

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

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, 080 GENDRON HALL  
30-31 OCTOBER 2014

Present: John Hanchar (MUN, chair), Roger Beckie (UBC), Janok Bhattacharya (McMaster), Sharon Carr (Carleton), Guoxiang Chi (Regina), Jay Cullen (Victoria), André Desrochers (Ottawa), Mostafa Fayek (Manitoba), Charles Henderson (Calgary), Pete Hollings (Lakehead), Becky Jamieson (Dalhousie), Paul Johnston (Mt Royal), Francine McCarthy (Brock), Al Mucci (McGill), Russ Pysklywec (Toronto), Rob Raeside (CCCESD), Vicki Remenda (Queen's), Ian Spooner (Acadia), Iain Samson (Windsor),

1. **Welcome:** John Hanchar opened the meeting at 1 p.m.
2. **Review of Finances:** J Greenough reported on the status of the treasury, noting finances are stable over the year:

Bank balance October 5 2013:	20803.31
Memberships since October 2013:	3100.00
Expenses since October 2013:	1919.29
Bank balance October 30 2014:	21984.02

3. **CCCESD statistics:** R Raeside reviewed the undergraduate enrolment, graduate enrolment, and faculty & staff statistics up to 1 December 2013.  
He noted that the mailing list accessed by cccesdheads@acadiu.ca is open, unmoderated, to all heads. A second mailing list at cccesdheadsandstaff@acadiu.ca is also unmoderated and open to heads and administrative staff.

4. **News and Views from Departments**

Notes were provided in advance by most departments. Themes arising:

- faculty replacements including CRCs are increasingly being mortgaged against retirements.
- numbers of students in programs has been pushing limits in many places
- funding and searches for CRCs, IRCs, etc. have been difficult
- what is the role of honours students in assessing HQP for NSERC?
- government student-based funding in Quebec has been reduced markedly
- equipment is aging
- spousal hiring results in unplanned clustering of expertise
- regulations are being introduced governing the use of ancillary fees
- management of trust funds
- Strategic Mandate Agreements in Ontario
- faculty profiles are aging at several universities
- international tuition fees have spiked; no government funding for international graduate students in Ontario
- limit of viability for a PhD-granting department appears to be about 12 faculty positions
- success with NSERC-DG appears to be erratic (“capricious”, “crap shoot”) and is increasingly being considered not time-efficient for the corresponding funding
- field schools are the most constraining courses in further growth of department enrolments.

## **5. Visit from CFI (Guy Levesque)**

PowerPoint presentation available on CCCESD website. Some points that were raised:

- CFI has injected \$6B over the past 16 years, which has been used with leverage to achieve \$14B in funding for research
- Without any further injection of funding, CFI is projected to decrease rapidly, with no capability to launch new competitions after 2018.
- The Canada First Excellence Fund is functioning with funding at a similar level to CFI.

## **6. Visit from Geological Survey of Canada (Bernard Vigneault and Mike Villeneuve)**

PowerPoint presentation available on CCCESD website. Some points that were raised:

- A central website for GSC grant, project and program information is desired
- GSC is keen to access recently hired faculty
- Faculty working with GSC should be encouraged to be mentors to new faculty
- Announcements from GSC will be directed to the CCCESD mailing list via Rob Raeside
- CCCESD to compile a list of appropriate contacts for university research offices.

## **7. Status of Recent Geoscience Graduates**

AGI has conducted an initial survey to assess the status of recent geoscience graduates in the US and has expressed interest in expanding the survey to Canada. Francine McCarthy met with an AGI staff member at the GSA meeting. Recommended that the survey be reviewed by CCCESD and CFES, and that CCCESD would act to distribute survey, but CFES would be more appropriate to make the survey suitable for the Canadian situation.

## **8. Visit from NSERC team (Dave Bowen, Liz Boston, Tiffany Lancaster, Kenn Rankine)**

PowerPoint presentation available on CCCESD website. Some points that were raised:

- Allocation process to evaluation groups changing in 2016
- HQP depends on quality and quantity – it is essential to identify how HQP relates to the overall research program.

## **9. CFES**

The CFES meeting will be held at the University of Ottawa on 28-29 November, 2014. André Desroches offered to attend on behalf of CCCESD.

## **10. Executive positions**

J Greenough will continue as treasurer, and R Raeside will continue as secretary. J Hanchar is stepping down as chair of CCCESD on 30 June. It was agreed that R Raeside will select a chair from the continuing department heads.

**Meeting adjourned at 2.45 p.m.**