

Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for Mar. 11, 2022

Present:

Board Members:

Rob Thacker (Acting President)
Judith Irwin (Secretary)
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)
Laura Parker (Director)
Étienne Artigau (Director)
Julie Hlavacek-Larrondo (Director)
Ivana Damjanov (Director)
Erik Rosolowsky (Acting Vice-President)

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Rob and seconded by Laura to approve the agenda. Passed.

2. Minutes from Feb. 8, 2022 Board meeting

Moved by Erik and seconded by Ivana to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with minor adjustments to be made by Judith. Passed.

3. President's Report

Efforts are underway to find candidates willing to stand for election at the next AGM for new Board positions that will become vacant.

The President received an email complaint from one CASCA member who was unhappy with the public apologies offered at the last AGM. The Board discussed the complaint and possible routes to resolution. The President noted that without a clear understanding of precisely what happened it was difficult to see an easy way forward, he also noted he was talking in detail with the Chair of LCRIC, Christine Wilson as well as the Vice-President. Ultimately it was decided that a message to the membership about the importance of dialogue and recognizing the inherently personal requirement to be inclusive would be the way forward. The President agreed to draft the message for the next Cassiopeia, and would convey this to the CASCA member.

a) Coalition update

Several meetings were held regarding mainly the SKA (Square Kilometre Array), one with Ministers Mark Garneau and another with Kirsty Duncan. Both went very well, and another is upcoming with Minister Champagne. The SKA timeline is short. It will probably not be in the government's April budget though.

b) CASTOR (Cosmological Advanced Survey Telescope for Optical and ultraviolet Research)

A meeting was also held on Jan 20, 2022 with Patrick Côté and John Hutchings regarding CASTOR.

c) LCRIC-JCSA-GAC meeting summary

Last week, the President met with the Chairs of the three committees to discuss progress and potential overlaps of activities in the next few months. The Chairs of the three committees provided updates on their overall activities, and shared perspectives about important issues within their respective portfolios.

d) Update on Westar consultations

4. Vice-President's Report

Committee renewal is in progress. Erik will write something for the exploder.

The AGM (Annual General Meeting) budget looks good and there will likely be a surplus. The organizers are grateful that the Board approved some funds towards child support. Receipts are required, but can be organized through the Local Organizing Committee. The virtual conference platform, Whova, will be used again.

5. LRP-1 Discussion

The Board reviewed the draft LRP-1 recommendation on the guiding principles behind the location of astronomical facilities and the fundamental importance of consent of Indigenous People's for construction. The Board had a small number of questions about language and wording which was interpreted differently in some places, as well as process related questions. The President agreed to collate and return feedback to LCRIC for their consideration, and to thank them for all their efforts on this important recommendation. The final document will be presented to the membership at the AGM for discussion and approval.

6. Any Other Business

7. Adjourn

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