

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

CAPITAL HILL HOTEL, OTTAWA,
29-30 OCTOBER 2018

Present: Stephen Johnston (Alberta, chair), Bill Arnott (Ottawa), Janok Bhattacharya (McMaster), James Brenan (Dalhousie), Marc Constantin (Laval), Patricia Corcoran (Western), Brian Cousens (Carleton), Stan Dosso (Victoria), Joel Gagnon (Windsor), John Hanchar (MUN), Pete Hollings (Lakehead), Ed Hornibrook (UBC-Okanagan), Pierre Jutras (St. Mary's), Daniel Layton-Matthews (Queen's), Francine McCarthy (Brock), Jeff McKenzie (McGill), Jeff Pollock (Mt. Royal), Rob Raeside (Acadia/CCCESD), Dave Rudolph (Waterloo), Ian Spooner (Acadia), Nancy Van Wagoner (Thompson Rivers), Brent Ward (SFU), Uli Wortmann (Toronto).

Guest: Andrea Waldie (Geoscientists Canada)

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

2. Finances

R Raeside presented a summary of the finances. Treasurer's report attached. J Bhattacharya moved, J McKenzie seconded that the report be accepted. F McCarthy requested that it be investigated what would happen to the fund should the council cease operation. Discussion ensued concerning the use of the funds carried over from year to year. Carried.

3. Statistics

R Raeside reviewed the annual statistics collection (<http://cccesd.acadiu.ca/2017summary.pdf>). Responses were received from 28 out of 38 departments. The 2018 survey will be initiated on 1 December, with a due date of 31 January, 2019. Enrolments in our departments overall, and in the Geology-Geophysics-Geological Engineering programs subset have continued to decline, and the number of graduated students has leveled off at over 1300 a year. Discussion ensued about the interactions between Geology and Environmental Science programs. It was requested that a count of online courses be included in the statistical collections. A request was also made to survey the use of field courses and field labs in classroom courses in view of the increased paperwork required at least in Ontario and BC for such exercises.

4. Report from CFES

S Johnston provided highlights of a report prepared by CFES president Iain Samson. Points raised:

- Added a Director for media liaison added to interact with SMCC
- Looking for new directors and president elect
- Budget was balanced
- Geoscience in Canada brochure is done
- Working with Bacon & Eggheads and PAGSE
- RFG 2018 meeting happened in Vancouver although interactions with IUGS were disappointing
- Awards the CFES Mentorship Medal (awarded to Herb Helmstaedt, Queen's U) in 2018
- Does CCCESD want to contribute to a statement on climate change?

5. News and Views from Departments

See [Departmental Notes](#) document for submitted notes on departmental issues. Arising from this discussion was a request to survey departments concerning teaching loads.

----- Tuesday, 30 October -----

6. Visit from NSERC

Elizabeth 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_2018.pdf.

Some items that were highlighted include:

- Federal Budget 2018 provided an increase of \$350M over five years (building to \$90.1M / a), \$21M for Equity and Diversity Initiatives, \$275M new research fund, and other significant increases for early careers and ongoing projects.
- President appointment process is anticipated following departure of Mario Pinto.
- Discovery grants budget will increase by 25% by 2021-22
- ECRs granted in the current year will receive an increase of \$12.5K in their first year.
- Canada Research Coordinating Committee is a new group tasked with implementing the new funding (Tri-Agencies, CFI, etc.), focusing on creating a new tri-agency fund, ECR, and equity, diversion & inclusion (EDI).
- Improving EDI is seen as a major direction, including in evaluation groups. EDI can include contributions to outreach and efforts to diversify HQP. Considerable effort is being placed on analyzing results of status indication for reporting (not decision-making) purposes. The Athena Swan model is being considered to accredit departments and institutions for promoting EDI.
- Caregiver or medical leave policies have been broadened to include faculty who don't formally take leave with funds extended. Separate funds are available for students or PDFs taking parental leave.
- Indigenous postgraduate and USRA applications are awarded beyond the university quotas.
- Discovery programs are undergoing mandatory evaluation this year, focusing on supplements, RTI, ship time, and accelerators with survey coming around January.
- Intent to convert the various research partnership programs (ENGAGE, IRC, etc. into a single entity. No dates available, but intent is to move fast.
- 2018 success rates overall are 84% for returning and 64% for ECRs. In Geosciences, the respective numbers are 92% and 66%.
- ECR window was extended from 2 to 3 years, and now includes all researchers in their first three years of any academic position.

7. Visit from CFI

Sharyn Szick, Senior Programs Officer, gave an overview of CFI activities, several of which are still in the planning stages. Her presentation will be made available once final approvals are received for various components. Some items that were highlighted include:

- \$763 M over next five years
- Treasury Board approval now received for increase in funding
- EDI principles are included
- Major discussion paper on the future of research and research infrastructure is being released on 31 October. CFI will be touring Canada in early 2019 to discuss with research officers
- Seeking feedback on suggested modifications to funding
- Innovation Fund expects to launch a call for proposals in March 2019 in first of two consecutive competitions in 2020 and 2022. Decision for first competition in November 2020. Each competition at the \$350-400M level.

- Seeking feedback on institutional envelopes with funding rate at circa. 35%, and minimum institutional envelope at about \$1.75M. A single proposal exemption exists
- Considerable feedback revealed concern about the university-charged costs for projects.

8. Visit from Geoscientists Canada

Andrea Waldie, CEO Geoscientists Canada, gave an overview of GC activities, posted at http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Geoscientists_Canada_2018.pdf.

CCCESD expressed support for developing a course for students on QP issues.

Geoscience and Canada booklet has been very well received (currently out of print, but available for online download). CFES is considering reprinting. Geoscience Knowledge and Experience is undergoing a “light refresher”, for release in 2019. *Competency Profile for Professional Geoscientists Entry to Practice* has been compiled and is moving to a two-year project to develop a competency-based assessment tool for work experience in a pilot phase.

9. Visit from the Geological Survey

Mike Villeneuve, Director, and Cathryn Bjerkelund, Chief, Geology and Metallogeny Subdivision, provided an overview of GSC activities. The presentation is available at http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/GSC_2018.pdf.

Some items that were highlighted include:

- Amalgamation with NRCan
- GSC strategic priorities – geological knowledge, sustainable development, keeping Canada safe
- UNCLOS – Atlantic submission has been made, Arctic submission is nearly done.
- Geoscience for new energy supply has shifted focus from frontier areas to traditional areas, but using new methods and seeking new energy sources.
- GEM and TGI are sunseting in March 2020; “hopeful of renewal”.
- Challenges and opportunities were identified to shift to more trans-disciplinary science, zero-footprint mining, a low-carbon future, big data and AI, incorporating social science and Indigenous knowledge, and human and environmental protection.
- 2018 Budget has targeted significant infrastructure renewal over on a 50-year scale.

10. Update on Earth Observation Network (EON-ROSE) program

S Dosso provided an overview of the program, as prepared by Katherine Boggs (see also ccarray.org website).

11. Wrap-up session

- agreed to continue with the CCCESD questionnaire as in previous years.
- agreed to meet next October in a downtown Ottawa hotel.
- Agreed to maintain the \$100 contribution meantime.

12. Executive Changes

- S Johnston nominated Russ Pysklywec as chair of CCCESD, seconded by Brian Cousens. Carried.
- S Johnston was thanked for his service as chair.
- J Greenough and R Raeside agreed to continue as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2.50 p.m.