

# Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

## Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Nov. 10, 2020

### Present:

Sara Ellison (President)  
Samar Safi-Harb (Vice President)  
Judith Irwin (Secretary)  
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)  
Ivana Damjanov (Director) Laura Parker (Director)  
Etienne Artigau (Director)  
Julie Hlavacek-Larrondo (Director)  
Rob Thacker (Past President)

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Samar, seconded by Rob. Passed

### 2. Approval of minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting

Moved by Samar, seconded by Etienne. Passed.

### 3. President's update

#### *Astronomy and colonization course*

The president is participating in this course which is currently about halfway through. It has been extremely interesting, with a constructive environment and lots of active discussion.

#### *Grad student deadline*

About a year ago, we agreed to promoting a coordinated time for graduate student acceptances, specifically ([https://casca.ca/?page\\_id=279](https://casca.ca/?page_id=279)): "CASCA recommends that Canadian Physics and Astronomy departments adhere to an annual coordinated deadline for acceptance of first round graduate school offers in astronomy/astrophysics programs of no earlier than 28th February."

The CASCA president and president of the GSC meet monthly, and it appears that many students don't know about this deadline. The GSC chair is now attempting to rectify this.

Sara will post a reminder notice to the CASCA exploder soon, although it is more difficult reaching undergraduates who will potentially become MSc students.

It could be more effective to also coordinate with the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP). To that end, Sara will contact CAP to float this idea.

### *Coalition update*

Don Brooks (Executive Director, ACURA) is organizing a dedicated SKA session with the institutional council.

Duncan Raynor (our lobbyist from Temple Scott Associates) is organizing a letter to minister Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry. The LRP, in general, will be highlighted, but the main focus is on the SKA because of its timescale.

A productive meeting was held with industry representatives, Rob Reid, Leslie Swartman, and Dave Stevens, of MDA Corporation. This is a positive development because industry engagement in the lobbying effort is so important.

Catherine Lovekin, of the Computation and Data Committee (CDC) is currently preparing a white paper in response to the recent call put out by NDRIO regarding the current and future needs of Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) in Canada. Catherine recently sent out a query to the Canadian community on the CASCA exploder for feedback.

## **4. Vice President's Update**

### *AGM 2021*

As per our previous Board meeting, CASCA will levy a modest fee for participation in the on-line 2021 AGM. The fees were discussed and proposed to be at:

**Fees** (Estimated number of participants)

Member: \$50.00 (160)

Member Student: \$20.00 (150)

Non-Member: \$100.00 (20)

Non-Member Student: \$40.00 (20)

The Online Organizing Committee (OOC) chair (Dennis Crabtree) has also secured some sponsorships and is attempting to secure more.

## **6. LRP oversight/management committee Chair and roadmap**

The former LRPIC (Long-Range-Plan Implementation Committee) is being updated and re-branded (more below). As a 'working title' at this point, it is being renamed as the LRP Oversight/Management Committee (hereafter, the LRPOMC).

LRP oversight/management committee

### ***Publicity and Rollout***

The readiness schedule for the LRP is:

- a) The full English text should be ready by November 15, 2020, with no images or design.
- b) The full English text plus typesetting with all artwork should be ready by mid-December.
- c) French translation and printing should be ready in early 2021. The goal is February.

Convergence has been achieved in terms of who is taking care of what part of the roll-out (political, astronomical, industry reps.).

Don Brooks has indicated that he will take care of distribution to all university stakeholders through ACURA (i.e. the Dec. 15 version).

On the 'astronomical side', CASCA will post each release to the community, as/when available.

Duncan Raynor has compiled a stakeholder list for the political side of things in Ottawa.

It was suggested that we need some kind of executive summary as a handout to politicians (or others) in both official languages. Sara will check into this in consultation with Pauline Barmby and Bryan Gaensler, co-chairs of the LRP 2020. This consultation will likely wait until all of the writing is completed.

### ***Reboot of the LRPIC***

Sara has discussed the 'reboot' with the former chair, John Hutchings. The new 'LRPOMC' (note, new title is pending) would attempt to influence more community based activities, shifting the emphasis from, exclusively 'facilities'. Instruments are still important and the LRPOMC could still respond to a shifting environment, especially between the LRP 2020 and the midcourse review. However, CASCA has little say over the instruments. Rather it has much more influence over a broader range of activities that are now included in the LRP portfolio.

As a result, the LRPOMC needs a different structure, scope, and modus operandus. Our former President, Rob Thacker, is willing to help with writing up a mandate for this committee. One possible inclusion is for the LRPOMC to work closely with existing CASCA committees so that the LRPOMC does not end up with most of the leg-work.

The important next step is to identify a knowledgeable and energetic chair. The Board discussed a variety of names and came up with a short-list of excellent candidates. We want to ensure that the new LRPOMC is ready to start close to the time at which the LRP is released (e.g. mid-December). The inaugural LRPOMC chair should have a fixed term of three years. Sara will make the invitation(s) for chair.

## **8. Any other Business**

No other business.

## **9. Adjourn**

Moved by Laura and seconded by Lewis. Passed.