

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

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

Minutes for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 15:00-16:00 EDT

Present:

Sarah Gallagher (incoming President)  
Chris Wilson (outgoing Acting President; incoming Past President)  
Adam Muzzin (Vice President)  
Karun Thanjavur (Director)  
Laura Parker (previous Director)  
Maria Drout (incoming Director)  
Matt Taylor (incoming Director)  
Rob Cockcroft (Secretary)

Regrets:

Rob Thacker (outgoing Past President)  
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)  
Renée Hložek (Director)  
Julie Hlavacek-Larrondo (outgoing Director)

1. Welcome from Sarah
  - a. Goal of this meeting: to learn about and discuss priorities of all Board members
2. Adoption of agenda
  - a. Moved by Laura; seconded by Karun; adopted
3. Approval of minutes from June's meeting
  - a. Moved by Laura; seconded by Matt; approved
4. VP's report
  - a. Working on committee assignments; got five volunteers.
  - b. Working on CASCA website updates
  - c. Priority: virtual/hybrid AGMs (consulting with Sustainability Committee, Graduate Student Committee, and general membership)
    - i. St Mary's is willing to host CASCA AGM 2025 as a hybrid. Board needs to decide if we're going ahead with that soon.
    - ii. A reminder that was previously discussed: 1 in 3 AGM could be virtual
    - iii. Possible collaboration with CAP to reduce CASCA's workload/reinventing the wheel – e.g., with regards to hosting hybrid/virtual AGMs. Not a suggestion to merge CASCA with CAP but just to share ideas. In addition to AGMs, could also think about resources for mentoring, working with Indigenous communities, page charges.
  - d. Planning for CASCA AGM 2024 in Toronto
5. Discussion of priorities
  - a. Indigenous engagement – through LCRIC, IEC, and Westar.
  - b. OIR and communication.

- c. The role that CASCA plays is much broader than it used to be – we need to make progress, but without burning out the Board members.
  - i. CASCA community wants the Board to do a lot more than it is currently capable of doing.
- d. Minutiae: make suggested changes for bylaws for approval for CASCA AGM 2024.
- e. Incoming Board members getting up to speed on CASCA's mandate, understanding its limit of influence, strengths, weaknesses.
  - i. **Action item: New Directors** should read the bylaws.
- f. LCRIC discussion: how LRPIC evolved into LCRIC, with a more societal and community focus. GAC/CSA to take over facilities and emphasis of Computation/Data Committee's role as important too.
- g. How should ACURA and CASCA interact?
- h. From the AGM business meeting:
  - i. National Outreach Coordinator is still a priority by some members (although CASCA doesn't have the funds, the Board is encouraged to seek them)
  - ii. Dark/quiet skies – a suggestion to help build a network to improve communication.
- i. Outreach is currently seen communicating astronomy to the public of all ages; could instead be repurposed to speak to the disconnect with the importance of research in society. Could get additional funding with this shift. Note that in the US that EPO is called EPE: Education and Public Engagement. Perhaps don't lead with this idea in outreach, but be prepared to speak to it (otherwise it might give the impression that science is supposed to be all about practicality, rather than including the creation/exploration aspect of research).
- j. How valuable the training our students get, especially given that most students don't go on to become astronomers – but they want to go out and do something challenging and meaningful, which distinguishes our students from other disciplines
- k. Connecting with industry; lobbying with Space Canada – which is a growing entity with international reach and government influence. Raising the visibility of our community in general.
  - i. Recent lobbying has occurred through the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy (ACURA + CASCA), but CASCA Presidents have also done this before, as well as CSA President. Next priority for lobbying is CASTOR. There is a need to distinguish between different types of lobbying – for example, to the government versus NRC/CSA (who fall under the Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED) portfolio, which focuses on the economy, jobs, etc.)
- l. Strengths of CASCA: not divided amongst professional bodies, has long range plans, includes articulate members (with lots of teaching and outreach experience)

## 6. AOB

- a. Onboarding for new Directors
- b. Talk to Karun and Renée, as continuing Directors
- c. The structure within Board is flat.

- d. Directors bring expertise, knowledge, and opinions. It is great to have people who have different levels of experience.
- e. Directors are committee reps (either to one or two committees).
- f. Directors take on time-limited tasks.

7. Adjourn