

**The Chemical Institute of Canada
Chemical Education Division**

Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee, Chemical Education Division, 87th Conference of the Canadian Society for Chemistry, London ON, Sunday May 30th 2004

Present: Judith Poë (chair), Kathy Darvesh (vice-chair), Helen P. Graves Smith (secretary), David Ford (treasurer), Margaret-Ann Armour (past chair), Geoff Rayner-Canham (past chair and representative on the CSC board), Lew Brubacher (past chair), Leslie Barton, Colin Baird, Noel George (member at large), Pippa Lock (member at large), Gale Thirlwall-Wilbee,

Regrets: Sudhir Abhyankar, Joe Takats

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was assumed to be approved.

2. Minutes, CIC Chem Ed Executive, Ottawa, August 11th 2003

The minutes were circulated by Kathy Darvesh. Margaret-Ann Armour proposed that the minutes be approved. Pippa Lock seconded the motion. The Minutes were accepted.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Given the tight agenda, we proceeded directly to reports, which covered most business arising.

4. Report of the Treasurer - *Dave Ford*

Dave Ford circulated copies of the Financial Report. This past year has been a good year. Our books are balanced. The biggest challenge is that we are asked for, or we offer, money to the organizers of undergraduate conferences but do not always hear how the monies were spent. There seems to be a disconnect in the communications at times. We received a donation from John Wiley and Sons, and other monies from NRC.

Leslie Barton asked a question about high school affiliates. We do not show any monies as coming from high school affiliates. DF replied that we receive \$5 per registered member from the National office. We do not know how many high school affiliates there are.

Geoffrey Rayner-Canham commented that our signing authorities are ok, and that with 353 members we are an average-sized division.

DF proposed that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as circulated. GRC seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the report was approved.

5. **Report of the CSC Director - *Geoffrey Rayner-Canham***

Geoffrey Rayner-Canham thanked Colin Baird and Mel Usselman for their work on the sessions at this conference.

A current concern is the “National Undergraduate Conference” which is being hosted by the University of Ottawa. This is not a national event. A couple of people have tried to contact the event organizers but have been unsuccessful to date.

The CSC Executive has been tasked with establishing guidelines for the financial support of student conferences.

A **Student Awards**

The deadlines for the Student Chapter Merit Award are an issue. This award cannot be presented in London because of the lateness of the current deadline. It is suggested that the deadline be set so that the award can be presented at this conference, whenever the timing of this conference may be.

B **CIC Silver Medals**

While there had been a proposal to eliminate these, “for now” they are safe. Pearson Education is no longer the sponsor. Another is being sought.

Various methods to increase student membership were discussed. KD suggested that the timing of graduation packages be such that they arrive before these students leave the campus. Another suggestion was to sponsor 3rd and 4th year student memberships. JP observed that this was done in the Toronto area and only a handful of students took up the offer.

C **Other awards**

The Nova Award has gone. We are always looking for nominations for the Clara Benson award. More advertising is needed for the Bayer award for high school teachers. A new form would make the nomination process easier since the people nominated don't fit the same profile as those for other awards. How do we reach more people? The cost of direct mail makes this difficult. Could the database for the National Chemistry exam be used? Could we advertise in Chem13 News?

6 **Report of the Coordinator of the National High School Chemistry Exam (Leslie Barton)**

The report on the NHSCHE was circulated. As in previous years, the organization of the exam is split into two parts (multiple choice and essay questions). LB sets the questions and SA

administers the exam, including the organization of regional coordinators and distribution of the exam. The 2004 exam was held on Tuesday, April 27th. The student participation rate this year was slightly lower than last year but the number of schools increased. The average mark in part A was 8.61/25, approximately the same as it was last year. The NHSCHE exam is only meant for the top 5-10% of students, but, in fact, some teachers use it as a class exercise. The date for next year's exam is still being finalized. Last year the solutions were only available in English. There was one complaint from Quebec which was dealt with by the coordinator there. Heritage Canada was approached about translation, but they would subsidize for one year only, so this was not pursued. François Gauvin translates the answers but these are only 2-4 pages, not 40 pages. LB thanked all of the volunteers who help to make this event an on-going success.

7 Report on the CED program for the London meeting (Colin Baird)

Attendance at the CED sessions has been high. The history sessions have been more successful than expected. The Djerassi and Laszlo wordplay "NO" is still to come! There will also be a panel discussion with authors on Monday afternoon. Fifty-six posters from undergraduates have been entered. There are two entries for the Freisen Award, which will be judged on Tuesday morning. Based on the success of the history sessions, it is clear that this subject should be encouraged, and hopefully its profile will rise. Links with such groups as the CSTHA (Cdn Science and Technology History Association) need to be built.

DF suggested that a "history person" be included/designated for work groups etc.

8 Report of the Chair (Judith Poë)

Next year, this conference will be in Saskatoon. Richard Cassidy is the local planner. All help which we can offer to him would be appreciated.

A Sponsors for Awards

This follows from GRC's remarks. Union Carbide is no longer a longterm sponsor. For 2005 the Chem. Ed. Trust Fund can support this award for contributions to chemistry education in Canada.

B Constitution and By-laws of the Division

Two documents were circulated: the current constitution and a proposed one by JP. The revised rendition of the bylaws better reflects the current structure of the CIC.

Suggested amendments include:

That we be the Chemical Education Division for the Canadian Society for Chemistry only - not CSChE or CSCT. However, all constituents may belong. Some items in the current constitution are not being followed due to the fact that the CSChE is separate and the two groups do not attend each others conferences or

generally work together. The proposed constitution is written to reflect communication styles/norms of 2004. Members-at-large have been added to the Executive also.

Since there has not been sufficient notice given, amendments will not be made at the AGM, but the proposed changes can be presented and discussed.

It was suggested that an electronic meeting might be useful prior to the Board meeting in mid-year. A conference call may suit. November was a potential time for such a meeting. Of course there is never enough time at the Conference for a meeting. Sixty minutes is not enough.

C Accreditation Committee

JP has completed 3 terms on this committee. Let's have a new member. NG agreed to speak to JP about this.

9 Report of the Vice-Chair (Kathy Darvesh)

A CED website

The CED web page now resides on the CSC server. However, the new look is far less friendly and welcoming than it was when PM managed it on the King's University College Server. Head Office staff are working on it! For student chapters, the website can serve as an operational tool and an archival tool.

B Council of Undergraduate Research

This will be covered at the AGM tomorrow.

10 Items for Information

A Upcoming conferences

CSCHE 2004, Calgary, October
CSC 2005, Saskatoon, June
ChemEd 2005, Vancouver, August
CSCHE 2005, Toronto, October
Pacifichem 2005, Honolulu, December

LB said that a half-day is planned on education topics for the CSCHE Toronto, 2005. The Chem Ed content at Pacifichem 2005 is negligible. GRC said that there will be 'Women in Chemistry' symposium and that MAA will speak. JP commented that cooperation for that particular conference can be a challenge since three people from three countries must work together. If this requirement were waived, life would be much easier!

B Women's Committee A dinner is being planned for tonight at the Home Restaurant. We will meet at 6:45 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel lobby. This event is being publicized at the CED sessions.

C CED Related Awards at the Conference

a. Clara Benson – Eugenia Kumacheva - Sunday 9:00am

b. Union Carbide – Lew Brubacher - Sunday 1:40pm

10 Other Business

Since it was already 1:15pm, there was no other business.

11 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Helen P Graves Smith
Secretary, ChemEd division