

**Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie
86th meeting of the Board of Directors
February 15, 2019 14h00 – 15h00 AST
by videoconference**

Minutes

<i>Present:</i>	Rob Thacker	President
	Sara Ellison	Vice-President
	Nicole St-Louis	Treasurer
	James Di Francesco	Secretary
	René Doyon	Director
	Erik Rosolowsky	Director
	Samar Safi-Harb	Director
	Kristine Spekkens	Director

<i>Absent:</i>	Roberto Abraham	Past-President
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1. Business Conducted Electronically [all]

- *Award Eligibility:* Secretary Di Francesco updated the Board about two nominees for the Plaskett Medal this year who were found to be ineligible given the criteria for nomination.
- *CCUWIP:* The Board discussed the revelation that the CCUWIP it supports has an unusual policy of shared-bed accommodations during the conference. President Thacker registered CASCA's disapproval with the conference organizers and the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP).
- *LRP2020:* The Board continued to discuss the composition of the panel struck to produce the 2020 Long Range Plan for Canadian Astronomy.

2. President's Report [Thacker]

- *Coalition Visit:* President Thacker described to the Board details of the recent two-day Coalition visit to Ottawa. On the first day, Guy Nelson and Thacker met for a half-hour with a staffer from the Prime Minister's Office. On the second day, various Coalition members met with MPs. One bright spot was the meeting with Wayne Easter, MP from Malpeque, PEI and Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. Mr. Easter and his bipartisan committee appear to be bullish about Canadian space exploration, but it remains to be seen how much support may appear in the upcoming federal budget. (The actual budget release date is still TBD but may be April.) Should there not be any budget support for space, it will be hard to intervene given that the next election will

- come up very soon thereafter. Other Coalition meetings included ones with Joyce Murray, MP for Vancouver Quadra, BC (the UBC campus riding), Mark Gerretsen, MP for Kingston and the Islands, Ontario, and H el ene Laverdi ere, MP for Laurier – Sainte Marie, Quebec. Coalition visitors also included Don Brooks, Laura Parker, Judith Irwin, Ren e Doyon, and Nathalie Ouellette.
- *Discover the Universe*: The Board discussed inquiries by member Julie Bolduc-Duval of the Discover the Universe (DU) program about CASCA extending its support of the program in 2019 via WESTAR funds, the expected amount from these funds to be allocated annually to WESTAR Lectures, and how the funding profile matches the amounts available for allocation. Earlier, the Board resolved to fund DU at \$10K for this year and provide annual guidance to the Education and Public Outreach Committee of \$10K for WESTAR Lectureships. Treasurer St-Louis to assess available WESTAR funds amid the larger CASCA investments in the coming months. The Board will announce soon its upcoming “seed funding” program for other WESTAR-based initiatives.
 - *CCUWIP Conference*: The Board discussed communication with CAP Executive Director Francine Ford about CASCA’s disapproval of the shared-bed sleeping arrangement policy at the Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics Conference. Thacker to follow up with Ford by phone next week.
 - *Social Media Policy*: Thacker apprised the Board of the status of CASCA’s Social Media Policy. The statement was about to be sent out for translation but Thacker noticed it references a CASCA meeting code of conduct and recommends that it refer instead to CASCA’s more readily available online Ethics Statement.
 - *AGM Timeline*: Thacker presented a draft of a CASCA AGM “macro-schedule” Planning Timeline document to the Board, and raised concern that the document could become outdated without embedded live links. A warning indicating this possibility will be included in the document. Ellison recommended it be sent to recent LOC Chairs for their input prior to publication on the CASCA website.

3. Vice-President’s Report [Ellison]

- *DRAO*: Ellison summarized her efforts to approach DRAO about hosting the CASCA annual meeting in 2021. Di Francesco to prod DRAO about getting some statement of commitment (or not).
- *GSC*: Ellison summarized her recent interactions with Maan Hani, Chair of the Graduate Student Committee about ways to improve communication between the GSC and the Board. The Board considered the GSC’s suggestions. Thacker proposed he or another Board member could either attend the GSC telecons or have one-on-one meetings with the GSC Chair. With Board agreement of the proposal, Thacker and Ellison to discuss it with the GSC Chair.

4. AOB [all]

- *LRP2020 Terms of Reference*: These have been translated by Doyon and will be soon posted to the CASCA website.
- *Next Meeting*: March 15, 2019. This meeting will be a two-hour quarterly one with Action Items List discussed.