

Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Aug. 3, 2021

Present:

Board Members:

Judith Irwin (Secretary)

Lewis Knee (Treasurer)

Laura Parker (Director)

Ivana Damjanov (Director)

Rob Thacker (Past President)

Guests:

Kristine Spekkens (Chair, EIC) and Chris Wilson (Chair, LCRIC)

Absent: Regrets from Nicole St-Louis (Director) and Étienne Artigau (Director)

1. Adoption of Agenda

As a President and Vice-President were not present, the Past-President, Rob Thacker, chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order and the agenda approved by consensus.

2. Discussion of CASCA status in the light of Resignations of the President and Vice-President

Initially an open discussion was held in the light of the Resignations of the President, Sara Ellison, and Vice-President, Samar Safi-Harb with all Board members acknowledging the significant impact this will have on the Society. Their joint letter of resignation is to be released this week.

Due to the confidential nature of some of the events that led up to this point the majority of the more detailed discussion was held in camera.

3. Acting President

Note that a quorum for making decisions by the Board is four directors, as outlined in the CASCA Bylaws Sect. 6.1. Note also that in this emergency situation, the Board is acting in accordance with the Bylaws, Sect. 9.1.

Moved by Judith and seconded by Laura, that Rob Thacker be appointed as acting President until the next AGM when elections will take place. At that time, Rob will not stand for re-election.

Passed. Also note that absent Directors are in agreement with this motion.

It is understood that, as Acting President, Rob Thacker is not expected to devote the normal amount of time dedicated to the Presidency, which may limit the number of new initiatives that can be taken on in the immediate future. However he indicated he would do his utmost to move as many things forward as possible.

3. Acting Vice-President

The Acting President will work with the Board to attempt to fill this position. In the interim, current Board members can help to fill the gaps.

4. Board statement and path forward, including possible reviews

Thacker agreed to draft a statement to go out to the exploder as well as a separate one for the individuals directly involved in the conflict. It was generally agreed that a path forward had already been discussed during the in camera part of the meeting, but many people are away at this time for vacation, and there is a need to have a full consensus on a path forward. With Thacker away from the office from the following day, it was thus decided to take a short period to consider carefully how to proceed with any review of the events that have led up to the resignation of the President and Vice-President.

5. Adjourn

Moved by Laura and seconded by Ivana to adjourn. Passed.