

Graduate Student Committee report to the CASCA Board Dec 2011

I. Current Membership of the Graduate Student Committee

The current members of the graduate student committee and their university affiliations are:

Nathan Deg, Chair (Queen's University)
Sarah Malek, Secretary (University of Western Ontario)
Alexandre David-Uraz, (Université de Montréal)
Jesse Rogerson (York University)
Alexandre Alarie, (L'Université Laval)
Stephanie Keating, (University of Toronto)
Karen Lee-Waddell, (Royal Military College)
Scott Jones (University of Lethbridge)
Hannah Broekhoven-Fiene, (University of Victoria)
Sukhpreet Guram, (University of Calgary)
Rob Cockcroft (McMaster University)
Michael Zamfir (McGill University)
Heather Matheson, (University of Manitoba)
Robert Henderson, (Waterloo University)

The committee has undergone a number of changes in membership at the last meeting and would like to welcome Alexandre Alarie and Karen Lee-Waddell to the committee. We would also like to thank all outgoing members, particularly our outgoing secretary Alexandre David-Uraz.

II. The 2011 Graduate Student Workshop and General Meeting

Following the tradition, the CASCA Graduate Student Workshop was held prior to the start of the annual CASCA meeting Tuesday, May 30, 2011. The topic of this workshop was effective communication, including strategies for effectively presenting and publicizing research, ideas on facilitating communication with a supervisor, and tips for improving public communication skills. All the graduate students who attended the workshop felt it was useful and enjoyable. The hard work that goes into preparing these workshops is greatly appreciated.

The Annual General Meeting was held following the workshop.

III. Graduate Student Statistics

The GSC has continued to collect statistics on the total number of graduate students in most astronomy programs in Canada. We have continued to collect statistics on stipends and fees for graduate students, including TA work, international differentials and other details. These statistics are to serve as a tool for for graduate students wishing to negotiate their stipend by allowing for easy comparison with other Canadian universities.

IV. Graduate Student Awards

The GSC will continue to give awards in recognition of the best student talk and poster at the upcoming meeting in Calgary.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Deg
Graduate Student Committee Chair
5 Dec 2011