



**Lowell Observatory Advisory Board
Meeting of the Executive Committee**

Tuesday March 15th 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Beckage. Present were Executive Committee Members Robert Ayers, Drew Barringer, David Connell, John Giovale, Kent Robinson, and Pamela Ross. Also present were Lisa Actor (Deputy Director for Development-DDD), Jeffrey Hall (ex-officio), Bruce Kosaveach (Lowell Observatory Foundation), Anne LaBruzzo (Deputy Director for Administration-DDA) and Lowell Putnam (Trustee). Leo Crowley, Mary Lockett, and James McCarthy were unable to attend.

2. Minutes of Meeting on 16 December 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Directors Report

Jeffrey Hall reported on the state of the observatory:

- Financial performance versus budget is better than expected.
- An offer has been made to fill the tenure-track Astronomer position.
- A recent staff survey was completed and the analysis of results indicates the organization is fundamentally healthy, but there are some areas for improvement which will be discussed in future staff meetings.

Update on Facilities and Instrumentation:

- The DCT primary mirror will be re-aluminized in July during the monsoon season.
- IGRINS (an advanced spectrograph from the University of Texas) – We have secured significant funding and work is underway.
- EXPRES (instrument designed to identify potentially Earthlike exoplanets) is on track for June 2017
- NPOI – It is likely that three one-meter telescopes will be added to the array with funding secured from the Naval Research Lab.

Protecting Dark Skies – Two Important Wins:

- The Arizona Senate Commerce and Workforce Development committee voted against HB 2507 which would have allowed electronic billboards across much of western Arizona.
- The city of Flagstaff appears ready to agree on amber LED streetlights to replace the current low pressure sodium lighting.

4. **Millennium Fund**

The investment strategy of the Lowell Observatory Foundation was discussed and the committee indicated its satisfaction with the investment policy.

Director Hall requested a \$20k disbursement in support of consultant fees for the capital campaign as well as the development of the Outreach Master Plan. The request was approved.

5. **Status of Trust and Foundation**

Lowell Putnam reported on the state of the Lowell trust, the DCT debt repayment and partner “banked” nights.

6. **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting is June 3rd -4th 2016. The next meeting of the EC will convene on June 2nd 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am