

**Canadian Astronomical Society  
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie  
83rd meeting of the Board of Directors  
November 20, 2018 11h30 – 12h30 PST  
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
 <i>Absent:</i>	 Roberto Abraham	 Past-President
	Kristine Spekkens	Director

**1. LRP2020 update**

- Both Pauline Barmby (Western) and Bryan Gaensler (Dunlap) are in a position to become the co-Chairs of the next LRP.
- Announcement of the co-Chairs should occur with the completion of the Terms of Reference for the LRP Panel. The previous one can be adapted with input from the co-Chairs themselves and Thacker. Some prioritization should be included but also strategy flexibility given available resources. Work will continue over the next few weeks.
- It's possible the purview of the LRP panel to include examination of an NSERC envelope funding model for astronomy. Need to find out how well it's working for the particle physics community first though. Thacker to meet with Liz Boston of NSERC soon and will raise this possibility.

**2. Discover the Universe**

- Julie Bolduc-Duval of Discover the Universe (DU) wrote the CASCA Board to inquire about approaching our corporate members to fund EPO activities.
- It's possible such activities could be funded through donations to CASCATrust but more details are needed to determine the value for corporate members. Thacker to contact DU.

**3. IAU "100 Hours" Initiative**

- Our EPO Committee is considering the IAU “100 Hours” initiative in January 2019 to commemorate the IAU centennial with 100 hours of live observing events coordinated around the world, similar to a program run during IYA2009.
- It is not clear from the website how far organization of the initiative has progressed, and it is not clear what CASCA itself can do beyond moral support of coordination.

#### **4. RASC Youth Outreach**

- The RASC is setting up a “youth outreach” arm, partially funded by government programs. Jenna Hines, the RASC’s youth outreach coordinator would like to put content on the AstronomyCanada.ca domain we currently own.
- Rosolowsky to consult EPO Committee on intentions for domain and see if they object to us flipping the domain to the RASC.

#### **5. Montreal AGM Update**

- The Montreal LOC is meeting weekly with monthly participation by Ellison. They are working on a progress report for the Board’s December meeting. So far, they seem to be in good shape, having booked a venue and retained a vendor to help with registration. The website is already up and linked from the CASCA website. Hotel blocks have already been obtained. A CASCA exploder message is about to be sent out, after Board input. The SOC, however, hasn’t been formed yet and no speakers have been yet invited, but that situation may change very soon.
- Thacker to resume work on “AGM organization timeline cheat sheet” that he drafted earlier. The LOC of the York AGM in 2020 could use this soon.

#### **6. Coordinated Timeline for Grad School Offers**

- As a Society, can we encourage Canadian Astronomy Departments to have a coordinated deadline for first offers? Unclear how flexible departments are with their deadlines, which could come from their respective Faculties of Graduate Studies.
- Endorsement of this approach from CASCA could give students some leverage to push back against very early offer response deadlines.
- Ellison to contact graduate student advisors in Canadian universities to see what kind of uptake is possible and what date would be acceptable.

#### **7. AOB**

- Student position advertisements on CASCA exploder / webpage: not reasonable for the exploder since the target audiences aren’t CASCA members themselves. Also, a lot of work to maintain the CASCA website.
- Membership renewal update: Di Francesco reports that about half the membership have renewed as of today. A final reminder will be sent out the last week of the month. The new system is mostly working well but some have become lost when trying to renew. Some streamlining of the process will be needed going forward.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

- The Board will meet next on December 5, 2018.