

Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference
Minutes for Tuesday 19th September 2023, 15:00-16:00 EDT

Present:

Sarah Gallagher (President)
Chris Wilson (Past President)
Adam Muzzin (Vice President)
Maria Drout (Director)
Matt Taylor (Director)
Renée Hložek (Director)
Rob Cockcroft (Secretary)
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)

Regrets:

Karun Thanjavur (Director)

1. Adoption of agenda
 - a. Moved by Adam; seconded by Matt; adopted.
2. Approval of minutes from August's meeting
 - a. There will be two versions of the minutes: the fuller version is "BOARD ONLY" and includes the "in camera" discussion; the other is "PUBLIC". The red text from the "BOARD ONLY" version gets removed for the "PUBLIC" version.
 - b. **Action item: Rob** to amend the action item from the "in camera" discussion to "update the CASCA website"
 - c. Moved by Lewis; seconded by Matt; approved.
3. Meeting with Julie Bolduc-Duval from Discover the Universe
 - a. Following the Board's discussion from the 12th June 2023 Board meeting (see point 7 from the minutes), Julie Bolduc-Duval will give a ~10-minute discussion on how Discover the Universe has been spending / will spend CASCA's annual contribution of \$10,000.
 - i. Julie started DU, also offered in French, as a legacy program after International Year of Astronomy in 2009. CASCA, RASC, FAAQ helped create a program to train educators, and the first training was offered in 2011. DU doesn't exist legally – it's always under other organizations. First under CASCA (with support of \$20k/year for three years), then FAAQ, then from 2016, Dunlap, where Julie created a team. DU helps educators (mostly K-12 teachers Canada-wide, but also museums and a few international participants). The program was run via webinars, but post-COVID this hasn't attracted as many educators. DU is re-thinking the training (e.g., Julie combats Zoom fatigue by offering to coach teachers via email) – and is fully engaged with eclipse preparations, and working with other communities (e.g., Connected North).

- ii. Dunlap covers Julie's salary. CASCA money mostly pays additional part-time staff. Jobs in science communication are good to be able to offer to students.
 - iii. Endorsement of DU from CASCA gives DU credibility, as CASCA is Canada-wide – so although Dunlap adopted DU and Dunlap is Toronto-centric, it is still supported by Canadians across the country. CASCA funding also helps as “matching funds” for applications such as PromoScience.
 - iv. CASCA AGM teacher workshop is always a big hit.
 - v. DU has grown substantially since 2009 because it collaborates with so many people.
 - vi. The Board expressed appreciation for all of Julie's work through DU.
 - vii. Motion to approve a three-year financial commitment from the CASCA Board to Discover the Universe at \$10k/year for the next three years
 - 1. Moved by Maria; seconded by Renee; unanimous approval.
 - viii. **Action item: Rob** to let Julie know.
- 4. President's report
 - a. In camera 15:23-15:25
 - b. Looking ahead: need to obtain support letters for CASTOR. Collectively, we are asking for more funding for grad students, more funding for science research, and more money for the CASTOR mission. These are all connected/intertwined, and there is no conflict of interest.
- 5. VP's report
 - a. Nothing to highlight, add, or discuss.
- 6. AOB
 - a. Maui relief donation update
 - i. The Board wants the donation to be sincere, so we will not advertise the donation via the CASCA exploder but just report in the budget, as is normally done with donations.
 - ii. Motion to give one donation of \$2500 to one charitable organization (to be determined from Karun's email options).
 - 1. Moved by Renée; seconded by Matt; unanimous approval, all in favour.
 - 2. **Action item: Rob** to contact Karun and ask him to select one that we donate to.
 - b. Request from Laurie Rousseau-Nepton: “We are getting things running with the IEC, and since one of our main task will require to put together a website for the CASCA community, we were wondering if a start-up fund could be provided by CASCA to help with that task. We will also apply for funding for additional activities, and it would support our efforts in that direction as well.”
 - i. The IEC terms of reference *do* include mention of a database. The Board requests further information about what the proposed website would entail and what it's scope would be. For example, would it be a static page with links? It shouldn't repeat work that has already been done.
 - ii. IEC has to be formed, but the initial meeting is set for early October. The Board suggests that this request is discussed at the October meeting and expanded with further details.

- c. Updating bylaws - and also what if anything we can do for modifications outside of the AGM
 - i. We didn't implement the changes from last spring because it was so close to the deadline for distributing potential changes to the bylaws.
 - ii. We could distribute the updated version now, and they will be voted on at the next AGM.
 - iii. **Action item: Lewis** to help Renée with checking the bylaws, and consider voting for off-cycle AGMs.
- d. How best to communicate for time-sensitive and confidential topics?
 - i. Any communications could be subpoenaed if those communications relate to CASCA.
 - ii. All emails could be subpoenaed, e.g., in relation to non-CASCA-related problems in our home institutions (and therefore unnecessarily revealing sensitive CASCA discussions).
 - iii. Personal email could also work but also not ideal (can easily forward and see the whole chain).
 - iv. WhatsApp channel seems best; Renée invites everyone to join the WhatsApp channel she has already created in the meeting.
- e. The CASCA Westar Coordinator is in the process of being hired for a 1st Oct start date.

7. Adjourn

- a. Moved by Matt; seconded by Maria; approved.

Next meeting: 10th October 2023, 3-4 pm Eastern