

**COUNCIL OF CHAIRS OF CANADIAN EARTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS  
CCCESD**

CAPITAL HILL HOTEL, OTTAWA,  
17-18 OCTOBER 2016

Present: Pete Hollings (Lakehead, chair), Janok Bhattacharya (McMaster), Roger Beckie (UBC), Katherine Boggs (Monday - EarthsCan), Sam Butler (Saskatchewan), Marc Constantin (Laval), Patricia Corcoran (Western), Stan Dosso (Victoria), Mostafa Fayek (Manitoba), Joel Gagnon (Windsor), Murray Gingras (Alberta), John Hanchar (MUN), Grant Henderson (Toronto), Ed Hornibrook (UBC-Okanagan), Pierre Jutras (St. Mary's), Daniel Layton-Matthews (Queen's), Jeff McKenzie (McGill), Dariush Motazedian (Carleton), Rob Raeside (Acadia/CCCESD), Cathy Ryan (Calgary), David Schneider (Ottawa), Ian Spooner (Acadia), Ross Stevenson (UQàM), Doug Tinkham (Laurentian), Brent Ward (SFU).

**1. Welcome:** Pete Hollings opened the meeting at 1 p.m.

**2. Finances**

E Hornibrook presented a summary of the finances. Treasurer's report attached. S Butler moved that the report be accepted, seconded by S Dosso. Carried.

**3. Statistics**

R Raeside reviewed the annual statistics collection (<http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/2015summary.pdf>), noting that responses were received from 33 out of 37 departments.

**4. News and Views from Departments**

*See Departmental Notes document for submitted notes on departmental issues. Issues arising, not included elsewhere:*

- Required field schools in Ontario universities must be held in Ontario if students are charged for attending.
- Payments to graduate students are generally arranged by departments, with reports given in the \$18K to \$20K range.
- Rumours of elimination of Geology from CEGEP programs.
- Several departments/schools have unionized teaching assistants. Allocations of TAs have been problematic.
- IAS Congress in Quebec City in 2018 is lacking support from Canadian input.
- Several departments have moved to activity-based budgeting; others are moving that way. Those that have reported generally favourably on the outcome.

**5. EarthsCAN**

K Boggs spoke about EarthsCAN, focusing on the seismological research being done and the current Earthscope program in Alaska and Yukon-BC. The presentation is available at [http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Earthscope\\_2015.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Earthscope_2015.pdf)

**6. Visit from NSERC**

Dave Bowen (Team Leader, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division), Liz Boston (Director, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division), Tiffany Lancaster, Program Officer, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division, and Kenn Rankine (Program Officer, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division) attended the meeting.

The presentation is available at [http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/NSERC\\_2016.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/NSERC_2016.pdf).

Some items that were highlighted include:

- \$30M was added in the spring budget
- RTI budget quota was increased from 700 to 800, with a “healthy competition” anticipated
- Review of the federal support for fundamental science is now under way
- NSERC 2020 mission and vision were outlined
  - new target areas, and emphasis on “Going Global”
  - ENGAGE grants report applications exceeding resources, expect limits on applications
  - IUSRA renamed as “Experience” – this is a co-op-like program
  - Discovery Grants – early career researchers were offered an additional year; not 100% uptake
  - Dept National Defence/Discovery Grant supplements available for suitable projects
  - Discovery Grant operations and maintenance program – this is new, addressing infrastructure support
  - Discovery Frontiers – expect an announcement for 2017
- Policy updates:
  - Discovery Grant budget re-allocation – the expert panel met in May 2016. The fundamental science review exercise will eventually feed into the budget process.
  - Gender equity – evaluation groups are being educated.
- 2017 Evaluation Group members are listed (Diana Allen, SFU is chair)

## **7. Visit from the Geological Survey of Canada**

Louise Laverdure, Acting Director of the GSC Central and Northern Branch of GSC, Michel Plouffe, Departmental Asset Manager, HR and Workplace Management, and Cathryn Bjerkelund, Chief, Geology and Metallogeny Subdivision, provided an overview of GSC activities. The presentation is available at [http://cccesd.acadiu.ca/GSC\\_2016.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiu.ca/GSC_2016.pdf).

Some items that were highlighted include:

- Strategic Plan 2018-2023 is now being considered
- Climate change geoscience and climate resilience are increasingly being emphasized

Action items arising:

- A map of expertise is desired by GSC – agreed that CCCESD will work with GSC to formulate a map
- A significant hiring gap exists in attracting northern students (north of 60°N) to work on GEM – any department heads/chairs who can identify northern (not necessarily aboriginal) students are encouraged to do so.
- Improved communication with CCCESD is desired – this can be accomplished by including Rob Raeside on mailing lists.

## **8. Presentation by Geoscientists Canada**

Oliver Bonham, Geoscience Canada, gave an overview of GC activities, posted at [http://cccesd.acadiu.ca/Geoscientists\\_Canada\\_2016.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiu.ca/Geoscientists_Canada_2016.pdf).

- National guidelines are being prepared for Geoscientist-in-training programs
- Geoscientists Canada will be working on a document outlining the significance of geoscience in society
- Departments/schools should expect to be contacted by the provincial professional body to arrange sessions for students on “Your Career and Professional Reporting”

## **9. Research for Future Generations 2018 conference**

Ollie Bonham provided an overview of the RFG2018 conference, planned for Vancouver 16-21 June 2018. The call for sessions is now open – abstract submission will open in February 2017.

## **10. Visits from CFI and MITACS**

Olivier Gagnon (CFI) reported that CFI is in the middle of the 2017 Innovation Fund review process, and was unable to participate this year. Christine MacDonald (MITACS) similarly reported that all MITACS staff were involved in staff meetings at this time, and were unable to participate.

## **11. Wrap-up session**

- heads/chairs were advised that the CCCESD mailing lists are open to posting directly by heads/chairs. Co-chairs and others involved in administration are welcome to join – contact Rob Raeside. Postings of advertisements for open positions will also be picked up by the GAC.
- agreed to continue with the CCCESD questionnaire as in previous years, but heads/chairs were asked to be on the lookout for areas that were especially difficult to complete, with intent to reconsider the questionnaire next year.
- discussion about meeting location – generally agreed to meet in a downtown Ottawa hotel next year.
- CCUEN has extended an invitation to CCCESD members to participate in their next meeting (June 2017, Whitehorse).
- Discussion followed in the time remaining on field school requirements, professional Masters degree programs, and the AGI graduates survey. No action items arose.

## **12. Executive Changes**

J Greenough and R Raeside agreed to continue as treasurer and secretary, respectively. Pete Hollings completed his term as chair of CCCESD – no immediate successor was identified, although some names were suggested for follow-up. [Subsequently, Stephen Johnston, U of Alberta, agreed to take the chair.]

Thanks were expressed to Pete Hollings for his work as chair over the past two years.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2.50 p.m.

## CCCESD Treasurer's Report 2015-2016

To Members of CCCESD;

Listed below are the transactions, deposits and account status as of October 5, 2016.<sup>1</sup>

<u>Date<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Comment<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
October 15, 2015	Bank Balance at last meeting (Oct. 30).		\$24,106.06
October 26, 2015	Catering at CCCESD meeting.	-780.68	\$23,325.38
November 16, 2015	Raeside reimbursement for CCCESD	-357.36	\$22,968.02
January 14, 2016	CFES Dues .	-500.00	\$22,468.02
March 4, 2016	Direct Deposit membership	+\$100.00	\$22,568.02
March 18, 2016	Deposit 15 (1 post-dated) member cheques	+1,500.00	\$24,068.02
May 03, 2016	Deposit 7 membership cheques	+700.00	\$24,768.02
July 19, 2016	Deposit 4 membership cheques	+400.00	\$25,168.02
September 15, 2016	CFES Dues <sup>4</sup>	-500.00	\$24,668.02
September 19, 2016	Deposit 6 membership cheques	+600.00	\$25,268.02
October 5, 2016	Bank Balance for meeting (Oct. 17, 2016). <sup>1</sup>		\$25,268.02

<sup>1</sup> There have been no transactions since October 5, 2016 that I know of.

<sup>2</sup> For cheques (debits to account) Date is the date the account was debited by the bank. For CCCESD Membership fees, Date is the date the deposit appeared in the account.

<sup>3</sup> The attached spreadsheet lists those that paid the voluntary membership fees (\$100.00) this year (2016) for the 2015 year and compares contributions from previous years. Note that McGill, UBC Vancouver, and U. Windsor contributed twice this year and will not need to contribute in winter 2017 for the 2016 year. Thirty institutions contributed for the 2015 year, but the account balance reflects advance payment by three universities.

<sup>4</sup>We paid CFES Dues twice in the past 12 months. I reviewed CFES contributions over the previous five years. For 2014-2015 (last year) we did not get an invoice for CFES dues. So this double-payment reflects irregular invoicing; we are not paying twice.

John D. Greenough

Treasurer CCCESD