

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

**Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference**

Minutes for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 14:00-15:00 EST

Present:

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

Regrets:

Julie Hlavacek-Larrondo (Director)

Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda
  - a. Moved by Karun; seconded by Lewis; adopted.
2. Approval of minutes from April meeting
  - a. Moved by Laura; seconded by Karun; approved.
3. President's report
  - a. Nominations for Board elections: the 40-day nomination period closed on May 6
    - i. There is an interested candidate for President; there remains a question of whether the role will be President (2 years) or Acting President (1 year). **Action item:** Chris, Adam, and Rob C will follow up with candidate to discuss.
    - ii. Notes: Bylaw 5.3: Term of Office of Directors. The term of office of the President shall be two years. Adam cannot do a 3-year VP (at the end of VP, he either resigns or becomes President)
    - iii. **Action item:** Rob C to send out CASCA exploder announcement today about directors, with another note saying Presidential candidate will be announced shortly.
    - iv. The Board thanks to the nominating committee
  - b. Action on LCRIC report from April 28, 2022 on LRP2022 recommendation #1. Motion: "That the CASCA Board approve the policy document 'Guidelines and principles around land and consent for astronomical facilities' dated April 28, 2022"
    - i. Moved by Chris; seconded by Renée; unanimously approved.
  - c. AGM host for 2024
    - i. U of T is considering hosting
    - ii. Concerns were raised about how expensive a conference at U of T would be – including current hotel prices. Dorms could be

- used/offered. Non-U of T sites could be considered. U of T could host jointly with York if it's not on U of T campus.
- iii. Before AGM 2023: having a commitment to host in 2024 would be ideal, with dates being helpful but not required.
- iv. Note: it is still on the Board's action item list to respond to the sustainability committee's concerns regarding virtual or in-person meeting for 2024.
- d. Reconciliation education training
  - i. **Action item:** Chris to follow up with Rob T and Lewis offline to get access for new Board members/committee chairs.
- 4. VP's report
  - a. Terms of reference for Indigenous Engagement Committee (IEC)
    - i. Laurie Rousseau-Nepton wrote initial draft and presented to LCRIC, who gave comments. Rob T and Westar gave feedback, too. IEC is LCRIC's priority. Terms of reference captures all voices so far. LCRIC would like to present ToR at the AGM.
    - ii. Suggestions raised in the meeting: Need to keep the part about international relations when Canadian telescopes are outside of Canada. Required membership on other committees could be tricky, so best to suggest "ideally" instead of "will". A reminder that committees can have non-CASCA members.
    - iii. LCRIC still welcomes further comments from the Board via written documents
  - b. Should we have an RAS UK rep come to CASCA AGM?
    - i. **Action item:** Adam to find out further details (although this is potentially of interest). What level of rep? Who pays? What's the purpose?
  - c. GAC chair
    - i. Urgently needs a new chair
- 5. Continued discussion of whether GAC/CATAC report be posted on the CASCA website?
  - a. Laura followed up with GAC members
    - i. The existence of this committee and its proposed work was posted to the GAC website in 2021.
    - ii. The GAC's terms of reference was shared with Laura. The relevant part of the ToR was that the GAC report would remain private until its content was no longer considered sensitive. It is now deemed that non of the content is considered sensitive.
    - iii. Laura: "I move that the Board supports the GAC's request to publicly share the Tiger Team report on VLOTs"; seconded by Renée. Discussion: it will be put on the GAC website. Motion approved unanimously.
- 6. Request from Stéphanie Luna to the CASCA Board (via the secretary email) to financially support Astromatic2023
  - a. **Action item:** Chris will be reply with "no", because the number of attendees is too small (15)
- 7. Discover the Universe

- a. Will there be continued \$10k support from CASCA to DU? And is there a conflict of interest if Julie Bolduc-Duval takes over as chair of the EPO committee given that CASCA funds DU?
  - i. The Board will return to this discussion in its June meeting.
- 8. AOB
  - a. No discussion needed, but noting that the Board held an electron vote on 12th April 2023. The motion by Rob: "I move that the CASCA Board approves spending up to \$30,000 CAD on a pilot Westar coordinator position over the next three years." Seconded by Renée. Approved by all.
  - b. OIR well underway: 1) Chair - Doug Welch - and co-chair - Ivana Damjanov - identified); 2) Draft of terms of reference written.
  - c. **Action item:** Rob C. to confirm for June's Board meeting at the AGM, a room booking with Zoom/projector capability, with a suggestion to have the meeting 7am-3pm PDT (instead of 9am-5pm PDT) to help accommodate Board members who will be joining remotely from Europe.
- 9. Adjourn
  - a. Adam, Karun; motion approved.