

Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Feb. 12, 2020

Present:

Rob Thacker (President/Chair)
Judith Irwin (Secretary)
Etienne Artigau (Director)
René Doyon (Director)
Bob Abraham (Past President)

Absent: Sara Ellison (Vice President)

Ivana Damjanov (Director)
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)
Suresh Sivanandam (Director)

1. Adoption of Agenda

Passed.

2. Approval of Minutes from last board meeting

Passed.

CATAC/coalition update

In camera discussion.

A Native Hawaiian Reconciliation Commission has now been set up in Hawaii to help resolve issues that have led to blockades on Mauna Kea. Links to the information can be found at the following two websites:

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/02/hawaii-lawmakers-want-state-to-reconcile-with-native-hawaiians/>
<https://www.kitv.com/story/41693038/hawaii-panel-backs-native-hawaiian-reconciliation-commission>

3. Executive Award

In camera discussion. A call for input will be sent out on the CASCA exploder.

4. Press Officer

Our previous press officer is unavailable for the foreseeable future and CASCA needs a new press officer, at minimum for the upcoming AGM. A discussion was held as to what we actually need and how one might fund a press officer. A possible solution is to work with other institutes (e.g. Perimeter, McDonald, Dunlap) for value-added. It is to everyone's benefit to promote Canadian astronomical research and the people who do it. Raising the Canadian profile could also help with attempts to secure funding for the LRP. The President will follow up.

5. Women in Physics Conference funding request

Currently, CASCA supports the CUPC (Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference) and CCUWIP (Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics).

We now have a request for support for WIPC (Women in Physics Canada). This conference fits with our equity mandate but the President will speak with the Treasurer to see whether we can afford it.

There was discussion about the increasing number of requests CASCA has received for support this year and the need for a clearer policy. Also, deadline(s) are needed so that the board doesn't have to make one-off decisions at each board meeting.

6. Feedback to give AGM Local Organizing Committee

There are some problems with deadlines because, for example, 3-4 weeks isn't enough time for making travel decisions. The Board will ask the LOC to move up the registration deadline to April 24.

7. Website

Our new webmaster has been amazing and has submitted a detailed report on the state of the CASCA website. This is the first forensic analysis of the website in recent memory.

The board went through the list, the most pressing being backups and an update to wordpress (from 4.8 to 5.0). The President will ask the webmaster to provide a cost estimate for these two issues as a start. We can work through the list afterwards.

8. Update on Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee is moving forward now, currently with six members. They already have some ideas for the AGM.

9. Any other Business

The GSC (Graduate Student Committee) has made a request that CASCA waive all fees for graduate students. This would require a bylaw change and so would have to be brought forward

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at the AGM, if it is pursued. The President will discuss this issue with the Chair of the GSC.