

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

Minutes of meeting of the Chemical Education Division, 88th Conference of the Canadian Society for Chemistry, London ON, **Monday May 30th 2005**

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), Leslie Barton, Noel George (member at large), Pippa Lock (member at large), Richard Cassidy, S. Abhyankar, Lucio Gelmini, Anne Johnson, Morton Hoffman, Roy Jensen, Lew Brubacher (past chair).

Regrets: Peter Mahaffy.

Judith Poë welcomed attendees to the AGM of the Chemical Education Division. Attendees introduced themselves and an attendance list was circulated.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without any discussion.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of June 1, 2004

L. Brubacher moved that the minutes be approved. N. George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

Kathy Darvesh reported that the Chem Ed Division web page is much more friendly in appearance. One of the winning posters from the IUPAC student poster competition is the background.

4. Report of the Chair - Judith Poë

a. CIC Award for Chemical Education

This award has been re-named. The Chemical Education Fund is sponsoring the award for 2005 and 2006. Other sponsors are being sought, and would be identified as such, while not changing the name again.

b. Clara Benson Award

The outgoing CSC Chair has questioned the validity of this award. The Executive says "KEEP IT !!". Affirmative action is still needed. A list of all winners shows very few women earning other awards, especially those outside of the field of education. The plan is for the Women in Chemistry group, the Chemical Education Division and the Department Chairs to all express the desire to retain this award. This issue will be raised at the Women in Chemistry dinner, and has already received support from the Department Chairs.

- c. **CSC-ACS National Landmark**
This is a programme which was started by the ACS. Martha Langford wishes to nominate Shawinigan Chemicals Limited, which was the topic of her PhD thesis, as a National/International Historical Chemical landmark, similar to the Thomas Willson Carbide's house in Ottawa. Do we support this? Yes, the Chemical Education Division supports this.

It was also noted that the plaque for the CIC Canadian Chemical Landmark for the first chemical synthesis of sucrose by R.U. Lemieux and G. Huber, at the NRC Prairie Regional Laboratory (now called the NRC Plant Biotechnology Institute), Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is on display at the CIC Booth. It was unveiled at the Opening event of the Conference and will be installed in the near future.

- d. **Constitution and By-laws of the Division**
A friendly amendment is proposed so that all regular members from the Institute who have expressed interest may belong.

5. **Report of the Treasurer - *Dave Ford***

Dave Ford circulated copies of the Financial Report. Our books are balanced. The amount of money which has been received for the coming year has gone down but we should be ok due to carry forward.

Dave Ford moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as circulated. Kathy Darvesh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The TD Bank requires that a formal motion be made with respect to signing officers for our bank account.

It was moved, after a friendly amendment, that:

The people who fill the following positions should be the signing officers for our bank account:

Past chair Chair Vice-chair Treasurer 2 from CIC Head office

This motion was proposed by Roy Jensen and seconded by Leslie Barton. The motion was carried.

6. **Report of the Nominating Committee - *M-A Armour***

A slate of nominations for the Executive committee of the Chemical Education Division had been presented at the Executive meeting, but the slate presented at this meeting was not identical. One person who was proposed for member-at-large (G. Loppnow) will be serving on the Executive of the Physical Chemistry Division, and since the meetings are concurrent he has withdrawn his acceptance of his nomination to be on the slate. The following slate was presented:

Past chair	Judith Poë
Chair	Kathy Darvesh
Vice chair	Noel George
Secretary	Helen P Graves Smith (continuing)
Treasurer	David Ford (continuing)
Member at large	Pippa Lock (continuing)
Member at large	Lucio Gelmini

M-A Armour moved, and G. Rayner-Canham seconded, that this slate of officers be approved. The motion carried.

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

Clara Benson Award: This award needs nominees. In view of the questions being posed, the definition of this award could be reviewed to see whether or not the pool of eligible candidates should be expanded.

Silver medals: These need to be defended. Documentation which supports them is needed. Pearson Education Canada is the current sponsor. G. Rayner-Canham and G. Thirlwall-Wilbee will gather the paper trail on these medals, as needed.

Regional Science Fairs: Some local sections offer prizes at some of the Regional Science Fairs. These prizes are not administered with any attempt for consistency. It is not clear how much money is being given across the country. The secretary has been asked to try and find out which local sections are awarding which prizes at which science fairs.

8. **Report of the Coordinators of the National High School Chemistry Exam - *Sudhir Abhyankar and Leslie Barton***

The report on the NHSCE was circulated. As in previous years, the organization of the exam is split into two parts (multiple choice and essay questions). Leslie Barton sets the questions and Sudhir Abhyankar

administers the exam, including the organization of regional coordinators and distribution of the exam. The 2005 exam was held on Friday, April 22nd. The student participation rate and the number of schools this year were both slightly lower than last year. The average mark in part A was 11.4/25, slightly higher than it was last year. The Quebec data is shown with the high schools and CEGEPs separate.

The date for next year's exam is set for Thursday April 20th 2006.

Denis Bussièrès translated the questions and the answers this year - a huge job - and a huge thank you! Access to information about the exam can be found at: www.chemistry.ca/NHSCE. It is recommended that we mention this web site in all communications.

This is the first year in which Quebec CEGEP students wrote the exam. The impact on the number of high school participants from Quebec will be monitored.

There was a concern from the floor. At the moment, when prizes are awarded for this competition, no more than two of the winners may come from the same region. This year the Greater Toronto Area had strong entries but, while they were awarded 1st and 2nd places, they could not and were not awarded 3rd place. Is this a problem? Should one part of a province be allowed to dominate the prizes? This does not occur every year, but this is not the first time either. No decisions were made. This issue has been tabled until 2006, pending comments.

Leslie Barton thanked all of the volunteers who help to make this event an on-going success. She identified Lew Brubacher as somebody who had helped significantly and deserved a huge thank you. Thanks were also extended to George Baldwin of University of Manitoba for his help in administering the exam and for maintaining the web site.

9. **Report on the CED Program for the Saskatoon meeting - Richard Cassidy**

There were 40 papers, with 41 speakers. R. Cassidy thanked P. Mahaffy, J. Poë, Khysar Pasha and Bob Hansen for their help. Morton Hoffman was thanked for coming and contributing also. Overall the conference is expecting 1200-1300 delegates. A reminder about the Women in Chemistry Dinner was made.

J. Poë extended the thanks of the Division to R. Cassidy for all of his hard work. There was a round of applause.

10. **Report of the Vice-Chair - Kathy Darvesh**
a CED Program for the Halifax meeting

Please come! The list of symposia has been developed. The ACS Chemistry Education web site was 'trolled' for ideas! This year's room is a good size. The plan is to have an adequately sized room in Halifax too. The conference is not at the university but at the World Trade and Convention Centre. Organisers have been identified for all but the General session and the Public Understanding of Chemistry session. The responsibility for the Undergraduate Poster session will be clarified.

b Women's Committee Dinner

This year this opportunity for networking and meeting will be at Calories restaurant. Plan to arrive between 7pm and 7:30pm. About thirty people are expected.

11. Items for Information

a Upcoming conferences

1. ChemEd 2005, Vancouver, July 31 - August 4
2. CShE 2005, Toronto, October 16-19
3. Pacifichem 2005, Honolulu, December 15-20
4. CSC 2006, Halifax, May 27-31
5. CSC 2007, Winnipeg, May 26-29
6. CSC 2008, Edmonton.
7. ACS Chem Ed biennial, Purdue Univ, Indiana, July 2006
8. Chem Ed 2007, Denton, Univ. of North Texas, August 2007
9. 2008 BCCE, Indiana Univ., July 2008

b CED related awards at this conference

10. CIC Award for Chemical Education - Ron Martin
11. Clara Benson Award - Mary Fairhurst
12. Montreal Medal - Margaret-Ann Armour

6. Other Business

Geoffrey Rayner-Canham proposed a vote of thanks to Judith Poë for all of her hard work. There was a round of applause.

Judith Poë thanked all who have worked for the Division over the past two years, especially Margaret-Ann Armour, who is only really leaving "formally".

K. Darvesh reminded people about the Chem Ed list-serv.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Helen P Graves Smith
Secretary