

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Chemical Education Division, 90th Conference of the Canadian Chemistry Society, Winnipeg MB, Monday May 28th, 2007.

Present: Kathy Darvesh (chair), Noel George (vice-chair), Anne Johnson (secretary), Margaret-Ann Armour (past chair), Grace Greidanus-Strom (CSC Director of Student Affairs and Chemical Education), François Gauvin, Sudhir Abhyankar, Cecilia Kutas, Ian McMaster, Andy Dicks, Sophie Lavieri, John Olson, Sharon Brewer, Brenda Addison-Jones, Lew Brubacher, Mark Delmage, Morton Hoffman, Peter Mahaffy

Regrets: Judith Poë, David Ford (treasurer).

Absent: Pippa Lock (member at large)

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion moved to approve agenda: S. Abhyankar; seconded F. Gauvin. Motion carried.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Sunday May 18, 2006

Motion moved to approve minutes: G. Strom; seconded S. Abhyankar. Motion carried.

3. Business Arising

K. Darvesh noted the terms of reference for the Chemical Education Award have been rewritten (thanks to efforts by Geoff Rayner-Canham) to remove terms not present in other awards of the Society. Head office now has these revisions and should be recasting them on the website.

4. Report of the Treasurer – Kathy Darvesh for Dave Ford

Our major expenses were the Canadian Chemistry Contest, Undergraduate Poster Competition, donations to Chemical Education Symposia, and the Reg Friesen Award. Some student conferences do not apply for money from us when they could have; in some cases the organizers are unaware of their eligibility for funding, in others they have plenty of money already.

We currently bank with TD, not the Bank of Nova Scotia, unlike most other divisions of the CSC. There has been some discussion of changing over to the Bank of Nova Scotia. Changing banks will involve a lot of paperwork, however, once we use the Bank of Nova Scotia, changing executive officers will be relatively easy since this can be handled by head office (at the CIC) once we provide them with the names of the executive officers. Our intention is to look at a transition over to the Bank of Nova Scotia once the new treasurer is able, and after the cheques that we write during this conference have been cleared.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee - Kathy Darvesh for Judith Poë (past Chair)

The following slate for the 2007-2008 executive was presented:

Past-Chair: Kathy Darvesh
Chair: Noel George
Vice-Chair: TBA
Secretary: Anne Johnson (continuing)
Treasurer: Karen Kawulka
Member-at-large: Pippa Lock (continuing)
Member-at-large: Cecilia Kutas

Dave Ford will be "Treasurer emeritus" for 1 yr to assist the incoming Treasurer. We need nominations for vice-chair; this person should start soon.

Motion moved to approve slate: N. George; seconded, M.A. Armour. Motion carried.

6 & 7. Report of the CSC Director - *Grace Greidanus-Strom*

The importance of the CSC to young chemists is of utmost importance to our continuation as a professional organization. The CSC is a networking opportunity and plays a number of roles throughout chemists' careers. Membership in the CSC says "I'm a chemist." An updated Conference Manual for Undergraduate Conferences, containing information about organizing conferences and where to get money is being prepared. The visibility of the CSC at student conferences needs to be improved. To encourage students to become active members of the CSC, we are giving student conferences money for prizes and running their conferences as well as membership in the CSC.

A motion to approve prize money plus membership to student conferences was moved by S. Lavieri and seconded by F. Gauvin. Motion carried.

8. Report of National Coordinator and National Examiner of the Canadian Chemistry Contest - *Sudhir Abhyankar and Kathy Darvesh (for Leslie Barton)*

The contest was formerly called the National High School Chemistry Exam. The name was changed prior to the exam held this year on April 24th. For the first time, the number of students writing the contest was below 1000. This may be due to the name change and also to the website not working properly; the teachers couldn't get all information and materials they needed. This problem also affected the crystal growing contest. The highest enrollment in the exam in recent years has been 2680. The 2007 National winner was from Calgary.

Sudhir has been involved with the Chemistry Contest for 20 years. He became district coordinator in 1987 and eight years ago he became National Coordinator. Now he is stepping down after many years of service to the CSC and this is therefore his last report. A vote of thanks was given to Sudhir for his dedication and hard work. François Gauvin will be taking over for Sudhir.

Sudhir has been looking at the potential of putting the exam on the web. The contest may need to be advertised more aggressively to make teachers more aware of it since

the name has been changed. Teachers should be contacted directly, rather than through the principals. The provincial high school science teachers' associations should also be alerted. Teachers need to know information about the exam and its content. Some teachers who know about the contest do not tell their students about it because they feel that their students are not up to the level of the contest. Local CIC sections could help with promotion of the Contest.

The role of the Contest needs to be thought about; does it act as a gate-keeper for the Chemistry Olympiad? The timing, in late April, of the exam is good, and the coordinators and examiners are able to meet this deadline. However, there are challenges getting feedback out in timely way. The Contest needs to be challenging but not too easy, but also not too hard as this is discouraging to students and teachers.

Teachers are not being informed of the regional results while the students who wrote the contest are. The regional coordinators are responsible for passing on information regarding the contest, the materials to be examined and the results of the contest to the teachers.

Leslie Barton is also stepping down from her role as National Examiner. A vote of thanks was extended to Leslie in absentia for her service. Leslie was greatly appreciative of the help she has received from others writing the examination questions. The examiners need to send in their questions in WordPerfect or Word format rather than PDF files so that the questions can be edited more easily to suit the format of the contest. Sometimes tables & graphs are added to the questions. Denis Brussières does the translation from English to French.

The new national examiner (to be identified) will continue to need help with making questions. A. Dicks noted that sharing the exam writing load is good, since one person doesn't need to come up with all the questions. Leslie looked at the overall exam and arranged the questions according to topic and difficulty. F. Gauvin noted that the Manitoba District Contest Coordinator, Krystyna Koczanski, will assist making the questions. M. Hoffman noted that the ACS HS exams are secure, and must be purchased. These might be used for equivalent Olympiad exams in US. There are also banks of old exams that are free access. We might be able to use these, if they match the pan-Canadian curriculum.

The Pan-Canadian Curriculum has some major gaps, eg gas laws are missing. We discussed whether the CSC could influence this curriculum. A subtle way to influence the curriculum is through the topics that we examine on the contest. However, perhaps we should be more aggressive and contact the body that determines Pan-Canadian Curriculum. In the US, a major task for the ACS is in shaping the high school chemistry curriculum, which in turn reacts to the content of the college (university) curriculum. In order to have regular contact with the bodies that devise the high school chemistry curricula across the country, we ought to have a high school relations coordinator.

9. Report of the CED Program for the Winnipeg Meeting (2007) - François Gauvin

François is pleased. He obtained the session topics from discussions with people around him, eg. Polymer Chemistry. Some symposia topics were recycled under new names. There were some new symposia, such as Recycling and Composting.

The students eligible for the Reg Friesen Award do not self-identify. This makes determining who might be eligible for this award difficult.

10. Report of the CED Program for the Edmonton Meeting (2008) – Margaret Ann Armour

The 2008 meeting will again be joint with C3. The C3 meeting and workshops will be held the two days (Friday and Saturday) prior to the CSC meeting, and the Harris workshop will be on the Sunday. The organizers of both the C3 meeting and the CSC are hoping that the C3 attendees will stay on for the CSC meeting, and that the CSC attendees will come earlier to partake in the C3 workshops.

The symposia have been recast with new titles. One of the new symposia, Nanotechnology, is joint with C3 and should be a real draw; the Centre for Nanotechnology has been established as a joint partnership between the University of Alberta, the Alberta provincial government and the NRC.

11. Report of the Chair - Kathy Darvesh

a) CIC Award for Chemical Education

This year's winner is Bob Burke. Currently, this award is sponsored by the Chemical Education Fund. The CSC is looking at moving to an endowment model for all its awards so that funding is secure over the long run. While we currently have no problems with funding this award, this award may be affected in the future by this change at the CSC.

b) Chemical Education Fund Board

Geoff Rayner-Canham has used this to fund visits to remote schools in Newfoundland & Labrador. There was also an application for funding from Youth Science Fairs, but since they wanted to use 50% of what they were awarded as overhead, their application was turned down.

c) Constitution & By-Laws of the Division

The bylaws have not yet been rewritten to reflect current practice. There are some issues regarding granting charters that affect our bylaws. After these have been worked out the bylaws will be rewritten.

d) Women's dinner

We get many of RSVPs from all over the world. Attendees do not need to be female.

12. Report of the Vice-Chair - Noel George

Noel updated the names on the division's web-site. He forwarded these changes to Gale Thirlwall-Wilbee in head office, who promptly made the corrections. Noel will do this again this year until a new Vice-Chair is identified.

13. Information Items - *Kathy Darvesh*

Kathy presented information regarding upcoming conferences and CED related awards at the CSC conference.

14. Podrecording of oral presentations at the CSC (ChemEd) Symposia - *Kathy Darvesh*

Last year an application by Brian Lynch to podrecord some oral sessions in the ChemEd symposia was denied because permission had not been sought from head office or the affected speakers. This year the application was successful and podrecording was done during the Monday morning CED symposium. We are unclear on how these podrecordings will be distributed or released. The podrecordings might be made available on the CSC conference website.

15. New Business

M. Hoffmann explained that as members of the CSC Chemical Education Division, we are able to become affiliate members of the ACS Chemical Education division for a nominal fee without having to pay the full membership fee for the ACS. Affiliate members can be active members of the Chemical Education Division, including holding some office positions. (He supplied some brochures from the ACS Chemical Education Division to support his claim; affiliate membership is either \$20 or \$40, depending on whether one chooses to receive the bulletin of this Division or not). Can he join the CSC Chemical Education Division as an affiliate for a nominal fee without having to pay the full fee for membership in the CIC? In other words, can we reciprocate the affiliate membership program from the ACS Chemical Education Division?

There is no current mechanism for extending membership in the Division without membership in the CIC. However, we do have an affiliate membership mechanism for members of C3 (College Chemistry Canada). Can the C3 affiliate mechanism be extended to members of other chemical societies? Is this a by-law issue? This issue will be pursued.

K. Darvesh is pleased to be in the Chemical Education Division and in the Council for Undergraduate Research in the US. She is stepping down as Chair of the Chemical Education Division after 2 years in this position. At M. Armour's suggestion, we gave a formal vote of thanks to Kathy for serving us well as Chair. N. George is the new Chair.

16. Adjournment of the Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting: S. Abhyankar. Seconded N. George. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Johnson

Secretary