

**Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference
Minutes for Monday 26th September 2022, 09:00-10:00 EST**

Present:

Chris Wilson (Acting President)
Adam Muzzin (Vice President)
Laura Parker (Director)
Karun Thanjavur (Director)
Renée Hložek (Director)
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)
Rob Cockcroft (Secretary)

Regrets (but meeting was recorded solely for the purposes of sharing with missing members):

Rob Thacker (Past President)
Julie Hlavacek-Larrondo (Director)

Agenda for September 26th meeting

1. Adoption of agenda
 - a. Move membership item to #3 (instead of after Westar discussion)
 - b. Moved by Lewis and seconded by Laura
2. Approval of minutes
 - a. From August 17th
 - b. Moved by Laura and seconded by Adam
3. Membership dues
 - a. Should they increase this year?

No. An annual budget projection is made at each AGM for the following year. For the 2022 AGM, it was projected that if CASCA's income stays stable then we do not need a dues increase. Inflation has increased since that projection was made – but it is not anticipated to greatly affect CASCA. However, the CASCA administrator's previous salary increase of 2% seems low in this context and will be revisited in a future meeting in time for the contract renewal in January.
4. IAU membership
 - a. Krystyna Mylostna's IAU membership transfer request

KM is originally from Ukraine and works in solar radio astronomy. NRC sponsored her to come to Canada as a postdoc in Penticton and she would now like to transfer her IAU membership to Canada. KM is currently listed as a junior member in the IAU. This is a precedent-setting case, and we are supportive. We anticipate more requests such as this.

Acting as the Canadian National Committee to the IAU, Chris moves to transfer KM's IAU membership to Canada, and this is seconded by Lewis. Unanimous approval.
5. Westar

- a. Westar subcommittee members Frédérique Baron and Terry Bridges (in addition to Rob) joined the Board call
 - b. Westar update report summarized; discussion focused on the recommendations around hiring an EPO coordinator and finances available to support such a hire.
 - c. The original investment of the Westar endowment was \$250,000 and the annual return on an endowment is typically 4% which is why there is \$10,000/year available for Westar activities. The original endowment must also be protected against inflation.
 - d. Westar's current capital investment account has an excess of approximately \$140,000, above the \$489,300 of the current endowment value (numbers from the 2022 CASCA Treasurer's Report) – i.e., the endowment is worth more than it needs to be, and that gives us the potential to invest in a new initiative.
 - e. There is at least \$30,000 available for Westar activities right now (because no activities have happened in the three years 2020-2022 because of COVID and the Westar re-design)
 - f. Action item: what is the amount that is available to Westar while maintaining the original Westar endowment in present-day conditions and protecting it against inflation? A second decision will then be considered about how much of that excess is the Board willing to release.
 - g. Sustainability is a question: if we use the excess funds for a trial period, we must consider how we will maintain this level of spending beyond the trial period. Part of the role of a new EPO coordinator could be to apply for further funding to continue the position.
 - h. \$30,000/year could fund 15 hours (or 2 days) a week. This would only be part of the budget because we would still have travel costs for the Westar visits themselves (previously the \$10,000/year – but moving forward, we will be asking for matching funds from host universities)
 - i. Definitely need to raise awareness of Westar in the general CASCA membership (i.e., Westar recommendation #1) – e.g., via a townhall. This makes sense to do after the budget questions have been sorted.
 - j. Training during the CASCA AGM: there are pros and cons for having training either before or during the main meeting.
6. Updates on previous action items:
 - a. Will be discussed at next meeting
 7. President's report
 - a. Written report submitted in advance of meeting
 - b. Only committee membership needed to be discussed:
 - i. Board representatives: Laura moves to the GAC, Karun to LCRIC, and Renee to EIC. Motion to approve these three Board reps and Vincent Hénault-Brunet as the chair of awards committee. Moved by Adam, seconded by Renee. Unanimous approval.
 - ii. New committee membership
 8. VP's report
 - a. Written report submitted in advance of meeting

- b. LCRIC membership is still a work in progress (LCRIC still needs two-three more members); CATAC needs another member
- 9. AOB
 - a. None
- 10. Adjourn