

CASPER Advisory Board Summary

Jack Hickish (jackh@berkeley.edu) on behalf of the Board

September 28, 2018

Meeting Participation

Workshop Format

Working Group Structures

Diversity

Students

Meetings

Partnerships

Advisory Board participation

2019 Workshop

Meeting Participation

- Danny Price (Swinburne)
- Jonathan Weintroub (CfA)
- Jack Hickish (Berkeley)
- Jason Manley (SARAO)
- Dan Werthimer (Berkeley)
- Kathryn Plant (Caltech)
- Ran Duan (NAOC (LOC Chair))
- Francois Kapp (SARAO, minuting (thanks))
- Deepthi Gorthi (remote, Berkeley)
- Andre Gunst (remote, ASTRON)
- Melissa Soriano (remote, JPL)
- Absent
 - Lincoln Greenhill (CfA)
 - Matthew Bailes (Swinburne)
 - John Ford (U. of Arizona)

Workshop Format

Notes

- 35 abstracts received for this workshop, which would be appropriate for a 3-day schedule (without tutorials / working groups)
- Concern that some participants cannot stay the full 5 days.
- Some confusion since poster/talk confirmations weren't sent out
- Day 1 of tutorials lost to setup issues

Workshop Format Resolutions

- ▶ Separate talk days (3) and tutorial days (2)
- ▶ Maintain standard 9-5 schedule
- ▶ One talk day should focus on introductory material
- ▶ Online introductory material may help with familiarization
- ▶ Working groups in parallel with tutorials
- ▶ Make short-talk slots (5m) and poster sessions available to maximize number of contributions.
- ▶ Make sure confirmation emails are sent to contributors
- ▶ Solicit attendee feedback after the workshop
- ▶ Balance workshop control between LOC and advisory board
- ▶ Pre-publish advisory board agenda and schedule with remote participants in mind
- ▶ **Capture these resolutions in a workshop guidelines document**

Working Group Structures

Recommendations:

- Working groups could be formulated as challenges to address
- More parallel sessions to encourage variety and better fits for participants
- Topic solicited before workshop
- Topics announced in advance of conference
- **Working group recommendations to be included in workshop guidelines**

Diversity

- Age / Experience
 - The board feel that the CASPER environment could be more encouraging to novices.
 - Hope to impact this with the workshop changes planned.
- Geographic
 - Noted the significant local contribution to this workshop
 - Intend to keep thinking about geographic diversity in future workshops

Diversity

- Gender
 - Collaboration is highly male-dominated
 - Would like to improve diversity – not just gender-balance – at all levels of the collaboration.
 - Note that diversity at the higher-levels can help bring parity at lower levels
 - **A statement about workshop code of conduct to be drafted**
 - **A statement on diversity and conduct to be drafted and displayed prominently on the CASPER web site.**
 - **Make advisory board contact details available for those wishing to raise diversity / harassment issues**
 - More self-awareness of creating 'boys'-club' environments.
 - Encourage the use of shortlists as a mechanism to make sure suitably wide candidate-searches are occurring.

Student attendance / attraction / retention

- ▶ 30-40% of conference attendees are students (all but one are graduates)
- ▶ Most are active in the field of radio-astronomy, but unfamiliar with CASPER
- ▶ 5 international students (out of 10 applications) were supported with \$1500 travel grants
- ▶ *Thanks to Ran Duan for his efforts in enabling student participation*

Student attendance / attraction / retention

- ▶ Keen to support CASPER 'clubs' (currently established in U. Arizona and ISU)
- ▶ **Board will send letters of support to these clubs**
- ▶ Open-offer of tangible support of these endeavours

Meetings

- Currently three annual meetings.
 - CASPER workshop
 - Target of August 2019 to maximize participation from domestic (US) students
 - Porting Workshop
 - First porting workshop in Cape Town was very successful
 - *Thanks, Adam Isaacson*
 - To be run again in 2019
 - **Begin identifying participants and selecting appropriate venue now**
 - Busy Week
 - To be held annually
 - Timing to to determined based on collaboration developments
 - Need not be contiguous with porting workshop, but will avoid CASPER workshop

Partnerships

- No formal commitment required to be 'part of' CASPER
- CASPER-SA / ASTRON pursuing closer collaboration
- CASPER-UCB / CSIRO pursuing closer sharing of IP
- No new developments between NRC / CASPER, but amenable to future co-operation
- CASPER / Oxford-RAL emerging as a potentially interesting collaboration
- All such collaborations are encouraged!

Advisory Board Participation

- Board should have 10 - 15 members
- **A process to be defined whereby new members are nominated and accepted**

2019 Workshop

- ▶ Unofficial USA/non-USA cycling would mean the 2019 workshop would be held in the USA
- ▶ Last year CfA offered to host and were declined
- ▶ Preliminary acceptance of offer to host the 2019 workshop at Harvard CfA
- ▶ Preliminary theme of “Early Career Researchers”

Thanks

Thank you to workshop organisers and participants.
Comments and suggestions encouraged (jackh@berkeley.edu or any
of the board members)