

ACURA and the LRP



Outline

1. **What is ACURA?**
2. **ACURA Governance Structure**
3. **Relationship with Long Range Plan**
4. **Next Steps**

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What is ACURA?



■ Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy

– Association of 21 Canadian universities

Athabasca University	University of Guelph
Bishops University	University of Laval
Brandon University	University of Manitoba
McGill University	University of Montreal
McMaster University	University of New Brunswick
Queen's University	University of Regina
Saint Mary's University	University of Toronto
Trent University	University of Victoria
University of Alberta	University of Waterloo
University of British Columbia	York University
University of Calgary	

- **Being incorporated as federal not-for-profit organization**
- **Modelled in part on AURA**
- **Established in spring 2003 as part of LOT initiative**

ACURA Governance



- **Organization defined by a set of by-laws**
 - **Institutions are “share-holders”**
 - > Each has an Institutional Representative on an Institutional Council (IC)
 - IC has formal responsibility for organization
 - Will typically meet annually
 - **Current IC Chair is Pekka Sinervo**
 - **Operations supervised by Board of Management**
 - > Members elected by IC
 - Katherine Bergman, Dean of Science, Regina
 - **Don Brooks, Associate VP Research, UBC**
 - Paul Guild, VP Research, Waterloo
 - David Hanna, Professor, McGill
 - William Jones, VP Research, St. Mary’s University
 - Rainer Knopff, Associate VP, Calgary
 - Raymond Leblanc, VR Research, Laval
 - Martin Taylor, VP Research, Victoria
 - > CASCA President and HIA DG ex-officio

ACURA Structure



- **Day-to-day operation supervised by Executive Director**
 - **Search underway -- chaired by Don Brooks**
 - **Advertisement:**
 - > ACURA seeks an ED to lead the development of the organization and to be part of the management of the facility projects. The position will be part-time in a Canadian university. The ED will work with the community to provide scientific leadership and be responsible for the legal and financial affairs of ACURA under policies established by the Board of Management.

- **Scientific Advisory Committee structure to give scientific advice to BOM and IC**
 - **Currently LOT SAC chaired by Ray Carlberg**
 - > Large overlap with OIRAC
 - **Other SAC's established as need arises**

ACURA Resources and Strengths



- **Will have its own budget**
 - Each member institution will contribute “dues”
 - > Based on NSERC granting council awards
 - Expect initial operations to require \$100K/annum
- **UBC has offered to provide administrative space and support**
 - BOM has endorsed this as appropriate for initial operations
- **Strength is ability to bring Universities together**
 - Demonstrated at LOT CFI review
 - > Piper and Birgeneau were strong advocates
 - Strong relationship with HIA and CASCA

Relationship to LRP Process



- **ACURA is a “creature” of Canadian universities**
 - **Mandate is to promote research in astronomy**
 - > Driven by grass-roots priorities set by astronomers
 - **Natural structure for University-based facilities**
 - **Can take appropriate leadership role on major infrastructure projects with national collaboration**
 - > LOT experience will help define “best practice”

- **Should be promoting the highest priority projects**
 - **Investigators should initiate dialogue with ACURA**
 - **ACURA can respond by first appointing SAC**
 - > Provides a framework under which joint proposals can be developed and facilities can be managed
 - **Coordinates with HIA and CASCA**

Next Steps



- **Short-term milestones for ACURA**
 - Appointment of Executive Director
 - Federal incorporation
 - Advocacy as member of Coalition
 - Management of LOT DDP
- **Longer-term goals**
 - Develop University position on other LRP priorities
 - Continue to evolve relationship with HIA/NRC
- **Next BOM and IC meetings at the end of May**
 - Open process with decisions available to community
 - Important to keep institutions engaged