

Canadian Astronomical Society Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference

Minutes for May 16, 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)

Bridget Brownlow (Guest for Section 4 of the meeting)

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Laura seconded by Ivana to adopt the agenda. Passed.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Ivana and seconded by Etienne to adopt the minutes of the previous Board meeting. Passed.

3. President's report [Rob]

The Coalition for Canadian Astronomy (CCA) has not been too active of late because many consultations have already taken place. The CCA efforts have been effective in making the government aware of SKA and its timelines and meetings so far have been quite positive. There was nothing in the last federal budget specifically directed towards the SKA, but this was expected.

The Cosmological Advanced Survey Telescope for Optical and UV Research (CASTOR) will also be approved by The Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA) and CASCA will be moving ahead to support it as well.

Thank you to the Nominations Committee (Renée Hložek and Stéphanie Coté) and to Julie for working to find candidates for open Board positions. We now have a full slate of nominations for Board members. For the position of President, we need to invoke Bylaw 9.1.

Moved by Rob, and seconded by Erik, to appoint Christine Wilson of McMaster University as acting President for the term, 2022-23. Passed.

IAU: Rob met with the NRC for an annual performance review, which went quite efficiently. NRC is asking for names to put forward names for the International Science Council.

Conflict resolution: Conflict resolution has not involved any in-person meetings since the last Board meeting. The possibility of additional conflict resolution mechanisms (should they be needed in the future) is currently under review.

4. Report on Equity and Inclusivity Committee (EIC) Conflict Resolution Process [Bridget Brownlow]

Moved by Rob and seconded by Erik to go in camera. Passed.

Moved by Erik and seconded by Rob to come out of camera. Passed.

5. Vice-President's report [Erik]

Erik put out a call, twice, for volunteers to be on committees and 6 people volunteered.

The Heritage Committee did not submit a report. They asked for more details regarding the events that led up to the resignations of the previous President and Vice President. Rob responded as best as he could but could not provide personal information due to privacy concerns.

The EIC provided feedback on how to run an AGM. Erik has not had time to forward their document to the Board in time for today (and therefore the 2022 AGM). It can be considered in more depth for next year's AGM. Erik will pass on the information to the next Vice President.

Acura Advisory Council on the SKA (AACS): This group does not have to report to the CASCA Board, but they have provided some information as a courtesy.

6. Secretary's report [Judith]

The Secretary's Report are posted separately on the CASCA website under 'CASCA Board Documents'.

Judith will send the list of people who are one-year in arrears so that Laura can organize the Board to contact individuals and remind them to pay their dues.

7. Treasurer's report [Lewis]

The Treasurer's Report are posted separately on the CASCA website under 'CASCA Board Documents'.

There was some discussion about divesting in oil and gas and we are moving in that direction.

Rob moves that CASCA will have divested of oil and gas investments within a 2 year timeline subject to suitable investment alternatives being available. Laura seconds the motion. Passed.

8. Committee reports [Erik]

Committee reports are posted separately under the relevant committee at https://casca.ca/?page_id=59.

For committees in which new members are needed, the Board discussed possible candidates. These candidates are to be taken from the list of members in good standing. Judith has sent that list to Erik.

Awards Committee: We should publish rubrics for the awards on the web page. There is a proposal to have a post-doc award. This idea will be sent back to the Awards Committee and the Post-doc committee to flesh out a proposal.

Education and Public Outreach (EPO): There have been 16 meetings regarding the Westar lectureship. The EPO will present an extensive report to the next Board. The EPO has been operating a reporting form so that they can be informed as to EPO-related activities amongst CASCA members. It may be better to do this once a year surrounding the AGM. For example, a report as to what various individuals and institutions have done regarding EPO over the previous year. We could do better coordinating with universities.

Ground-based Astronomy Committee (GAC): Erik moves and Rob seconds to go in camera. Passed. Rob moves and Ivana seconds to come out of camera. Passed.

The individual holding the Spectrum Management position has long since retired, so this position is moving to 'vacant'. Erik is connecting with NRC individuals to assess the situation and see who could fill the position.

Equity and Inclusivity Committee (EIC): The EIC guidelines will be shared with all committees and incoming committee members to help them in decision making and communications.

Long-Range Plan Community Recommendations and Implementation Committee (LCRIC): The Board discussed this report, in particular LRP recommendation #1 and what the appropriate committee structure for indigenous engagement. Rob is looking into an Indigenous President's Advisory Circle. The future Board will need to pick up on this. Christine Wilson will no longer be leading this committee in a few days, so Sharon Morsink will take over in the interim.

Post-Doc Committee: The committee has been developing surveys and will also pass on recommendations for hiring, to the Board soon.

Sustainability Committee: The Board discussed the Sustainability Committee's recommendation to alternate between Virtual and In-person AGMs. An online discussion of this idea will be held at the current AGM in the Whova platform, as well as a motion at the AGM Business meeting on Friday.

Erik will check on the membership of this committee because members should only be CASCA members in good standing. It is okay to consult outside of the committee, but consultants are not members of the committee.

9. AGM Posters and talks - Judging

The Board discussed how to share judging duties for student talks and also student posters. Laura will provide a spreadsheet and rubric for posters. There will be about 30 posters each to judge.

10. AGM Business meeting preparation

Any remaining organization regarding the AGM Business meeting on Friday was briefly discussed.

11. Board transition meeting June 2022

A transition meeting for new Board members will be held in June. Judith will be communicating in advance with the new Secretary, regarding Secretarial duties.

12. AOB

There was some discussion as to how to improve the fact that the Joint Committee on Space Astronomy (JCSA) has not been submitting reports.

Prior to adjournment, the Acting President expressed his thanks to all members of the Board for their service over the previous year, and to the Acting Vice-President, especially. Board members also expressed their sincere thanks to the Acting President.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was moved by Erik and seconded by Lewis. Passed.