

**Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie
85th meeting of the Board of Directors
January 18, 2019 14h00 – 15h00 AST
by videoconference**

Minutes

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

1. Business Conducted Electronically [all]

- *CASCA 2019*: The Board gave positive feedback to the LOC of the CASCA 2019 meeting in Montréal about their early suggestions for invited speakers.
- *IAU100*: The Board discussed ways CASCA can acknowledge the upcoming centennial of the International Astronomical Union in 2019.
- *Space Matters Blog*: Thacker was approached to provide input to a new “space science” blog as part of a larger national Canadian space science outreach initiative.
- *LRP2020*: The Board discussed suggestions by the Panel Chairs about ideas regarding the upcoming Long Range Plan for Canadian Astronomy.
- *Future RASC/CASCA Joint Meeting*: The Board discussed a proposal by the RASC to have a joint meeting in future, and concluded that the idea was welcome but a one-day overlap between the RASC GA and the CASCA AGM would work best.
- *CASCA-hosted Journal*: The Board discussed a proposal for CASCA to host its own peer-reviewed journal, possibly becoming a new home for the *Astrophysics and Space Science* journal. After some discussion, it was concluded that such an endeavor is beyond the current scope of CASCA.

2. LRP2020 Panel

- *Composition*: The Board discussed some concerns expressed by community members regarding composition of the LRP Panel. The importance of the LRP

panel not being considered loaded in any way was recognized. The LRP Panel Chairs previously provided a list of names to the Board. The Board discussed the merits and qualifications of these possible members (and others) and the size of the panel itself. Further iteration with the Panel Chairs about Panel composition and balance will continue.

- *Timeline*: The Chairs have suggested two sets of “town halls,” one set before and one after the draft report release. The Board discussed the merits of this idea. Thacker to approach Chairs to determine if significant changes would occur after the draft plan is presented. It may be possible that any post-draft “town halls” could be done via videoconference to save time and cost. The Panel should be encouraged to present their preliminary findings at the CASCA AGM. The Board discussed the proposed timeline of the draft and final report releases. There are merits to having white papers submitted either before or after the first town halls. A target date of final report release (including translation) by December 2020 should be the goal. The lead time for graphic design should not underestimated.

3. President’s Report [Thacker]

- *Coalition Update*: The Coalition plans to return to Ottawa on 07 February, with René Doyon, Nathalie Ouellette, Laura Parker, and Judith Irwin slated to attend so far. More attendees are being sought for this visit and future ones. Also, a professional graphic designer is working on a new Coalition handout for MPs. Earlier, Thacker gave interviews to the *Hill Times* newspaper about the status of Canadian space-based science funding and has been approached by *Nature Astronomy* to provide an op-ed about the topic. Not much recent activity from the “Don’t Let Go Canada” space industry campaign lately.

4. Vice-President’s Report [Ellison]

- *Coordinating Grad School Acceptance Deadlines*: Previously, Ellison sent Board the compilation of feedback about a questionnaire sent to grad advisors around the country and the Grad Student Committee. In general, there was positive support for the idea, but some departments didn’t think they had the flexibility to proceed. To move this idea forward, a critical mass of departments and students could give the needed momentum year-on-year to make this happen. Also, getting the CUPC constituency behind the idea could help. We could put out a statement, but then how could students use this policy to their advantage? Thacker recommends that the issue be raised at the next CASCA AGM to get member feedback and address concerns, prior to making a statement. A draft motion may be presented to the membership at that time.

5. AOB [all]

- *CASCA 2021*: DRAO has been approached for hosting the CASCA meeting in 2021 and Di Francesco to follow up with Michael Rupen about this possibility.