.
- *Social Media during meetings*: The Board was approached by a member of the LOC for the Edmonton meeting about whether or not a policy exists for the posting of pictures taken during meetings on social media. The Board concluded that social media postings are fine as long as the subjects themselves agree to the use of their image.

4. Action Items List Review [Di Francesco]

- *Banking Changes*: CASCA is in the process of changing its bank account with Royal Bank of Canada to single-signature authority with online access for the

President, Treasurer, or Administrator. The process should be complete by mid-June.

5. New Business

5.1 President's report [Abraham]

- *ACURA Governing Council Report*: Abraham reported to ACURA Governing Council on the activities of CASCA and the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy on LRP matters. Abraham discussed the topics of this report, including interactions with the Federal Government's Fundamental Science Review panel, sending LRP Mid-Term Review summaries to all Members of Parliament, and meeting with various stakeholders in Ottawa. The latter included Genevieve Tanguay of NRC, to discuss ways the astronomy community could work more closely with NRC, John Burnett, the Director of Policy for the Minister of Science, about TMT, and Marilyn Gladu, the Conservative Party Science Critic, about aerospace and JWST.
- *CITA Council Elections*: Based on a vote count submitted to the Board, the election of a new member of CITA Council was discussed in the context of CASCA membership status and geographical balance.

5.2 Secretary's report [Di Francesco]

- *Election 2017*: This year Directors Sarah Gallagher and Stéphane Courteau are rotating off the Board and the Society thanks them for their service. An election is presently taking place for two replacement Directors, and those nominated are René Doyon (Montréal), Luc Simard (NRC), Jeroen Stil (Calgary), and Kim Venn (Victoria). The election results will be announced at the AGM.
- *Memberships*: The CASCA membership numbers are slightly down this year, from 524 to 497. The number of resignations and expulsions (60) were greater than the number of new members this year (33). Di Francesco to investigate the numbers more deeply for our next meeting. Twelve members converted from one membership category to another.
- *Deceased Members*: This past year, CASCA lost three members, J. David Lacey, Elmar B. F. Brosterhus, and Romas Mitalas. This loss will be noted at the AGM.
- **Motion to accept the Secretary's Report, including acceptance of new members to the Society (Thacker/Abraham): Carried**

5.3 Treasurer's report [St-Louis]

- *Audit*: As in previous years, Wilkinson & Company LLP of Ontario audited CASCA's finances. The audit was provisionally successful. **Motion to accept the audit (St-Louis/Rosolowsky): Carried**
- *Finances*: CASCA is doing very well financially. The operating balance is very high at \$74K and more than the projected \$39K due in part to \$15K contributed for the new Richer Medal. Dues of \$62K were higher than the \$52K expected, in part because ACURA contribution was not requested this year but also \$2K for the CUPC was not cashed. Our investments gained 10.8% this year, up a lot from the 4% decrease last year. This increase translates to \$27.6K in income,

offset by \$8.71K in management fees. \$15K was withdrawn from investments this year for Discover the Universe (DU) activities; next year will be our last contribution to DU (\$20K). CASCA Trust received only \$1.3K in donations this year.

- *Dues*: Following inflation, CASCA dues will increase by \$1 for students and \$2 for all other membership categories.
- *Long-term Investment Trends*: St-Louis has conducted an analysis of the various award endowments. As awards have not drawn from these endowments in recent years, they have grown at an average rate of 7.8%. Hence, the endowments have been 'protected' on 3-5 year timescales. The Board considered various ideas for the excess monies, e.g., funding further EPO activities or increasing prize award amounts.
- *Next-year projections*: Next year we expect \$124K in expenditures with a balance of \$55K at the end of the FY. This amount gives CASCA latitude to pursue new opportunities, e.g., assistance with social media, or reduce dues to certain member categories.
- **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Gallagher/Courteau): Carried**

5.4 Directors' Reports [Courteau, Gallagher, Rosolowsky, Spekkens]

- *Astronomy Industry Sessions*: Gallagher proposed sessions at future CASCA meetings where industrial partners to astronomy can interact with the community. With broad Board support, Gallagher and team to research this idea further and report to the Board. Once solidified, it will hopefully scheduled as soon as the Victoria meeting next year. LOC for scheduling.
- *Expanding National Service Pool*: Gallagher proposed a more nuanced approach for service in CASCA committees, where individuals who are the only astronomy people in their respective departments be specifically targeted. The idea enjoyed broad support from the Board.

6. Report of Committees [Thacker]

6.1 Awards

- The Board thanked Luc Simard for chairing this year's Committee and previous Chair Kristine Spekkens for writing solid Terms of Reference for the Committee.
- Though response to the Richer Medal was strong, the Board was disappointed that no women were nominated. Future solicitations for award nominations will stress diversity and allow self-nominations first for the Richer Medal than expanding to all awards. (For context: 37% of Canadian faculties are women.)
- Thacker to set up a repository of award nominations from igloo so that carryover nominations can be centrally stored for three years.
- Petrie nominations need more justification than a simple e-mail and should give indication that nominees would give a good lecture. Furthermore, Petrie awards should be decided as early as possible to allow awardees time to fit attendance at the next CASCA meeting into their schedules.

- Future Qilak awardees will alternate between those in their early (10 years post PhD) and late careers with consideration given about how nominees go beyond their normal duties.
- Based on a request from the Committee for clarification, the Board decided there was no apparent conflict between Board membership and award nomination.

6.2 CASCA-ACURA TMT Advisory Committee (CATAC)

- The Board thanked Michael Balogh for his tremendous job on this Committee, including leading a 30-page report to the Community. This report states that the ORM site is not as competitive as MK15, strongly affirming the primacy of MK as the future Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT) site. Furthermore, more Canadian participation in the TMT Integrated Science Development Teams is being sought.
- The CATAC will convene two separate meetings at the Edmonton CASCA meeting to discuss the TMT issues.

6.3 Computation and Data

- Compute Canada still faces concerns about its organization as good people there continue to be lost. New hardware continued to be rolled out, e.g., a 2018 rollout for “Niagara” in Toronto. Old systems will be turned off soon and there may be no research computing in Atlantic Canada in a year’s time.
- The problem with NRC participation in Compute Canada cyber-infrastructure projects like CANFAR has been solved thanks to Falk Herwig and Greg Fahlman. Such projects will be now treated like a CFI instrument would on an NRC-funded telescope.

6.4 Equity and Inclusivity (EIC)

- The EIC has been focused on producing a new Climate Survey, a draft of which has been sent to the Board for discussion. Also, they have produced a document with recommendations to departments for hiring practices, a draft of which has also been sent to the Board. Finally, a demographics survey is being prepared.
- The EIC recommends a new category for CASCA meeting sessions, community initiatives and demographics, for which participation would not eclipse a science presentation, akin to the EPO session. The Board recommended that members be allowed to do this with a maximum number of contributions of two, with the LOC still deciding ultimately who gets scheduled for oral presentations.

6.5 Education and Public Outreach

- The primary activity of this Committee has been the WESTAR Lectureships. At present, 22 people have been accepted as future Lecturers and now the emphasis is on getting applications for Lecturers from communities. Jennifer West to do some website updating in this regard.
- DU had three weeklong sessions recently and some webcasts to dozens of teachers.

6.6 Graduate Students

- Plans to reinvigorate this Committee are ongoing.

- This year's Graduate Student Workshop will be about better communication in science (writing, figures, etc.)

6.7 Ground-based Astronomy Committee

- *SKA*: The transition to the SKA treaty organization has begun, with some signatories expected in June. Canada continues as an associate member at the moment, while other countries contribute as observers. Canadian contributions at the moment easily fill our projected 5% share. There will be a meeting at McGill in September to discuss future of Canadian radio astronomy.
- *NGVLA*: This project is moving forward with some Canadian participation but its future will depend on performance in the upcoming U.S. Decadal Survey.
- *LSST*: Work is continuing via the Dunlap Institute (DI) on a legal agreement to allow ten Canadian astronomers to become involved in the project.
- *MSE*: A number of CDRs have been performed on various systems, including three on its proposed multi-fiber system
- *CCAT-p*: A 6-m diameter "pathfinder" for CCAT is proceeding with \$20M funding primarily from Cornell University. Canadian universities expected to propose to provide a \$4M contribution to construction.
- *ALMA*: The backlog of delivered data products is easing, thanks to concentrated efforts at the various Regional Centers. ALMA participated in a run of the Event Horizon Telescope in the spring. Cycle 5 had an oversubscription of about 4-5. A search is on for new Director. Chris Wilson has taken over from Douglas Scott as Canadian representative of ASAC.
- *JCMT*: A new award from a new NSERC facility grant opportunity will provide \$200K / year as Canadian contribution to JCMT operations for two years. Meanwhile, Canada will continue to provide archive support to JCMT via the CADC. A new round of Large Programs will be announced soon.
- *Gemini*: Octocam has been selected as the next new Gemini instrument. GeMS has been suffering from significant laser issues and the laser will be replaced. Japanese interest in Gemini has led to more share-time with Subaru. The US will soon form NCOA to coordinate Gemini, NOAO, and LSST operations. Gemini should look the same as before to external partners and personnel sharing may be positive. Nevertheless, the GAC will be asked to monitor the situation.
- *CFHT*: The Spirou instrument is expected to arrive in July but research grade chips will not be available until mid-2018. CFHT currently has three ongoing Large Programs.
- *CHIME*: Construction continues.
- *DAO*: Dennis Crabtree of NRC has approached the GAC with a proposal to roboticize the 1.8-m Plaskett telescope and have it join the Las Cumbres Observatory network of remotely operated telescopes. The Board directs the GAC to gauge the impact of this move on the Canadian community.
- *DRAO*: The 26-m Galt Telescope has been assigned to obtain calibration data for CHIME.

6.8 Heritage

- Members of the Heritage Committee are moving ahead with writing a book on the history of Canadian radio astronomy, drawing from preparations for same done by the late Richard Jarrell and a successful meeting at DRAO last summer.
- Plans to host the CASCA Archive at the RASC Headquarters in Toronto are progressing with the delivery of materials from Kingston and Victoria.
- Ian Shelton has resuscitated a PDS at DAO, which is now working again and being used to scan old plates.
- The Committee recommends Canada have a national registry of its astronomers, which would greatly help Heritage matters, including the writing of obituaries.
- The Committee is involved in planning a meeting in Victoria, BC on preserving astronomical data.

6.9 Joint Committee for Space Astronomy (JCSA)

- The last report from this Committee was from late January. They are meeting later this week, after the annual meeting.
- JWST science support is a big issue, and the CSA needs to make a decision soon about how to fund this activity. Indeed, it may be possible for CSA to support any Canadian scientist working on a space facility, even one that the CSA is not actively supporting.
- CASTOR RFP will proceed in a year's time.
- BRITE operations suffered a 10-day gap due to a nine-month delay in payments to a key. Fortunately, a payment was made and operations resumed.

6.10 Long-Range Plan Implementation Committee (LRPIC)

- *Composition:* The Board considered changes to the composition of the current LRPIC to make it more balanced in terms of geography and gender. Also, the Board discussed the future of LRPIC in the context of the next LRP. The Chair of the LRP will need to be selected by 2018 to ensure a report is completed by 2020. Perhaps LRPIC can spin out focused teams as needed, such as was done by the CATAC.
- *TMT:* issues ongoing, and the Committee noted relatively few people have signed up for the lrp-pic-discuss email list.
- *SKA:* Kristine Spekkens has replaced Sean Dougherty on the SKA Science and Engineering Advisory Committee (SEAC).
- *Space:* The Committee notes no funding commitment on any LRP goals in space, and some missions may not continue, e.g., WFIRST. CSA will release a long-term space plan in June, followed by a space strategy implementation. Announcements for super-cluster funding (\$950M) will be coming soon.
- *Ministers:* LRPIC has not been successful getting in contact with Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Navdeep Singh Bains, with requests for meetings deferred to Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan.

7 Reports of the AGMs [Rosolowsky, Di Francesco]

7.1 2017 Edmonton [Rosolowsky]

- No major issues noted for the incipient meeting. There will be a surplus (~\$5K) that could be used to assist student travel in future meetings. It was noted that Edmonton will have a relative underabundance of student attendees, possibly because more faculty than normal will attend because of the CATAC meetings.

7.2 2018 Victoria [Di Francesco]

- Planning for next year's CASCA meeting began one year ago, with reservations made at the Victoria Conference Centre. The meeting will be an unusual four-day event, with special sessions celebrating the successes of Canadian astronomy over the past century and looks to the future of Canadian astrophysics. The LOC Chair David Bohlender will invite the membership to the meeting at this year's AGM. Hotel blocks are not being reserved so attendees will be encouraged to make hotel arrangements as early as possible to take advantage of negotiated low rates.

8 Nominations to the Nominating Committee

- The Board discussed approaching particular attendees to nominate individuals to join the Nominating Committee for the coming year. This Committee will need to take special care in choosing candidates for the next VP as the person voted in would likely be President when the LRP2020 is completed.

9 Board Student Awards (orals and posters)

- The Board discussed the division of labour for judging student presentations this year. All members are encouraged to attend oral presentations as needed, while Rosolowsky, Thacker, and Wilson will judge posters. An discussion forum on igloo will be created to discuss possible winners.

10 Other business

- *AAS connections*: The American Astronomical Society (AAS) has approached Abraham about the idea of having our meeting co-located with a AAS summer meeting in a year TBD. This option is interesting but it may be prohibitively expensive for Canadians to travel en mass to the U.S. This topic will be discussed further in our fall meeting.

11 Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn the 77th Board of Directors meeting (Abraham/Thacker): Carried.**

Canadian National Committee of the IAU Draft Minutes

1. Adoption of the Agenda

- **Motion to adopt the Agenda (Gallagher/Thacker): Carried**

2. Adoption of the minutes of the board telecon of December 14, 2016 meeting

- **Motion to adopt the Minutes (Courteau/Spekkens): Carried**

3. Business arising

- *Annual Performance Review (APR) questionnaire feedback:* No feedback received from NRC about our submission earlier this year, but they paid our IAU dues. There was a new format to the questionnaire this year, meaning there was less scope for cutting and pacing than earlier years.
- *IAU Junior Member Category update:* News of the implementation of this new category will possibly be delivered from the IAU Executive this fall.
- *New IAU membership drive for 2018:* With the next General Assembly (GA) occurring in Vienna next year, there will be a drive for new IAU members in the community. The IAU-CNC should consider candidates to put forward this fall.
- *IAU GA in Canada:* Montreal will likely to bid to host the IAU GA in 2024. Abraham will write a letter of strong support for this bid on behalf of CASCA. Should Montreal decline it is possible another city (e.g., Calgary) may be interested.
- *Opinions on proposed merger of ICSU and ISSC organizations:* The IAU-CNC has no opinion on this matter.

4. Other business

- No other business

5. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn the IAU-CNC meeting (Courteau/Abraham): Carried**