

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY - SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE

Minutes of the forty-fifth Annual General Meeting Tuesday, June 10, 2014 16:30-18:00 EDT Salle des Plaines, Chateau Laurier, Quebec City

Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of CASCA started at 16:30 with 68 members present.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Motion to adopt the following agenda (Wade/Hanes): Carried.

01. Adoption of agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour (President)
02. Adoption of the minutes of the 2013 AGM / Adoption du compte rendu de la reunion de 2013 [Secretary]
03. Nominations to the Nominating Committee / Nominations due comité de nomination
04. Business arising from the minutes / Affaires découlant du compte rendu
05. President's report / Rapport du Président
06. Secretary's report / Rapport du Secrétaire
07. Treasurer's report / Rapport du Trésorier
08. Election of Auditor / Élection du vérificateur
09. Selection of scrutineers / Sélection des surveillants d'élection
10. Results of the elections / Résultats des election (Secretary)
11. New By-laws / Nouveaux règlements
12. Committee reports / Rapports des comités
13. Future CASCA meetings / Prochaines reunions de la CASCA
14. Other business / Divers
15. Adjournment / Levée de l'assemblée

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2013 AGM

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2013 AGM (Hesser/Fich): Carried.

3. Nominations to the Nominating Committee

Michael Balogh and Allison Sills were nominated and have accepted their nominations. No other nominations were proposed.

Motion to close the nominations (Wilson/Wade): Carried.

4. Business arising from the minutes

None.

5. President's Report

- *LRP Priorities in support of TMT:* CASCA produced printed materials about TMT targeted to University VPRs, Presidents and Government officials. The RASC National Secretary (now President) has written a letter addressed to the CASCA President in support of TMT. The CASCA President wrote Minister Ed Holder about TMT on behalf of the community, including the printed materials and the letter from RASC. Individuals in the community were also tapped to write Minister Holder about TMT themselves. A press release was prepared regarding the unveiling of the mirror segment at the CASCA meeting, in coordination with the TMT Media Relation Office in Pasadena and CASCA's Press Officer, Leslie Sage.
- *Mid-term Review:* The CASCA Board selected the MTR Panel, chaired by Prof. Rob Thacker. The Panel members include Balogh, Crampton, Dobbs, Spekkens, Strauss, van Kerkwijk, Thacker, Venn, and Wilson. A preliminary MTR session will be held after the present annual meeting on June 12. In Summer 2014, a call for white papers will be issued to the leads of LRP-prioritized projects and a few individuals associated with newer projects. In January-February 2015, a series of three town hall meetings will occur. The final MTR report will be released in Fall 2015. CASCA has made a \$10K contribution to MTR activities.
- *NSERC:* CASCA wrote to NSERC in May 2013 to express concern about the absence of Canadian astronomers in the 2012-2013 proposal evaluation panel. The situation remains unresolved. CASCA wrote again to NSERC in May 2014 with nominations of 15 individuals for consideration for panel membership. With three (US) astronomers' terms on the panel expiring this year, hopefully NSERC will draw from this list.
- *IAU APR:* Canada has at present 261 IAU members. Given its "category of membership adherence," Canada has six votes on questions involving the IAU budget and one on questions concerning its administration. The current annual membership fees are 28K Euros. Extra votes would require a jump in category and cost 39.2K Euros per annum. NRC pays the IAU dues annually, pending a positive evaluation of an extensive Annual Performance Review. This review is completed by the CASCA Board, in its additional role as the Canadian National Committee of the IAU. The last APR was submitted in December 2013 and was approved by NRC. A new IAU membership drive will commence this fall, with nominations to be submitted by December 1, 2014.
- *Web Presence and Press:* The new CASCA website is being continually updated and is serving the community well. An e-news bulletin is being sent out every month, listing the documents news and announcements posted on the CASCA website during the previous month, etc. CASCA is also becoming more proactive in disseminating information to the press, with at least four announcements featured prominently on the website.

6. Secretary's Report

- *Election:* An election is taking place this year for vacant seats on the CASCA Board, the Vice-President and two Directors. Standing for election to the office of Vice-President are Brian McNamara and Roberto Abraham. Standing for the election to the office of Director are Sarah Gallagher, Erik Rosolowsky, Ingrid Stairs, and Stéphane Courteau. The elections will be decided later in this AGM.
- *Memberships:* As of June 3, 2014, CASCA has 515 members in good standing, including 81 members who are in arrears of dues for one year. Of the 515 total, 224 are regular ordinary members, 53 are retired members, 53 are postdoctoral fellow members, and 38 are joint CASCA+CAP members. Eighteen new members are first-year graduate students. Separate from the 515 total are 72 individuals who have been in arrears for dues payment for at least two years and are thus expelled from the Society.
- *Deaths:* The Society notes the passing of Prof. Richard Jarrell of York University, a historian of science who was an active member of the Heritage Committee.

Motion to accept the Secretary's Report (Courteau/Hanes): Carried.

7. Treasurer's Report

- *Society Finances:* The financial situation at the end of the fiscal year is satisfactory. The value of our investments has increased by 8.1%. The total amount will increase further with the addition of \$30K, due to the generous endowment of the Dunlap Institute for the new "Dunlap Award for Innovation in Astronomical Research Tools." The main operating account was approximately \$61.3K on 31 March 2014, a decrease of ~\$10K due to lower than expected revenues from dues and donations, a contribution to the CUWP meeting, the executive award, and a payment in arrears to Revenue Canada for benefits for our administrative assistant for 2012 and 2013.
- *Dues:* Based on the Bank of Canada's inflation rate of 2.04% for last year, the membership dues will increase this year. The dues for next year will be set to:
 - Ordinary: \$152
 - Student/retired: \$62
 - Postdoc/Associate: \$111
 - Joint CAP+CASCA: \$106

After November 1, the dues will increase over those posted by 25%. Note that the deadline for dues payment is being extended by one month.

- *New Investment Committee member:* Sergey Marchenko is rotating off the Investment Committee and a replacement is needed. CASCA thanks Sergey for his service. JJ Kavelaars volunteers to join the Committee. **Motion to have JJ Kavelaars join the CASCA Investment Committee: Carried.**

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Barmby/Sivakoff): Carried.

8. Election of Auditor

No obvious alternatives for auditor are known at this time, but the Board will be looking next year into the possibility of a new auditor.

Motion to reappoint Wilkinson as the auditor (Wilson/Hanes): Carried.

9. Selection of scrutineers

A. Sills and L. Parker volunteer as scrutineers. The Secretary showed them the results of the online election on the BigPulse website.

10. Results of the Elections

The new Vice-President of CASCA is Roberto Abraham. The new Directors are Sarah Gallagher and Stéphane Courteau. The Society thanks all candidates for standing for elections this year.

11. New By-laws

Last year, the Society voted to approve the proposed Articles of Continuance and authorized the Board to apply for a Certificate of Continuance. They also approved the new By-laws and empowered the Secretary to complete their transition to compliance with the new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. The Secretary reports that Corporations Canada has accepted the new By-laws and issued CASCA its Certificate of Continuance. These documents can all be found on the CASCA website. The Society thanks previous Secretary Nadine Manset, for her considerable work on this process prior to the end of her term.

12. Committee Reports

Reports on activities by CASCA's many committees can be found on the CASCA website. Each committee is performing important work for the Society, and CASCA members are encouraged to read their reports and contact the committee Chairs as needed.

13. Future CASCA Meetings

CASCA 2015 will be held in Hamilton, ON, May 24-28, 2015.

14. Other business

None.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Wade/Courteau): Carried.