

Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Sept. 8, 2021

Present:

Board Members:

Rob Thacker (Acting President)
Erik Rosolowsky (Acting Vice President)
Judith Irwin (Secretary)
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)
Laura Parker (Director)
Ivana Damjanov (Director)
Nicole St-Louis (Director)

Absent: Regrets from Étienne Artigau (Director)

1. Adoption of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. and agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Minutes from 19th August meeting

Approval of the minutes from the August 19 meeting was moved by Rob and seconded by Laura. Passed.

3. IAU Business Meeting Recap

Rob provided an update on the IAU Business Meeting that was held virtually in August. The financial situation of the IAU is healthy, mainly because of fewer expenditures on in-person meetings during the pandemic. Some royalties from the Cambridge University Press were also paid. They are continuing to plan for an in-person General Assembly in Busan, Korea in 2022.

A terrific effort was put in by the organizers by holding every meeting twice (a 'pre-meeting' and a 'meeting') to ensure that no one would have to miss anything.

The Board is pleased to report that Canada's candidate for Honorary IAU membership was officially granted to Richard Huziak at this meeting.

4. LCRIC (LRP Community Recommendation Implementation Committee) Town-halls

Led by LCRIC chair, Christine Wilson, plans are going ahead for three webinars on key LRP2020 recommendations, the first on including indigenous approaches in astronomy education, the second on improving inclusion in the Canadian astronomical community, and the third on the SKA consultation process. Discussions are on-going as to who will be panelists.

An additional leadership webinar will likely go ahead as promised at the recent AGM 'apology session'. Rob is communicating with the relevant players to reach a consensus as to how this will move forward. Rob will forward to the Board the Terms of Reference that were sent to him, for discussion.

The Board has agreed to provide funding, as necessary. There was some further discussion about how the Board might implement recommendations that are within its power.

5. EPO (Education and Public Outreach) items

CASCA EPO Board rep, Laura Parker, reported on an EPO meeting that was held in August.

As agreed upon earlier, the passwords to the social media accounts are restricted to two people (currently Laura and the EPO chair, Nathalie Ouellette), and these two people must agree to the social media policy.

The EPO committee has ambitious social media plans and would like to be engaged in more public outreach. However, some additional help is needed to both find and generate content.

There was a general discussion about this issue, how much to do (e.g. individual universities already have some mechanisms in place) and what resources CASCA could or should provide.

It was decided that Nathalie and Jessie (Social Media Subcommittee chair of the EPO) will be invited to speak to the Board at a future Board meeting, so that plans for the EPO social media outreach can be discussed and firmed up at that time.

6. Societal Conflict

Due to the nature of this issue, a discussion was held in-camera.

7. Any Other Business

The fee structure for CASCA was discussed. It was decided that no fee increase is needed for the 2021-22 year, so fees will remain the same.

8. Adjourn

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