

**Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie**

**100th Meeting of the Board of Directors via
videoconference**

Minutes for May 25, 2020

Present:

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

Absent:

1. Adoption of Agenda

Passed by consensus.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous board meeting

Passed by consensus, subject to minor corrections.

3. Action Items Review

Actions items were reviewed.

4. Reports

a) President's report [Thacker]

CITA Council Elections:

CITA election results were circulated previously by email. All board members were in favour. The Board comments were mainly that an attempt at greater diversity might be made in the future.

Coalition Activity Update:

Currently, this is in a holding pattern because of Covid-19. We should be prepared in case there is a stimulus package. We also want to 'sell' the LRP.

SKA:

Progress has been made because Gilles Joncas has agreed to chair the AACS. Gilles and Kristine Spekkens had a meeting regarding creating some Townhalls about the SKA. A treaty organization is expected to happen next year. The UK is expected to start construction next year. NRC is involved and a memo to cabinet will be required at some point. Things are rather muted on 'the hill' right now.

LRP2020 Update

Preliminary recommendations in the LRP2020 have been released and will be discussed at the CASCA AGM on Wed. afternoon. The final release of the LRP should occur in November of this year.

Online AGM Update

The President's Address is being moved to the business meeting

Best practices for online meetings have suggested that lighter weight contributions work well, hence no contributed talks. There will be an exit survey in order to get feedback from the attendees. The website is well set up with regard to safety from hackers, and the zoom links are available for each session just by hovering over the listing on the schedule at <http://casca2020.yorku.ca/schedule.html>. The iposters look very good.

The business meeting was discussed and also how the voting would proceed to ensure that only members in good standing could vote. Judith will send out a message on the CASCA exploder about this.

b) Secretary's report [Irwin]

The Secretary's report will be posted separately on the CASCA website and also presented at the AGM business meeting. There were 49 members who were two years in arrears. The list was examined in detail and each board member took responsibility for a subset of the people in order to remind them to either pay their dues or resign.

c) Treasurer's report [Knee]

The Treasurer's report will be posted separately on the CASCA website and also presented at the AGM business meeting. CASCA is financially in a good position and there is no need to increase the dues for the upcoming year.

There was some discussion about support for conferences which will now go into the Treasurer's report as a line item and those funds will be disbursed after requests are received in the Fall. Details as to a call for proposals have yet to be worked out.

d) Directors' Reports

No reports at this time.

5. Approval of Terms of Reference for committees [Thacker]

a) Sustainability

The Sustainability Committee exists as an ad hoc committee until the 2021 AGM. Moved by Thacker and seconded by Sara to accept the terms of reference as presented to the Board. This was passed.

b) Postdoctoral committee

The terms of reference, as presented, contrasts significantly with those of the other CASCA committees. Some changes need to be made before the Board can vote on the terms of reference. Rob will discuss this with the Chair. Also, the postdoctoral committee should be an ad hoc committee at this time.

c) Graduate Student's Committee

Again, there is an enormous amount of detail in this 8-page document and these terms of reference are significantly different from all other committees. There seems to be a misunderstanding regarding CASCA which is a corporation. The GSC should not be operating separately from the Board. Rob will distill the submission and suggest a form that is consistent with the other committees. The current lengthy document could be retained separately for graduate students to read.

6. Committee reports [Ellison]

All reports will be available separately on the CASCA website. Please see the website for further information. They will also be presented at the Business Meeting. The Board reviewed submissions from:

a) Awards

To ensure that each nominee is fairly judged, the Board agreed that a 'letter' should be requested for each, rather than a 'report' since in the past, some candidates had reports and some had letters. Also, to help with AGM scheduling, a member of the LOC should be an ex-officio non-voting member of the awards committee.

b) CASCA-ACURA TMT Advisory Committee (CATAC)

c) Computation and Data

d) Equity and Inclusivity

e) Education and Public Outreach

f) Graduate Students

The graduate students would like the web page to be refreshed. The new VP can work with the webmaster to help with this issue.

g) Ground-based Astronomy Committee

h) Heritage

The current VP will send a request to the chair to look into longer term solutions to the CASCA archives.

i) Joint Committee for Space Astronomy

j) LRPIC

k) Sustainability

7. Nominations to the Nominating Committee

Various names were considered. Rob will ask several candidates if they are willing to be nominated.

8. Board Student Awards (orals and posters)

Organization was carried out as to how to judge the posters to find a best poster.

9. Any Other Business

The draft agenda for the AGM business meeting was approved and French translation arranged.
A special THANKYOU to Rob for all his hard work!!
Also many thanks to Suresh and Rene who are rotating off!

10. Adjourn

Moved by Sara and seconded by René to adjourn. Passed.

Canadian National Committee of the IAU Agenda

1) Adoption of the agenda Passed.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, June 17th, 2019.

This is being tabled since we do not have the minutes at hand.

3) Business arising

a) Office Executive committee nominations from Canada

A name was suggested and Rob will send an email to ask whether this individual would like his name to stand.

b) IAU National Astronomy Education Coordinators

Rob will also follow up on this.

4) Other business

No other business

5) Adjournment

Moved by Judith and seconded by Lewis to adjourn. Passed.