

**Report of the JCSA,
June 2007**

1) Current members of JCSA are

René Doyon (UdeM) since Dec 2006
Mark Halpern (UBC) Dec 2006
Pat Coté (HIA) June 2006
Matt Dobbs (McGill) June 2006
Samar Safi-Harb (UManitoba) Dec 2004
Marten van Kerkwijk (UofT) Dec 2004

2) Safi-Harb and Van Kerkwijk are retiring (though Safi-Harb offered to stay for an additional JCSA meeting if this helps ease a transition, since she had to miss one during her maternity leave.

3) The Chair is retiring.

4) Among many miscellanea dealt with, the following specific items stand out:

- The Canadian Space Astronomy Workshop. JCSA strongly endorsed this initiative of CSA, and many of its members were part of the scientific advisory committee. We provided detailed feedback on the meeting itself, which we felt was successful, though with a number of problems that could be avoided for future meetings.
- Following up on CSAW, JCSA has set out to organise a space mission session at CASCAS, where various concepts will be presented, with the goal of organising community support, etc. Halpern and Dobbs are leading this.
- Support for ESA's Cosmic Vision. At the above workshop, there was a presentation from ESA, and it became clear that the time was just right for joining possible future ESA missions, in the context of their Cosmic Vision programme. JCSA strongly urged CSA to have an AO which would allow Canadians to be partners on feasibility studies of such missions. We were very pleased that such an AO indeed was prepared.
- Small Missions in Space Science. Most of our strongest recommendations over the last few years have been on the subject of the small mission AO, which has been long overdue. We are glad to see an AO now formally announced (presumably out by the time of our meeting). Our next goal is to ensure that from now on these will appear on a regular, predictable cycle.
- CSA Fellowships. At our urging, CSA will open up the competition

for CSA fellowships to non-Canadians. Our logic was that Canada should aim to hire the best, and that those that come will likely be Canadians before too long.

- 5) We feel there is some lack of transparency in how JCSA works, and that, as a result, problems/queries in the community may not be communicated to us. We have discussed some possible solutions, among which are an update of the CASCA website and a note added to e-mails to PIs to indicate we welcome comments.

Relatedly, we discussed whether the current nomination procedure is smart, and many of us felt it would be better if there were a call for nominations, so that the present JCSA would not overlook possible suitable candidates. Any comments on this would be welcome.

Marten van Kerkwijk
Chair, JCSA