

**Canadian Astronomical Society  
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie  
88th meeting of the Board of Directors  
Apr. 17, 2019 12h00 – 13h00 PDT  
Via videoconference**

**Minutes**

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

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

- *Awards:* Thacker communicated the good news to this year's award winners. The Board thanks the Awards Committee for their hard work in selecting winners this year. Thacker will work with Jennifer West to post announcements of this year's award winners on the CASCA website.
- *CASCA2020:* The Board approved the proposed dates of May 25-29, 2020 for next year's annual meeting of CASCA, which will be hosted by York University in Toronto, ON.
- *CASCA2021:* Michael Rupen, Director of NRC's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO), confirmed that DRAO will host the 2021 annual meeting of CASCA in Penticton, BC that May.
- **Motion to allow a member of CASCA's Graduate Student Committee to be cross-appointed to its Education and Public Outreach Committee (Thacker / Ellison): Carried.** Following suggestions of names made by the two Committees and some canvassing, the Vice-President will select the student member. The term will be one year, with a possibility of one renewal for a second year.
- *CASCA-appointed member of AACs:* Erik Rosolowsky has kindly agreed to be the next member of the ACURA Advisory Committee for the SKA (AACs).
- *WESTAR Lecturer Report:* The Board enthusiastically accepted the report by Stan Metchev on his April 2019 visit to Igloolik, NU as a WESTAR Lecturer.

- *Teacher's Workshop funding:* The Board approved a request by the Education and Public Outreach Committee for \$1200 for venue-related expenses to host the next Teacher's Workshop at the Montréal annual meeting.

## **2. President's Report [Thacker]**

- *Coalition news:* Another visit to Parliament is planned for May 27, and will include a reception hosted by H elene Laverdiere, the NDP MP for Laurier – Sainte Marie, Quebec. Many astronomers from the Toronto-Montr el corridor will attend, including students. Six information stations will be set up to describe various astronomy projects. The Coalition is mindful that a federal election is slated for this October.
- *RASC Board News:* Thacker also sits on the RASC Board but he has decided to not run for reelection and will step down a few days before their AGM in June. RASC Executive Director Randy Attwood has suggested a meeting to engender future cooperation between the Societies. Also, the issue of how costs for the Plaskett Medal has been settled – RASC will produce, engrave, and ship the Medal itself while CASCA will cover awardee travel and honorarium costs.
- *NSERC Program Officer visit to AGM:* An NSERC representative will visit the upcoming AGM in Montr el to engage our community about their programs at a special session. A request has gone out for topics to discuss. Ellison to send out a request for input to the CASCA Exploder which she will assemble and pass on to NSERC.
- *LRP2020 EoIs:* In response to their call, the Long Range Plan (LRP2020) panel received from the community in mid-April 68 Expressions of Interest (EoIs) to produce white papers about various astronomy topics by the end of September 2019. In addition, the LRP2020 panel has requested white papers from CASCA's various Committees about their specific subjects, with first, mature drafts due by the end of May.
- *LRP Funding:* The LRP2020 panel is approaching NSERC for funding for their activities. CSA has already committed to providing some funding. CFI has declined to provide support. The panel expects less travel than previous LRP years, with fewer face-to-face panel meetings.

## **3. Vice-President's Report [Ellison]**

- *Grad Student Acceptance Deadline:* Following a request for input from the membership, it appears that both the Board and responders support the idea of having a general deadline for the first round of graduate school acceptance offers for Canadian universities. This topic will be discussed further at the business meeting of the AGM in June, with the possibility that CASCA will issue an official recommendation to universities to set a specific date. Ellison will work out specific wording for a recommendation. Also, CASCA's Graduate Student Committee will be approached to discuss this issue among them, present it at their Workshop preceding the AGM, and encourage student attendance at the business meeting.
- *Montr el AGM:* Preparations for the upcoming annual CASCA meeting are going smoothly. The Secretary received about 30 new membership applications in the

past few weeks.

**4. AOB [all]**

- *Nominating Committee*: Progress on finding candidates to replace the three Directors, the Secretary, and the Treasurer, whose terms are all ending at the annual CASCA meeting in June, has been slow. Two candidates for Directors and one for Treasurer have been identified so far. Committee Chair Abraham to provide an update by the end of the week.
- *AACS Chair*: Gaensler ended his term in January as Chair of the ACURA Advisory Committee for the SKA (AACS). ACURA is to name a replacement with some input from the CASCA President. Thacker to make recommendations soon.