

Canadian Astronomical Society
Société Canadienne d'Astronomie

Meeting of the Board of Directors via videoconference
Minutes for Tuesday 12th December 2023, 13:30-14:30 EDT

Present:

Sarah Gallagher (President)
Chris Wilson (Past President)
Renée Hložek (Director)
Karun Thanjavur (Director)
Maria Drout (Director)
Rob Cockcroft (Secretary)
Lewis Knee (Treasurer)

Regrets:

Adam Muzzin (Vice President)
Matt Taylor (Director)

1. Adoption of agenda
 - a. Moved by Karun; seconded by Maria; adopted.
2. Approval of minutes from November's meeting
 - a. Moved by Lewis; seconded by Karun; adopted.
3. President's report
 - a. CASTOR article: <https://www.space.com/hubble-space-telescope-ultraviolet-gap-canada-castor-telescope>
CASTOR group very happy with this article.
 - b. Inviting AAS President Kelsey Johnson to CASCA 2024
 - i. Kelsey's interests: light pollution, awe in science, space ethics
 - ii. Bylaw 2.1.7 gives the benefits of being a corporate member
 - iii. **Action item: Renée** to review corporate membership package and put this on the membership webpage (rather than hiding it in the bylaws)
 - iv. **Action item: Sarah** to pass along the CAP sponsorship package
4. VP's report
 - a. Committee reports
 - b. **Action item: Renée** to put these on igloo site
 - c. Adam has decided not to run for president in 2024
5. Secretary's report (via Jessica Marsano)
 - a. Membership details:
 - i. 264 members are in good standing - owe nothing for this year or any previous year
 - ii. 13 members resigned or deceased
 - iii. 13 NEW members
 - iv. 175 members **continue to owe for this year or**
 - v. 26 members **continue to owe for a single previous year (ONE YEAR IN ARREARS)**
 - vi. 146 members are **TWO YEARS** in arrears
 - vii. **Total number of members: 612**

- b. Jessica: “I highly recommend warning the board that they should expect to write to those two years in arrears asking them to please resign or please pay. The one year in arrears people can be notified immediately and simply reminded to pay. We do that periodically through April anyway.”
 - c. **Action item: Rob** to create spreadsheet for Board members to sign up (Renée has Python script to help with emails)
6. Update from all on action items
- a. Renée
 - i. Working on the code of conduct and ethics/values statement (for Board meeting in March 2024)
 - ii. Will be updating on the bylaws (for Board meeting in January 2024)
 - 1. CASCA membership is dominated by students, but are generally not long-term members
 - b. Lewis
 - i. The divestment from oil and gas – the aim is still to do this before AGM 2024. Lewis will be meeting with investment advisor on 15th December 2023, as part of the regular bi-annual meetings.
 - c. Karun
 - i. Action item #139 is complete (donation to Maui)
 - ii. IEC’s website will be up soon, Don helping to set up independent IEC website. Renée is willing to help.
 - iii. Virtual AGMs (meetings with sustainability committee and grad student committee; postdoc committee meeting coming soon); sustainability committee wants a commitment to a virtual meeting in 2025
 - d. Maria
 - i. IAU membership drive – Maria to review the applications after 15th December 2023 (Chris will notify Maria when she gets the IAU notification)
7. AOB
- a. Discuss when next meetings will be (none are scheduled)
 - i. Proposal from Sarah:
 - 1. January meeting will be two hours, with two foci:
 - 2. Action items need to be updated and prioritised.
 - 3. Review of committee reports
 - ii. **Action item: Rob** to schedule Jan-Apr 2024 meetings (check with Sarah’s assistant first, then poll Board)
 - iii. **Action item: Renée** to work on new action item spreadsheet format
 - iv. Virtual AGM
 - 1. Motion: Task the sustainability committee to come up with a specific proposal for adding virtual AGMs and to come up with specific plans for implementing these plans.
 - a. Moved by Karun; seconded by Maria; approved.
 - b. Want to see criteria for successful virtual meeting.
 - 2. It should be in line with the overall plan for 1 in 3 AGMs being virtual. Bylaw 4.7 says “exceptional circumstances” needed for virtual meeting – so we’d have to change the bylaws if we went virtual during normal circumstances.

- v. **Action item: Sarah** to send letter of condolence to Harvey Richer's family

8. Adjourn

- a. Motion from Karun; seconded by Maria; approved.

Next meeting: to be scheduled in January 2024 for a two-hour period