

# Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

## Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Oct. 8, 2019

**Present:**

**Rob Thacker (President/Chair)**  
**Sara Ellison (Vice President)**  
**Judith Irwin (Secretary)**  
**Etienne Artigau (Director)**  
**Suresh Sivanandam (Director)**  
**René Doyon (Director)**  
**Ivana Damjanov (Director)**  
**Bob Abraham (Past President)**

**Absent:** Lewis Knee (Treasurer)

### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

Passed.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by René Doyon and seconded by Bob Abraham, passed.

### **3. Action item review**

A list of Action Items dated July 31, 2019 was reviewed and updated.

### **4. President's Report**

TMT: The TMT situation with protesters on Mauna Kea was discussed. Progress towards a solution seems to be very slow. However, this is not due to lack of effort and discussions are being held at high levels in an attempt to move the situation forward. The Canadian TMT advisory committee is preparing a document about the situation that should be released soon and summarizes the situation extremely well. Every day of delay costs money. The Japanese, for example, would like to press forward. There are, of course, enormous implications for our Long Range Plan efforts.

Office Staffing: Two new people have been hired:

Office Administrator: Jessica Marsano for a two year term to replace Susan Di Francesco. Jessica is based in Victoria and this is a half-time position. There will be a 6-week overlap period so that Susan can train Jessica. Susan's term is up on Dec. 1.

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Webmaster: Don Hutton has been hired with an indeterminate period. Don is based in Toronto and is now taking over from Jennifer West.

CCUWIP/CUPC (Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics / Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference): CASCA has provided support; however, bed-sharing (as opposed to room sharing) is not supported. Rob will write clarifying messages indicating that future support will not be forthcoming if this policy continues.

LRPIC (Long Range Plan Implementation Committee): There was discussion about whether or not we should propose a replacement since one committee member has stepped down. In agreement with a suggestion by John Hutchings, it was felt that there isn't a strong need for a replacement at this time.

Request for LRP Travel Funds: This request was approved because NSERC did not allocate as much money as they have in the past. For the future, the board has asked that the funding be justified in more detail rather than simply making up for shortfalls elsewhere.

### 5. Vice President's Report

Grad student deadline: The new proposal that there be a graduate student coordinated earliest deadline (Feb. 28) was sent out on the CASCA exploder and is on the CASCA webpage in English and French. It was also sent out in an email to all grad chairs. As this is the first year, we will monitor the situation. It is possible that, if successful, it could be extended to include the CAP.

Computation and Data Committee: There is a need for a new member on this committee. Rob will provide some suggestions to Sara.

AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be at York University in 2020. The meeting venue is fully booked and a draft agenda should be ready in mid-November for the Board to look at. They are on top of the main issues and are on track to make their first public announcement in January.

### 6. Secretary's Report

Membership: As of today, there are 580 members on the CASCA exploder list. This includes resignations but it does not include any recent updates from the Administrator as to who has and who has not submitted dues for the 2019-20 year.

Dues: The fact that we can only accept either email transfers or cheques in the mail has caused problems for some members, some to the point that they are waiting until our Paypal problems have been ironed out before they can pay at all. As a result, the deadline for submitting dues at the lower rate has been extended until this problem can be sorted out. A suggestion was made to go with a different third party (e.g. Shopify) if Paypal continues to be a problem. There also seems to be issues with some people not getting receipts. Rob will push on this issue.

Use of CASCA exploder: There was a request to announce an upcoming astronomy talk in Vancouver; however, such an announcement would be spam for most of the membership so such a request, although worthy, should not really go out on the exploder.

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**7. Any Other Business**

None other than the date of the December meeting.

**8. Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** Nov. 5, 2019