

Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Nov. 11, 2019

Present:

Rob Thacker (President/Chair)
Judith Irwin (Secretary)
Etienne Artigau (Director)
Suresh Sivanandam (Director)
René Doyon (Director)

Absent: Lewis Knee (Treasurer)

Sara Ellison (Vice President)
Ivana Danjanov (Director)
Bob Abraham (Past President)

1. Adoption of Agenda

Passed.

2. President's Report

Coalition for Canadian Astronomy (CCA) update – There has not been much activity on the coalition front because of the change to the new minority government. Once the new cabinet is known, we would like to introduce ourselves. This could be in late November.

TMT– The situation in Hawai'i continues to evolve particularly with respect to overall summit management. Within Canada, ACURA continues to monitor the situation and is due to have a telecon soon potentially in anticipation of a new statement on Maunakea. Rob expressed his personal view that the situation has evolved far enough for ACURA to release an updated statement that reflects on the complex issues in Hawai'i, particularly in relation to concerns expressed by a number of Native Hawaiians. CATAC has provided a detailed update on the history of the project which has been useful in explaining how the situation on Maunakea has evolved.

ACURA Advisory Council on the SKA (AACS) – Rob noted concerns about the lack of a Chair for the AACS, and listed a number of people who had been asked to fill the position but who had declined. However, determining the Chair of the committee is ultimately the ACURA Executive Director's decision, it is not a CASCA appointment although he has provided suggestions and input. The good news is that the external face of the SKA in Canada has all positions filled. Hopefully this concern will be resolved soon.

3. Action item review (Secretary)

A list of Action Items dated October 8, 2019 was reviewed and updated.

Honorary Membership in CASCA: The current list of honorary members is: Roger Cayrel (since Jun 28, 1989), Hubert Reeves (since May 26, 2001), and Sidney van den Bergh (since June 14, 2019). The maximum number is 10 of which there can be no more than three Canadians. This list should be on the website with links to their home pages if possible. One new individual is being considered at this time.

There are currently still 10 missing editions on Cassiopeia on the CASCA website, dated variously from 1976 to 1997. These still need to be tracked down.

A request was made to the CAP to see about offering a joint CAP/CASCA junior membership. The CAP is in the midst of staffing and training and can't really respond until later in November.

Rob has announced the new EPO "Seed" initiative at the AGM but will remind CASCA members in the upcoming E-cass (webpages are already active on this program). He has also worked out appropriate financial contributions between the RASC and CASCA regarding the Plaskett Medal.

4. Review of Requests for IAU Membership

The following individuals have been approved and will be recommended for membership in the IAU:

Isaac Smith – Full membership

Tyrone Woods – Junior membership

Kianoosh Tahani – Junior membership

Jesse Rogerson – Full membership

We will follow up with the appropriate paperwork.

5. Any Other Business

Rob noted that things have moved forward in that Paypal has now provided CASCA access to its account however, we are still unable to receive payments. The Treasurer is actively working to resolve the issue.

6. Adjourn