

Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Apr. 19, 2021

Present:

Sara Ellison (President)
Samar Safi-Harb (Vice President)
Judith Irwin (Secretary)
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)
Laura Parker (Director)
Étienne Artigau (Director)
Ivana Damjanov (Director)
Nicole St-Louis (Director)
Rob Thacker (Past President)

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Laura, seconded by Ivana, passed.

2. Approval of minutes of the March 22, 2021 Board meeting

Moved by Samar, seconded by Étienne, passed.

3. President's Update [Sara]

Coalition/Communications

There is an upcoming meeting on April 22 with the Canada's Chief Science Advisor's office. The main topic will be the SKA.

A meeting was held with Mitch Davies, the new NRC president. Mainly this was an information session, meet and greet, etc.

Sara also met on March 24 with Canadian Space Agency (CSA) executive, chaired by the president of the CSA, Lisa Campbell. Bryan Gaensler and Pauline Barmby made a presentation on CASCA's Long-Range Plan (LRP) at this meeting. The CSA was impressed with CASCA's LRP.

There will be a one-hour session on the LRP at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May. Present will be Sara Ellison (CASCA President), Stefi Baum (CASCA Ground-based Astronomy Committee Chair), Locke Spencer (CASCA Joint Space Astronomy Committee Chair), and Chris Wilson (LRP Community Recommendation Implementation Committee Chair).

NDRIO (New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization)

There is activity going forward with NDRIO right now. Catherine Lovekin attended a recent meeting. There will be new VP positions and there are plans to recruit a new Director of International Relations and Industry Engagement. Announcements of a series of townhalls in early May have already been sent out on the CASCA email exploder.

Mega-Constellations

Aaron Boley and Samantha Lawler prepared an extensive report on Mega-Constellations which they sent to the Government of Canada and the Canadian Space Agency in response to their call for feedback on the future of Canadian space exploration. This report can be found at: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.05733>.

4. Vice President's update [Samar]

GAC (Ground-based Astronomy Committee) Chair and Membership

The Board discussed replacements for the chair (currently Stefi Baum) and 3 committee members who will step down or have terms that end (Tim Robishaw, Adam Muzzin, and Ivana Damjanov).

There was some discussion about the number of people who should be on this committee, but it was decided that this decision should be postponed until a new chair is in place.

AGM 2021 updates

There will be 40 contributed talks: 6 from faculty, 20 from grad students, and 14 from post-docs. There are more than 200 posters and there will be 4 poster sessions. Invited talks are all posted and the Whova meeting platform is ready.

There were two requests for child care support and over all, the budget is fine. The organizers have received a code for downloading a free copy of *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act*, by Bob Joseph. People who have registered should be receiving the code next week.

AGM 2022 updates

The dates of the 2022 meeting at the University of Waterloo have been set at May 16 - 20. The proposed theme is "Canadian Astronomy in the Roaring Twenties". The meeting will be at Federation Hall on campus and the entire building will be available, for example, for break-out rooms. Other spaces on campus are also available.

This will be a hybrid meeting, meaning in person but also online. Some careful thought needs to go into the pricing scheme for individuals in those two scenarios.

Samar will reach out to the AGM2018 and 2019 organizers to help the AGM2022 LOC with the budget (and sponsorship package).

An announcement will be made at the 2021 AGM about the upcoming 2022 AGM.

5. Any other Business/Adjourn

There was additional discussion about the Special Resolution which will be presented for a vote at the AGM. This is regarding CASCA membership for undergraduate students who are engaged in research. There was some discussion about the administrative logistics.

There was also discussion about setting deadlines for CASCA's Executive Award for outstanding service, which is given by the Board on even-numbered years. This is not handled by the Awards Committee. The Board should make a call at the same time as the Awards Committee to keep the timelines similar. Consideration of nominations will begin on Dec. 15 A website update will be made once these details are finalized.

Motion to adjourn was made by Samar and seconded by Nicole. Passed.