

Graduate Student Committee report to the CASCA Board May 2011

I. Current Membership of the Graduate Student Committee

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

David Williamson, Chair (outgoing) (Saint Mary's University)
Nathan Deg, Chair (acting/incoming) (Queen's University)
Alexandre David-Uraz, Acting Secretary (Université de Montréal)
Todd McKenzie (University of British Columbia)
Stephanie Keating (University of Toronto)
Jonathan Tyler (McGill University)
Gibion Makiwa (University of Lethbridge)
Sarah Malek (University of Western Ontario)
Jesse Rogerson (York University)
Ismael Moumen (L'Université Laval)
Jason Grunhut (Royal Military College)
Scott Jones (University of Lethbridge)
Aaron Maxwell (University of Victoria)
Sukhpreet Guram (University of Calgary)
Rob Cockcroft (McMaster University)
Michael Zamfir (McGill University)
Theresa Wiegert (University of Manitoba)
Hannah Broekhoven-Fiene (University of Victoria)

David Williamson is retiring from chair this year, with Nathan Deg taking on this responsibility for at least the duration of the meeting. The committee has undergone many changes in membership, and so the committee would like to welcome Nathan Deg, Todd Mckenzie, Stephanie Keating, Jonathan Tyler, Gibion Makiwa, and Hannah Broekhoven-Fiene to the committee. We would also like to thank our outgoing members, Joel Rodeger, Emma Lloyd, and in particular our outgoing secretary Melanie Gendre, for their contributions to the GSC.

II. The 2011 Graduate Student Workshop and General Meeting

Following the tradition, the CASCA Graduate Student Workshop will be held prior to the start of the annual CASCA meeting on Tuesday, May 30. The workshop was organized by the LOC following the topic suggested by the GSC. The topic of this year's workshop is effective communication, including strategies for effectively presenting and publicizing research, ideas on facilitating communication with a supervisor, and tips for improving public communication skills.

After the workshop the Graduate Student Committee will hold the Annual General Meeting, which all the graduate students are welcome to attend.

III. Graduate Student Statistics

The GSC has continued to collect statistics on the total number of graduate students in most astronomy programs in Canada. The number of male and female MSc and PhD students over the last 9 years has now been recorded.

Additionally, this year we have begun to collect statistics on the stipends of grad students, and their tuition fees, including TA work, international differentials, and other details. This is to serve as a tool for graduate students who are negotiating their stipend and wish to compare with other universities across Canada.

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 London, ON.

Respectfully submitted,

David Williamson
Graduate Student Committee Chair (Outgoing)
26 May 2011