

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY / SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE

Minutes of the thirty-fourth Annual General Meeting

2nd June, 2003, Waterloo, ON

Gretchen Harris, President of the Society, called the meeting to order at 4:07pm with approximately 75 members present.

1. Adoption of the agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour

G. Harris added two items to the agenda: amendment of the bylaws and a discussion of parallel sessions at annual general meetings.

Motion 1

Moved that the amended agenda be approved: Ralph Pudritz; seconded: Mike Hudson; carried

The agenda reads as follows:

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| 1. Adoption of the agenda | Adoption de l'ordre du jour |
| 2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2002 AGM | Adoption du compte rendu de la réunion de l'an 2002 |
| 3. Selection of scrutineers | Sélection des surveillants d'élection |
| 4. Call for nominations to nominating committee | Appel pour nomination pour le comité de Nominations |
| 5. Business arising from the minutes | Affaires découlant du compte rendu |
| 6. President's report | Rapport du président |
| 7. Secretary's report | Rapport du secrétaire |
| 8. Bylaw amendments | Amendements d'ordonnance |
| 9. Treasurer's report | Rapport du trésorier |
| 10. Election of Auditor | Election du vérificateur |
| 11. Update and Plans for LRP | Nouvelles et futur du PLT |
| 12. IAU Bid Update | Mise à jour de l'offre de l'UAI |
| 13. Response to Committee Reports | Réponse aux rapports des Comités |
| 14. Motions from the floor | Propositions de l'assemblée |
| 15. Future CASCA meetings | Prochaines réunions |
| - Discussion of parallel sessions | - Discussion de séances parallèles |
| 16. Results of the election | Résultat des élections |
| 17. Nominations to Nominating Committee | Nomination du comité des nominations |
| 18. Other business | Divers |
| 19. Adjournment | Levée de l'assemblée |

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2002 AGM / Adoption du compte rendu de la réunion de l'an 2002

Motion 2

Moved that the minutes be approved: John Landstreet; seconded: David Turner; carried

3. Selection of scrutineers / Sélection des surveillants d'élection

G. Harris called for volunteer scrutineers to count the ballots for the election of Second Vice President of the Society. John Landstreet and Robert Lamontagne volunteered.

4. Call for nominations to the Nominating committee / Appel de nominations pour le comité de Nomination

G. Harris explained that she will call later in the meeting for nominations to the Nominating committee. Two members are needed each year. She asked members to think of candidates to be nominated later during the meeting.

5. Business arising from the minutes / Affaires découlant du compte rendu

B. Matthews asked about the status of the proposed 2003 summer workshop at York. G. Harris indicated that this item would be discussed later in the meeting.

6. President's report / Rapport du président

G. Harris spoke to the progress of promoting astronomy with government agencies and others. She noted that the President of CASCA is a member of the Coalition for Astronomy and was deeply involved with this effort. She noted that the profile of astronomy is higher than ever before.

There is a need to improve communication between the Board and membership and noted that using the membership email alias was part of this effort as was the use of the society's newsletter, *E-Cassiopeia*, and web site. It was noted that the web site would soon be transferred to Queen's which would ensure that it could be maintained more easily. L. Drissen is the Board member responsible for the web content.

A discussion ensued about the desirability of having a paper copy of *E-Cass* available. It was noted that the goal of having a nicely formatted pdf version for printing was being pursued. Further comments from the floor suggested that emailing a table of contents together with the URL would be a valuable way to encourage readership.

Harris noted that the Westar lectureship is now running and that three lectures have taken place so far. This programme needs to be publicised.

In order to keep the membership informed of the progress of important initiatives being pursued by members of the community, Harris presented statements that the Board had made at its November 2002 meeting in response to the request of the LOT subcommittee of OIRAC:

"The Board reviewed OIRAC's report of 11 November 2002. We acknowledge with pleasure the effort made by OIRAC and its Large Optical Telescope Science Steering Committee (LOT SSC) since the May 2002 Board meeting. OIRAC's efforts represent natural and welcome developments consistent with the Long Range Plan (LRP). The Board notes OIRAC's support of the LOT SSC motion, and encourages OIRAC to pursue the concepts therein while maintaining full and open communications with the CASCA Board and the broader CASCA community."

and in response to the presentation by Ray Carlberg of the progress and structure of ACURA made at the November HIA Advisory Committee report:

"The CASCA Board received an update on ACURA (a copy of the Powerpoint presentation made by Ray Carlberg to the HIA Advisory Board on 22 November 2002). We believe that this concept has the potential to complement and strengthen the resources required for future development of major Canadian astronomical initiatives. The CASCA Board encourages broad discussions in the community and welcomes the opportunity to facilitate such discussions."

Harris stressed the importance of maintaining good communication with the community on these topics.

7. Secretary's report / Rapport du secrétaire

Changes in membership since May 2001

New Ordinary members:

Robert Deupree	St Mary's
Alan Hildebrand	Calgary
Dmitry Monin	Western
Joseph Hahn	Lunar & Planetary Inst., TX
Michael Allen	Washington State
Luc Simard	HIA
Christopher Matzner	Toronto
Rachid Ouyed	Calgary
Christian Veillet	CFHT

Student members changing to Ordinary members:

Glen Petitpas	Maryland
Colin Borys	Caltech
Melvin Blake	Toronto
Inese Ivans	Caltech

New Student members:

Loic Albert	Montreal	David Lafreniere	Montreal
Andre-Nicolas Chene	Montreal	Simon Cantin	Laval
Alexandra Pope	UBC	Gaelen Marsden	UBC
Simon Villeneuve	Laval	Robert Wiersma	McMaster
Saul Davis	UBC	Pamela Klassen	Calgary
Noemie Johnson	RMC	Carolyn MacTavish	Toronto
Vera Miovic	Toronto	Sasa Nedeljkovic	Toronto
Melissa Ruiters	Queens	Jeffrey LeDue	Victoria
John Liska	Toronto	Heather Cameron	Toronto
Preethi Nair	Toronto	I-hui Li	Toronto
Peter Capak	IfA, Hawaii	Patrick Dufour	Montreal
Adam Muzzin	Toronto	Frederic Grandmont	Laval
Dominique Paradis	Montreal	Margaret Milne	Victoria
Jan Staff	Calgary	Michael Jorgensen	Calgary
Kevin Brown	Western	Veeravalli Gopisankararao	McMaster

New Corporate member:

COM DEV International Ltd.

Members who have resigned:

Nicholas Neary
David Saint-Jacques
Richard Gooch
Marielle Quinton

The secretary reported the death of Grote Reber, an Honorary Member of the Society. The Society stood and observed a minute of silence in memory of G. Reber.

Members expelled:

John Caldwell
Francois Cazzolato
Josephine Chan
Bell Chen
Nebojsa Duric
John Mcleod
Sandro Mendes
Albertina Pei
Russell Sampson

The membership summary is as follows:

Honorary	2
Corporate	5
Ordinary	320
Students	111
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Total	438

A. Moffat asked about the privileges of Corporate membership. Couchman read from the Society's bylaws that corporate members are allowed display privileges at annual meeting and are permitted to send repre-

representatives to scientific meetings. Such representatives may only take part in the government of CASCA if they are individually Ordinary members.

With reference to a graph of total membership showing a dip in the mid '90s, R. Racine asked what had contributed to the dip. Couchman noted that this was due in part to the previous Secretary's vigorous pursuit of delinquent members and in part due to the lean years in academia during this period.

The Secretary made note of the requirements for student membership: that a student has been in a recognized graduate programme for at least a year before being eligible for membership. It was noted that the Board would interpret a year as an academic year, and that a student entering a graduate programme in September would be eligible for membership after the following April 1st. It was noted that undergraduates are not eligible for membership. Couchman indicated that in the future there would be separate application forms for Student and Ordinary members.

C. Matzner asked how undergraduates could attend the meeting. A discussion followed with the membership being strongly in favour of allowing undergraduates to attend the meeting in an appropriate capacity. The Board agreed to develop guidelines for achieving this goal.

8. Bylaw amendments / Amendements d'ordonnance

D. Hanes explained the motivation and procedure for modifying the bylaws to achieve gender neutrality. He noted that the form adopted—approximately alternating paragraphs first with one gender and then the other—may have different implications and resonance in the English and French versions and thus the modifications in each language would be put to a separate vote. He explained that ballots mailed in by members present at the AGM would be destroyed.

A brief discussion followed mainly centred on the awkwardness or otherwise of this construction. It was noted on one hand that it was frequently accepted that the masculine form includes the feminine in these kinds of documents, and on the other hand that a more explicit, even-handed approach to gender terminology was considered desirable. D. Hanes noted that it was an attempt at progressive language and, given that the bylaws are read only infrequently, the need for the bylaws to read completely evenly was not paramount. An attempt at gender neutrality sends an important message about the Society's commitment to such issues.

Hanes explained that the vote would be deferred until the end of the meeting when the mailed ballots had been opened and counted.

9. Treasurer's report / Rapport du trésorier

D. Hanes presented the financial statements for the Society's accounts—the CASCA general account and CASCA Trust—for the year ending March 31st 2003.

Motion 3

Moved, that the financial statements be accepted as presented: D. Hanes; seconded: J. Landstreet; carried

10. Election of Auditor / Election du vérificateur

D. Hanes explained that it has recently been the practice of the Society to have the financial statements professionally audited, but that there has been uncertainty surrounding the necessity of this. He has now determined that it is not necessary to have the general account professionally audited and that there is only a requirement to have the CASCA Trust account audited should the balance exceed \$250,000 (the latter announcement being met with amusement from the floor). The Society can undertake an internal audit by a member of the Society provided that the auditor is neither an employee of the Society nor a director and she/he must be "arms length" from the same.

Motion 4

Moved, that L. Widrow be appointed as the Society's auditor for the year 2003 financial statements: Hanes; seconded: G. Harris; carried

Hanes noted that L. Widrow would also audit last year's financial statements.

11. Update and Plans for LRP / Nouvelles et futur du PLT

G. Harris noted that the Long-Range Plan (LRP) called for a mid-term review and described a proposal to initiate such a review:

“The CASCA Board believes that it is time to initiate a mid-term review of the LRP, which was published in 1999. This review will be carried out by a panel established in consultation with the CASCA membership, CSA, NRC and NSERC. CASCA Board is calling for nominations to this panel, to be received by the secretary no later than June 15. The mid-term LRP review will be completed by the 2004 AGM. CASCA will seek funding from CSA, NRC, and NSERC in support of this review.”

Harris explained that the purpose was to review how we are doing as a community in meeting the LRP goals, and not to write a new LRP. The process would include town-hall meetings in different regions of Canada to provide an open forum for input and discussion. The Panel would review what has been accomplished and what remains to be done, would evaluate the impact of changes that have occurred since 1999, and would fold all the input into revised planning for the second five years of the LRP.

R. Pudritz stressed that the intent should not be to make major changes but that the process should review what hasn't been done and what other funding mechanisms are available.

R. Racine noted that the LRP was an instrument of NRC and NSERC and wondered if they should be initiating this review. G. Harris accepted this but indicated that her understanding was that the councils would welcome a community-driven process. Racine suggested that the panel should include the interim chair of ACURA. R. Carlberg noted NRC's explicit mention and support of ACURA in their address to the AGM.

Pudritz noted that the next decadal review would begin in 2008, the mid-term review would show us how to get there.

A. Moffat noted that it is urgent that CSA should be involved in this process and noted that Canadian astronomy has a very small investment in space astronomy relative to the investment by NASA.

W. Harris stressed that we should assess what has been achieved and what has been missed. He noted that high performance computing which had been highlighted in the LRP should not be ignored.

G. Harris said that a notice would be sent out via email soliciting nominations (together with a short justification) for members of the review panel.

12. IAU Bid Update / Mise à jour de l'offre de l'UAI

G. Harris explained that the CASCA Board acts as the Canadian National Committee for the IAU. She noted that an invitation to host the 2009 General Assembly had been issued by Gille Joncas and the Quebec Convention Centre on behalf of NRC (which is the adhering body). Joncas will present the bid to the IAU Executive at the upcoming General Assembly in Sydney.

13. Response to Committee Reports / Réponse aux rapports du Comité

J. Hesser ran through significant items from the committee reports with the following comments arising.

In view of the difficulties that had been encountered in mounting a summer school this year M. Reid suggested that a sub-committee be struck to assist in planning a summer school including the selection of topics and to help with identifying funds. Hesser noted that the Board had suggested at its most recent meeting that the Graduate Student Committee be approached for this purpose.

The importance of involving CSA was stressed in the JCSA report.

Hesser noted that the establishment of an SKA Science Steering sub-committee of the Radio committee had been accepted by the Board.

Neither the Heritage committee nor the Theory & Computation committee had produced reports. Hesser suggested that the need for the Theory & Computation committee might need to be examined if inactivity continued.

[The meeting jumped to item 15 as Hesser had to leave early.]

15. Future CASCA meetings / Prochaines réunions

Ashish Asgekar from the University of Manitoba presented details of the 2004 Winnipeg meeting. The meeting will be held in parallel with the CAP meeting and will feature joint sessions on education and computation & visualization.

The 2005 meeting will be held in Montreal.

14. Motions from the floor / Propositions de l'assemblée

None.

[The meeting returned to a discussion of parallel sessions at Annual General Meetings.]

Discussion of parallel sessions / Discussion de séances parallèles

A variety of opinions were expressed ranging from preferring a 4 day meeting over parallel sessions to the feeling that a few parallel sessions, as had been tried this year, were acceptable. G. Harris noted that previously the membership has shown little appetite for a 4 day meeting. It was felt that numerous very short contributions were not desirable. The feeling of the meeting appeared to be that parallel sessions, to the extent that they had been incorporated in the schedule this year, would be acceptable if felt necessary by the LOC.

J. Landstreet suggested that there should be more time for posters. D. Crabtree suggested that the education session should be expanded.

In response to a question, G. Harris noted that the scientific themes of meetings are set by the local organizing committees.

16. Results of the election / Résultat des élections

G. Harris announced that Peter Martin had been elected as Second Vice-President. Harris thanked the scrutineers.

17. Nominations to Nominating Committee / Nomination du comité des nominations

Two nominations to the nominating committee were received: Pierre Bastien was proposed by J. Landstreet and R. Racine; and Alex Fullerton was proposed by C. Clement and R. Lamontagne. These two new members of the committee were acclaimed.

[The meeting returned to the vote for the amendments of the bylaws.]

A vote was held for each of the changes to the bylaws: changes in the English wording; changes in the French wording; and increasing the number of Canadian honorary members from one to three. The vote by members present at the meeting and those voting by mail passed all three amendments by a comfortable majority.

Motion 5

Moved that all ballots be destroyed: D. Crabtree; seconded: C. Wilson; carried

18. Other business / Divers

None.

19. Adjournment / Levée de l'assemblée

Motion 6

Moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:12 pm: R. Pudritz; seconded: D. Turner; carried