

**Canadian Astronomical Society  
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie**

**72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 4, 2016; 10h30 – 12h30 PST  
Conducted by Videoconference**

**Minutes**

<i>Present:</i>	Christine Wilson	President
	Roberto Abraham	Vice-President
	Nicole St-Louis	Treasurer
	James Di Francesco	Secretary
	Pauline Barmby	Director
	Sarah Gallagher	Director
	Lorne Nelson	Director

**1. Adoption of agenda [Di Francesco]**

- **Motion to adopt the agenda (Wilson/St-Louis): Carried**

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Board of Directors meeting [Di Francesco]**

- **Motion to adopt the minutes (Wilson/Nelson): Carried**

**3. Business Conducted Electronically [all]**

- *CASCA Awards Nominees*: the Board accepted the recommendations by the Awards Committee for the 2016 Awards to be given at the upcoming annual meeting.
- *Letters to new Science Ministers*: Wilson drafted letters to the new Minister of Science, the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, and the new Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, which briefly summarized the needs of the Canadian astronomical community. These letters were considered by the Board, approved, and sent.
- *Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics*: CASCA received a letter of thanks from the organizers of CCUWIP for our contribution to their annual conference in Halifax this past January.
- *The Arctic Sky*: the Board considered a request from Sean Guistini for support for publishing a new version of his book, *The Arctic Sky: Inuit Astronomy, Lore and Legend*. Regrettably, CASCA does not have \$20K to spare towards helping publish this new edition but will be contact with Mr. Guistini about a possible WESTAR Lectureship

#### **4. Review of the Actions Items List – Part I [Di Francesco]**

- *New Solar System/Exoplanet Committee*: Abraham has discussed mandate of new committee with community stakeholders. Names of possible members were discussed. Abraham to compose draft of mandate for committee.
- *New CASCA meeting website*: Nelson reported that a new page has been created for the CASCA website intended to help future organizers of our annual Society meetings by describing hosting responsibilities.
- *Executive Award*: the Board unanimously voted in favour of awarding the 2016 Executive Award to Prof. Ralph Pudritz of McMaster University.
- *WESTAR Lectureship*: Lectures to resume later in 2016. An ad hoc WESTAR committee has been formed with Nelson, Julie Bolduc-Duval (Discover the Universe; DU) and Phil Langill (U. Calgary) to coordinate planning. DU will administer Lecture series. Our EPO Committee will select Lecturers based on criteria to be defined in future. Bolduc-Duval will identify possible remote institutions for first Lectures, possibly in northern Canada.
- *EPO Strategy*: Regular meetings occurring between ad hoc group consisting of Nelson, Courteau, Julie Bolduc-Duval, and Mike Reid (EPO committee chair). DU's NSERC Promoscience grant was not funded. DI has agreed to oversee DU through 2017.
- *RASC*: Abraham has been in discussions with RASC Executive Director Randy Attwood about ways for our Societies to work together better, e.g., on EPO. Abraham and Attwood are pursuing the development of a spreadsheet to identify how well RASC centers work with local astronomy departments and ways to improve coordination. Also, the RASC has acquired "SkyNews" magazine and can offer it in bulk at events, e.g., handing it out at a booth during our annual meetings. Finally, the RASC is planning to hold a "National Star Party" on the front lawn of Parliament in Ottawa in July 2017 with a goal to hit 1 million people.
- *CAP*: Nelson discussed CASCA participation on CAP NSERC committee with Bill Whelan. The committee is favourable to our participation but they needed to vote on it formally at their next meeting in late February / early March. Nelson to find out results of vote for next Board meeting.
- *New Award*: Donor of new award can cover the cost of striking ten gold medals. The long-term sustainability of award was discussed, and it was concluded that awards had been given previously without being fully endowed at the start. (NB: see minutes for special meeting at end of this document.)
- *NRC IAU Questionnaire*: Wilson received feedback from NRC regarding our grades for the questionnaire it asks the Board to complete every year to justify NRC paying the IAU dues for Canada. This past year's questionnaire did very well, coming in third out of 28 submissions. The Board consented to NRC's request that our questionnaire be distributed to other societies as an example of how to complete the form.

#### **5. New business**

##### **5.1. President's report [Wilson]**

- *Graduate Student Workshop*: The organizers of this year's CASCA Graduate Student Workshop have an ambitious plan focusing on jobs beyond academia. They need ~\$8K in total to include specific "networking guests" and have about \$1.5K at the moment. They have asked CASCA for additional funds. After some discussion, the Board agreed to provide \$2K to the organizers in a special one-off show of support.

#### **5.2. Treasurer's report [St-Louis]**

- *CASCA's Financial Status*: A cheque to the Dunlap Institute for DU activities has gone missing, highlighting the need for a more modern approach to how CASCA managed its bank account. Access to online banking would be very helpful. In addition, two signatures are required at present for bank activity (e.g., cheques) making it very onerous if authorized persons are in different cities. St-Louis would like to move towards online banking with at least two individuals having single-signature authority. The Board was open to the idea but cautioned that further study of the ramifications of this change would need to occur. St-Louis to look into impact for next Board meeting.

#### **5.3. Directors' reports [Nelson, Courteau, Barmby, Gallagher]**

- *Diversity Committee* [Barmby]: The new Diversity Committee will convene a one-hour plenary session at the Winnipeg meeting to discuss related issues. It was noted that the recent Mid-term Review document specifically suggests the Committee restart the equity survey process, and this will likely occur after the Winnipeg meeting. Finally, the Committee will draft a code of conduct for CASCA meetings that will be included in the programme.

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting [all]**

- Following tradition, the next CASCA Board of Directors meeting will occur face-to-face one day before the beginning of the annual members meeting. The date will be Monday, May 30, 2016 in Winnipeg, MB.

#### **7. Other business [all]**

- No other business

#### **8. Adjournment [Di Francesco]**

- **Motion made to adjourn the meeting (Abraham/Barmby): Carried**

**Canadian Astronomical Society  
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie**

**Special Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 18, 2016; 11h00 – 12h00 PST  
Conducted by Videoconference**

**Minutes**

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

**1. CASCA Policy on Award Donations**

- A special meeting was convened to discuss newly raised concerns about the recent offer to provide funds for a new CASCA award. After receiving earlier a favourable Board response, the donor provided the President with a design for a gold medal for the award in his name. The Board reflected whether or not the amount of the donation, the execution of the award, the award name, and its long-term sustainability were commensurate with other CASCA awards. For context, the Martin and Dunlap awards are named awards that were each endowed with donations of \$30K. These donations were invested and the interest provides the cash awards of ~\$1500 biennially. The currently proposed donation is somewhat less than these specific donations and also it would entail outright purchases of medals rather than cash awards.
- A Board member raised concern that the level of donation was not sufficient for naming privileges given previous donations for named awards. After some discussion, the Board debated whether or not the previous donations indeed set precedents for levels for naming privileges. Further, the Board discussed whether or not such awards must be endowed at a level such that the corresponding award, either cash or otherwise, would be commensurate with other CASCA awards. Note that other CASCA awards do come with lower honoraria of \$750 (e.g., the Plaskett at \$750).

- **Motion: CASCA to establish a minimum donation of \$30K (in 2016 dollars) for naming privileges for a prize, and the resulting award at least be commensurate in value with other self-named CASCA awards (e.g., \$1500 biennially in 2016 dollars): (Courteau/Gallagher): Carried**
- Wilson to communicate the decision of the Board with the donor. Should the donor wish to proceed, the Board will review contracts drawn up for previous awards for guidance on defining the terms of the new award.