CCCESD – Council of Chairs of Canadian Earth Science Departments
Notes from Meeting
17 November 2006
University of Ottawa

Present:

Ihsan Al-Aasm, Windsor
Kevin Ansdell, Saskatchewan
Georges Beaudoin*, Laval
John Blenkinsop, Carleton
Bruce Broster, UNB
Nancy Chow, Manitoba
Sandy Cruden, Toronto
Bob Dalrymple, Queen's
Carolyn Eyles, McMaster
Martin Gibling, Dalhousie
Bob Gillham*, Waterloo
Keiko Hattori, Ottawa
Alfred Jaouich, UQàM
Pierre Jutras, St. Mary's
Mike Melchin, St. Francis Xavier
Michael Lesher, Laurentian
Rob Raeside, Acadia
Toby Rivers*, Memorial
Paul Smith, UBC
John Stix, McGill
Keith Tinkler, Brock

* indicates delegate

1. Introduction and appointment of recording secretary

Rob Raeside called the meeting to order, indicating that four members of the interim executive (Raeside, Cruden, Smith, Gibling) would chair parts of the meeting, and offered to function as recording secretary.

2. Round table review of the state of geosciences

Each department briefly outlined the significant developments. Document summarizing these comments attached.

3. Role and mandate of CCCESD

A broad-ranging discussion ensued on the role and mandate of the CCCESD. At the conclusion is was apparent that the group assembled deemed the organization worthy to continue in its current mandate, that the chair would represent the body on the CGC or its successor, and that the on-going activities should be continued, and to some extent expanded (e.g., include collection of age demographics with the statistical compilations).

4. Preparation for meetings with NCERC and GSC

Sandy Cruden led discussion on the priorities for the meetings slated for the afternoon. A late of questions was developed, reflecting the need for information from NSERC concerning reallocation of funds, lobbying, indirect costs of research, large equipment funding, and the support of research infrastructure.

5. CCPG and CGSB business

This item was not discussed. Rob will send out a summary of the proposed Canadian Geoscience Standards Board syllabus. CCPG will be asking for input from CCCESD in due course.

6. **Meetings with NSERC representatives**

Four members of NSERC staff from the Research Grants and Scholarships Directorate (Norman Marcotte, Director, Ken Rankine, Program Officer, Brigit Viens, Program Officer, Dave Bowen, Team Leader) and the GSC chairs from 08 (Donna Kirkwood) and 09 (Marianne Douglas) attended the meeting. Dave Bowen provided an overview of outstanding points (presentation sent separately to all chairs):

- the breakdown of NSERC budgets
- reallocations exercise in its current form will not be repeated
- GSCs 08 and 09 have not fared well in reallocation, especially for proposals receiving "field units supplements"
- a new allocation mechanism will be based on GSC population dynamics and costs of research, with no specific amounts being identified at the outset
- a new Major Resources Support (MRS) program will replace the Major Facilities Access (MFA) grants, to cover operational costs for major research organizations or institutes not standard in the discipline. Not all initial applications will be invited to submit.
- changes in the UFA program to enhance retention of women and aboriginal people in tenure and tenure-track positions will allow nominees to be such a position (for < 1 year) and be eligible to apply. Grants will no longer be truncated at 3 years.
- Discovery Accelerator Supplements (new this year) will aim to foster excellence – restricted to 40-50 grantees from all GSCs, provided as a $10K boost for exceptional programs.

Other comments in discussion included:

- funding pressures are especially tight in GSC 09 (Env. Earth Sciences)
- new applicants in 08 should expect a maximum of 3 year awards
- applicants can be considered as "first time applicants" for two years
- GSC 08 chair recommends applicants wait to apply until their second year in a teaching position
- AUCC makes regular representations to government; CCCESD could do likewise
- some disciplines maintain industry-funded offices in Ottawa to provide communication channels for funding – a possible for role for CGC.
- ICR (indirect costs of research) moneys are channeled through NSERC, but are largely handled as flow-through funds. Their use is negotiated between AUCC and the Treasury Board. The Tri-Councils have no say in how they are used.
- research associates, adjunct appointments, etc., are considered on a case by case basis, with no significant changes since last year. Adjuncts cannot be PIs on project grants.
-

7. **Meeting with Richard Grieve, GSC**

Richard Grieve noted that the GSC has moved to a project-driven approach ("C-base"), which is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Grants and contributions have been terminated, and the A-base budget declines every year.

He introduced the ESS Bursary Pilot through the Public Service Commission Research Affiliate Program, designed for students to get experience in government labs. This will replace the current hour-based wage system, in which students are considered "employees" (and therefore not "students"). Funding will be at a level equivalent to NSERC student awards. It will be available to students from high school to post-doctoral levels. More information is available through the Public Service Commission website (http://www.psc-cfp.gc.ca/recruitment_recrutement/rap/index_e.htm).

9. CCCESD Organization

a) Chair and Executive

Martin Gibling called for nominations for positions on the executive committee of the CCCESD. The following were acclaimed:

Chair: Paul Smith

Executive Secretary: Rob Raeside	Treasurer: John Greenough
Western rep: Kathy Gillis	Ontario rep: Sandy Cruden
Quebec rep: John Stix	Atlantic rep: Martin Gibling

b) Schedule of meetings

It was agreed to meet again at the same time next year. Keiko Hattori again offered the facilities of the University of Ottawa.

c) Treasurer's report

Balance reported at last meeting (May 15, 2005) $22584.61

Expenses:

July 22, 2005	Reimbursement to John Greenough for 2004 GAC-MAC meeting lunch expense	$175.66
Sept. 29, 2005	Reimbursement to Joe White for attendance at Canadian Geoscience Council Meeting	$2061.25
Jan. 30, 2006	Canadian Geoscience Council Membership	$400.00
July 3, 2006	Reimbursement to Rob Raeside for attendance at Canadian Geoscience Council meeting	$1792.81
Total expenses		$4429.72

Balance as of August 31, 2006.

$18162.56

John Greenough, Treasurer CCCESD

d) Membership fees

It was tacitly agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

10. Summary of decisions

The following items were agreed:

- CCCESD website is useful and could be developed further
- support was offered as needed to maintain the website

- promotion of activities or a heads workshop might be supported by NSERC funding
- the call for enrolment statistics for 2006 will be issued shortly
- the age structure of teaching faculty will be assessed in the next survey
- a single run more extensive survey might soon be necessary for comparison with that done by Bob Dalrymple
- at the upcoming CGC meeting, CCCESD should emphasize that we represent the future of Earth Sciences in Canada, and we seek support for geoscientist training. This message needs to go to government and industry, particularly emphasizing the lifetime timeline which needs to be supported by all employment sectors.
- IYPE is an excellent opportunity for outreach to the general public
- future meetings could be extended into a second day, to give more time to discuss issues in common.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Notes from the CGSB and CCPG (Item 5, above)

The Canadian Geoscience Standard Board is in the midst of a five-year review of curricular standards for the three streams: Geology, Geophysics, and Environmental Geoscience. The recommendations as they currently stand state:

- all streams will have a common set of compulsory foundation sciences (1 EU each of Chemistry, Math, Physics)
- additional 6 EUs in foundation sciences will be tailored to the stream
- four compulsory geoscience EUs will be required in all streams (petrology, stratigraphy, structural geology, field school)
- additional geoscience EUs will be required (five out of eight topics, with grouping within them to ensure breadth)
- remaining EUs will be chosen from a broad range of courses

These components are summarized in the attached tables (note the elective EUs in Table 2 are still under review – a total of 9 are required). The sum of EUs will total 28 (a reduction of 1 from the current situation).

When the CGSB has completed its review of curriculum it will forward its recommendations to the CCPG (Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists) who in turn have indicated they will then seek input from the academic community.

Table 1. EU structure for compulsory courses

	Geology	Environmental Geoscience	Geophysics
Compulsory foundation science 1 EU of each required	Chemistry Mathematics Physics	Chemistry Mathematics Physics	Chemistry Mathematics Physics
Additional Foundation Science 6 EUs required	Biology Chemistry Mathematics Physics Statistics	Biology Chemistry Mathematics Physics Statistics	Chemistry Computer Science Mathematics Physics Statistics
Compulsory Geoscience 1 EU of each required	Field techniques Mineralogy/petrology Stratigraphy/Sediment Structural Geology	Field techniques Mineralogy/petrology Stratigraphy/Sediment Structural Geology	Field techniques Mineralogy/petrology Stratigraphy/Sediment Structural Geology
Additional Geoscience 5 EUs required, no more than 2 extra EUs in an one additional geoscience area	Geochem Geophysics Igneous Petrology Metamorphic Petrology Sedimentary Petrology Strat or sediment (adv) Glacial/Quaternary Geomorphology	Engineering Geology Geochem Geophysics/Earth Physics Hydrogeology Petrology Remote Sensing Strat or sediment (adv)	Calculus intermed Complex variables CompSci intermed Continuum mechanics EM Theory Geophysics/Earth Physics Integral Transforms Optics & Lasers Thermodynamics Vibrations Waves Optics

Table 2. EU options in Geology stream

Geology	
Airphoto/Land satellites	Palynology
Biogeochemistry	Numerical Methods
Biology – adv	Ore deposits geology
Carbonate Sedimentology	Ore Petrology
Chemistry – adv	Paleontology
Coal Geology	Petroleum Geology
Computer Science	Physics – adv
Field school – adv	Quaternary Geol – adv
Field school – explorat'n	Remote Sensing
Geochemistry – adv	Soil & Rock Mechanics
Geochem – exploration	Soil Science/pedology
Geohazards	Stratigraphic paleontology
Geomorphology	Structural Geology – adv
Geophysics – adv	Tectonics – adv
GIS	Undergraduate thesis
Glacial Geology	Well log analysis
Hydrogeology	
Igneous Petrology	Geostatistics?
Industrial Minerals	Isotope Geology?
Marine Geology	
Mathematics – adv	
Metamorphic petrology	
Micropaleontology	