

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

CAPITAL HILL HOTEL, OTTAWA,  
11-12 OCTOBER 2017

Present: Stephen Johnston (Alberta, chair), Janok Bhattacharya (McMaster), James Brenan (Dalhousie), Sam Butler (Saskatchewan), Marc Constantin (Laval), Patricia Corcoran (Western), Stan Dosso (Victoria), Joel Gagnon (Windsor), John Greenough (UBC-O/ CCCESD treasurer), John Hanchar (MUN), Martin Head (Brock), Pete Hollings (Lakehead), Tara Ivanochko (UBC), Pierre Jutras (St. Mary's), Daniel Layton-Matthews (Queen's), Bernard Mayer (Calgary), Jeff McKenzie (McGill), Glenn Milne/Clement Bataille (Ottawa), Dariush Motazedian (Carleton), Craig Nichol (UBC-Okanagan), Jeff Pollock (Mt. Royal), Russ Pysklywec (Toronto), Rob Raeside (Acadia/CCCESD), Dave Rudolph (Waterloo), Ian Spooner (Acadia), Brent Ward (SFU).

**1. Welcome:** Stephen Johnston opened the meeting at 1 p.m.

**2. Finances**

J Greenough presented a summary of the finances. Treasurer's report attached. J McKenzie moved that the report be accepted, seconded by S Dosso. Carried.

**3. Statistics**

R Raeside reviewed the annual statistics collection (<http://cccesd.acadiu.ca/2016summary.pdf>), noting that responses were received from 32 out of 38 departments. The 2017 survey will be initiated on 1 December, with a due date of 31 January, 2018. Enrolments in our departments overall, and in the Geology-Geophysics-Geological Engineering programs subset have declined, although the number of graduated students continues to rise. Male-female ratios appear to have plateaued for all student categories, and continue to climb for faculty. Faculty numbers have remained relatively constant over the past ten years.

**4. Report from CFES (report posted at <http://cccesd.acadiu.ca>)**

D Motazedian reported on the April meeting of CFES, noting its revamp since 2012. CFES advocates on behalf of the Canadian Earth Science community, in part through PAGSE and SMCC. It is funded by NRC, CGF, publication sales, and member fees.

In separate correspondence, Sandra Barr, past-president of CFES, urged heads and chairs to continue to try to make the AGI exit survey more successful. The response rate from 2015 was sufficient to incorporate Canadian data in a poster at the AGU, but the survey response rate in 2016 was too low for viable statistics to be generated. The current survey is open until mid-October.

**5. EarthsCAN report**

S Dosso reported on the Canadian Cordillera Array and EarthsCAN. Report provided at <http://cccesd.acadiu.ca>, further details at <http://ccarray.org/>. Project chair is Katherine Boggs, [kboggs@mtroyal.ca](mailto:kboggs@mtroyal.ca). It was suggested that the project could qualify as a Network for Centres of Excellence.

## 6. News and Views from Departments

*See Departmental Notes document for submitted notes on departmental issues. Issues arising include:*

- Sessional hires are increasingly challenging to hire (Dalhousie, Toronto)
- CERCs are very demanding of other resources (Dalhousie)
- Liability issues are many and various:
  - o Drivers must be employed as TAs in the course (Dalhousie)
  - o As term ends in April, student drivers are not insured for field courses in May (McGill)
  - o For field work (Lakehead)
- Multiple retirements in near future (Memorial, Western, UBC-O)
- Position renewals contingent on growing enrolments (Windsor)
- Activity-based budgeting *versus* legacy-based budgeting (Windsor, McMaster, Saskatchewan)
- Decreased undergraduate enrolment (Western)
- Staff to run labs (Western, Saskatchewan, Calgary, Waterloo)
- Funding the pick-up of expiring CRCs (Western, Laval)
- Reliance of research chairs for teaching positions
- Supervising projects in course-based Masters degrees (Calgary, Western)
- Success of GIS programs (UBC-O)
- Graduate students taking undergraduate courses for credit (McMaster)
- Number of courses in graduate programs (ranges from 2 to 5); level of financial support for graduate students
- Key performance indicators (to be used at provincial level) (Toronto)
- Reduction of number of programs in departments
- Accommodations for students with disabilities (Acadia, Queen's)

----- Thursday, 12 October -----

## 7. Visit from NSERC

Rawni Sharp (Team Leader, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division), Dave Bowen (Deputy 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\\_2017.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/NSERC_2017.pdf).

Some items that were highlighted include:

- Federal Science Review (Naylor Report)
- Review of funds – directions
- NSERC 2020
- Statistical data on male/female split is gradually being lost, partly because faculty members assume it is already “in the system”. Currently 31% of the Geoscience group do not report this. It is not – encourage faculty to self-report.
- Open access policy now in place for all grants awarded after 1 May 2015, although issues persist about the nature and timeframe of this policy. Some publishers are contesting it. Policies are being developed on unpublished or repository data management, so far only for digital data, but potentially also for specimens.
- In response to a question asking how the Geoscience sector allocation might be increased, it was noted that the principal driver for the overall sector allocation is the number of applications.

## **8. Visit from Geoscientists Canada**

Mark Priddle, President-Elect of Geoscientists Canada, gave an overview of GC activities, posted at [http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Geoscientists\\_Canada\\_2017.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Geoscientists_Canada_2017.pdf).

He also provided electronic copies of:

- [Geoscience Knowledge and Experience Requirements](#)
- [GIT Program Information Guide](#)
- [RFG2018 flier](#)

## **9. Visit from Mitacs**

Kristin Spong, a business development specialist in Kingston, gave an overview of Mitacs and its operations, posted at [http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Mitacs\\_2017.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Mitacs_2017.pdf).

## **10. Visit from the Geological Survey**

Cathryn Bjerkelund, Chief, Geology and Metallogeny Subdivision, provided an overview of GSC activities. The presentation is available at [http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/GSC\\_2017.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/GSC_2017.pdf).

Some items that were highlighted include:

- New GSC organizational structure
- GSC strategic priorities
- Program updates

## **11. Visit from CFI**

Sharyn Szick, Senior Programs Officer, gave an overview of CFI activities, posted at [http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/CFI\\_2017.pdf](http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/CFI_2017.pdf).

## **12. 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. If an email to [cccesd@acadiau.ca](mailto:cccesd@acadiau.ca) bounces, inform Rob Raeside – likely you are posting from an email address different from the one you provided when the list was set up. 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.
- agreed to meet next October in a downtown Ottawa hotel.
- A survey of departments will be designed to test if the number of (self-reported) indigenous students can be determined. We do currently collect data on the number of visa students, although the data are not widely reported.
- A survey of departments will be designed to assess teaching load variations
- Agreed to maintain the \$100 contribution meantime.

## **12. Executive Changes**

J Greenough and R Raeside agreed to continue as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2.55 p.m.

## CCCESD Treasurer's Report 2016-2017

To: Members of CCCESD

Listed below are the transactions and deposits since the last CCCESD meeting, and account status as of September 28, 2017, just prior to our October 11 and 12, 2017 meeting.<sup>1</sup>

<u>Date<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Comment<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
October 5, 2016	Bank Balance reported at last meeting (Oct. 17, 2016).		\$25,268.02
October 27, 2016	Cheque to secretary, R. Raeside to reimburse him for catering he arranged and paid for at the Oct. 17, 2016 CCCESD meeting, and to refund costs associated with his attendance at the meeting to record minutes and give his annual "enrollment statistics" report.	-\$2,482.80	\$22,785.22
December 19, 2016	Membership deposit	+100.00	\$22,885.22
January 27, 2017	Direct Deposit Membership Contribution	+100.00	\$22,985.22
February 16, 2017	Deposit of 16 Membership Cheques	+1600.00	\$24,585.22
March 24, 2017	Deposit of 10 Membership Cheques	+1000.00	\$25,585.22
April 12, 2017	Deposit of 1 Membership Cheque	+100.00	\$25,685.22
September 28, 2017	Bank balance for 2017 meeting <sup>1</sup>		\$25,685.22

<sup>1</sup> There have been no bank transactions since September 28, 2017 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 cheques (or direct deposits) appeared in the account.

<sup>3</sup> The attached spreadsheet lists those CCCESD members that paid the voluntary membership fees (\$100.00) this year (2017) for the 2016 year and compares contributions from previous years. There are three departments that made two contributions last year, prior to the annual meeting on October 17, 2016. These contributions were reported at the 2016 meeting. The departments did not make contributions this year because they were already "paid-up".

Note on CFES (Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences) dues: As reported a year ago, I paid CFES dues twice in a one year period, but this reflected irregularities in their billing and we had not been billed twice. It is over a year since CFES sent a membership bill.

John D. Greenough

Treasurer CCCESD