

# Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

## Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Mar 12, 2020

### Present:

**Rob Thacker (President/Chair)**  
**Sara Ellison (Vice President)**  
**Judith Irwin (Secretary)**  
**Lewis Knee (Treasurer)**  
**Suresh Sivanandam (Director)**

### Absent: Ivana Damjanov (Director)

**Etienne Artigau (Director)**  
**René Doyon (Director)**  
**Bob Abraham (Past President)**

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

Passed.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from last board meeting

Passed with minor corrections.

### 3. Executive Award Decision

In-camera discussion.

After an open competition, the Board has awarded the Executive Award for Outstanding Service to Michael Balogh. The board's approval was unanimous.

### 4. Coalition and SKA update

The discussion focused on the approaching construction phase of the SKA and the need to re-emphasize the importance of this project to the Government. Precise details of schedule and finances were discussed in-camera. A possible time frame for a lobbying effort is the Summer/Fall of 2020 before the 2021 budget.

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**5. AGM and COVID-19 Discussion**

Considerable discussion took place as to a responsible and safe approach with respect to our scheduled Annual General Meeting and the COVID-19 outbreak. March 27 is our date for a go/no-go decision. Should this event be cancelled, there will be financial consequences to the Local Organizing Committee. However, the funding that CASCA normally puts towards this meeting (e.g. student travel) would not be needed. A motion was presented, seconded, and passed to assess our ability to fund outstanding expenses in the event of cancellation and to assist the LOC accordingly.

**6. Any Other Business**

a) In the light of the many financial requests that CASCA has been receiving for support of meetings, especially undergraduate meetings, a policy statement is needed and also deadlines must be set so that requests can be appraised together.

A Deadline of May 1 has been set for posting the announcement and policy of meeting support for the upcoming year, and a deadline of Oct. 1 has been set for receipt of applications. The Secretary will prepare a draft policy statement for future Board discussion.

b) The nominating committee has forwarded prioritized lists of names for two new director positions and for the Vice President position. These were approved with one minor modification.