

CSC Chem Ed Division

Monday, June 1, 2009

5:20-6:20 pm, EST

Annual General Meeting Minutes

- Present:** Noel George (Chair), Dietmar Kennepohl (Vice-Chair), Glen R. Loppnow (Secretary), Kathy Darvesh (Past-Chair), Pippa Lock (Member-at-large), Cecilia Kutas (Member-at-large), François Gauvin (CCC).
- Guests:** James Xidos, Chris Ambidge, Tyson A. Miller, Nola Etkin, Jeam-Marc Gauthier, Sudhir Abhyankow, Geoff Rayner-Canham, Gale Thirlwall, Cameron Hopkins, Maggie Austen, Leslie Barton, Norm Hunter, Peter Mahaffy, Helen Ohorodnyk.
-

1. Approval of Today's Agenda

- **MOTION**—Adopt today's agenda (Sudhir Abhyankow). Seconded by Maggie Austen. Unanimous - Carried.

2. Meeting Minutes from 2008 AGM, Edmonton

3. Introduction of Tyson Miller, ACS CHED representative.

The Chair introduced Dr. Tyson Miller, the representative from the ACS CHED division. Dr. Miller is an assistant professor of Chemical Education at the University of Connecticut. He reported that he's having fun, has learned a lot, is excited about working with the CSC Chem Ed Division.

4. Report on the CED Program for the CSC 2009 Meeting

Dr. Pippa Lock reported that there were 59 abstracts, composed of 2 posters and 57 oral, for the CED program at CSC 2009. Two of these have subsequently been withdrawn. The high number of abstracts led to a packed schedule and that much has gone well. She thanked Pearson, Wiley, and Nelson Publishing Co.s for supporting travel bursaries for various speakers. Total attendance was around 2040 and is probably going to end up as the second-highest attended conference in recent history.

5. Report on the CED Program for the CSC 2010 Meeting

Seven symposia have been set for the Chem Ed program for the CSC 2010 meeting to be held in Toronto, ON on May 29 - June 2, 2010:

- The Future of Global Chemistry Education (Glen Loppnow)
- Making Chemistry Relevant and Accessible to Today's Students (Rashmi Venkateswaran, Dietmar Kennepohl)
- Beyond the Traditional Chemistry Lecture: Effective, Engaging Teaching Methods (Anne Johnson)
- Transitioning from High School to University Chemistry (David Stone)
- Teaching Writing Skills to Chemists (Leslie Barton)
- Teaching Green Chemistry in Lecture and Laboratory (John Andraos, Andy Dicks)
- Safety Education in Undergraduate and Graduate Chemistry Programs (Krystyna Koczanski, Horace Luong)

The Chair mentioned that Andy Dicks is the division organizer and is entertaining ideas for one more symposium. Also, Leslie Barton is interested in any ideas for speakers in her session.

6. Canadian Chemistry Contest

Dr. François Gauvin reported that this is his second year as coordinator. The first year was a transition year, while this is a consolidation year. He has spent much of his time trying to re-structure

the regional coordinators after Dr. Robert Haines' death. CCC is now linked more to the Chemistry Olympiad.

The contest was April 22 this year and the National Winner is Mr. Steven Chen of Montreal, QC. The participation rate was slightly higher this year, but the national average was slightly lower. Overall, 844 students in over 120 schools competed, although over 2,000 schools were asked to participate. There are 3 winners/region and they are given below:

THE OTHER WINNERS PER REGION ARE:

ATLANTIC:

1. MR. DONGBIN ZHANG (CITADEL HIGH SCHOOL, HALIFAX, NS)
2. MR. DAVID BROWNE (HOLY HEARTH OF MARY HIGH SCHOOL, ST. JOHN'S, NL)
3. MR. MICHAEL SONG (HALIFAX GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HALIFAX, NS)

QUÉBEC:

1. NATIONAL WINNER: MR. STEVEN CHEN (JOHN ABBOTT COLLEGE, MONTRÉAL, QC)
2. MR. ALEXANDRE DESJARDINS (HERITAGE COLLEGE, GATINEAU, QC)
3. MR. MAREN RICHTER (JOHN ABBOTT COLLEGE, MONTRÉAL, QC)

ONTARIO:

1. MR. ERIC COOMES (APPLEBY COLLEGE, OAKVILLE, ON)
2. MS. FLORENCE CHAN (MARC GARNEAU COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, TORONTO, ON)
3. MS. YIWEI HU (DON MILLS COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, TORONTO, ON)

MANITOBA / SASKATCHEWAN / NUNAVUT:

1. MR. VICTOR LI (ST. JOHN'S RAVENSCOURT SCHOOL, WINNIPEG, MB)
2. MR. VIGNESH DAKSHINAMURTHY (CAMPBELL COLLEGIATE, REGINA, SK)
3. MR. ARESH SEPEHRI (ST. JOHN'S RAVENSCOURT SCHOOL, WINNIPEG, MB)

ALBERTA / NORTH WEST TERRITORIES:

1. MR. RUINENG XING (WESTERN CANADA HIGH SCHOOL, CALGARY, AB)
2. MR. GLEN WANG (WESTERN CANADA HIGH SCHOOL, CALGARY, AB)
3. MR. RYAN YE (OLD SCONA ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL, EDMONTON, AB)

BRITISH COLUMBIA / YUKON:

1. MR. SCOTT MICHELSON (ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, VANCOUVER, BC)
2. MR. SHAWN XU (BURNABY NORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL, BURNABY, BC)
3. MR. RYAN LO (STEVESON-LONDON SECONDARY SCHOOL, RICHMOND, BC)

The Chair thanked François for his service.

7. Report of CSC Education and Student Affairs Director

Ms. Gale Thirlwall reported that the CSC is trying to get to every Undergraduate Research Conference in Canada. She also reported on the new high school teacher's category of membership. Teachers pay the same rate as graduate students (\$43.58).

8. Women in Chemistry Dinner

Approximately 25 people have accedpted for the Women in Chemistry Dinner. The dinner will be held at Acclamations at 191 James St. N. The lunch menu is also being made available and the dinner is pay as you go. The Chair thanked Maggie Austen for organizing this dinner under unusually difficult circumstances.

9. Chair's Report

The Chair expressed his mixed feelings at coming to the end of his term which stretched from member-at-large to vice-chair to chair and now to past-chair. He said his term has been reasonable uneventful, except for the past few months (to be explained later). He reported that he had served on the Chem Ed Award Committee and on the Alfred Bader Award Committee. He thanked the division for being such a great group of people!

10. Vice-Chair's Report

Dr. Dietmar Kennepohl put forward a discussion item on a new, open access, web-based education journal, tentatively titled "The International Journal of Chemical Education". He reported that it can be very dangerous and risky to do new journals and that a home, adequate financial model, and base of reviewers, editors and authors need to be in place for the journal to be successful. In the ensuing discussion, it was mentioned that the need seen is that some similar journals are struggling and that J. Chem. Ed. is very slow, although very good quality. It was also mentioned that research letters are a possible niche for this journal, similar to Arxiv for physics. It was also commented that Chem Ed International, the IUPAC publication, ran well for awhile, but lost focus when the community and editor changed. This latter publication may be the venue for a new ideas. Also, CERP was good when run out of Greece and then was revitalized at RSC.

- **ACTION ITEM**—More information to be posted on Chem Ed website and sent to division members (Dietmar Kennepohl, Anne Campbell/Gale Thirlwall/Patricia Laws).

11. Nominating Committee

Dr. Kathy Darvesh and the attendees expressed thanks to Noel George for the great job he has done as chair. She then put forth the following slate:

Past-Chair: Noel George (automatically)

Chair: Dietmar Kennepohl. Motion put forth by François, seconded by Peter Mahaffy, passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair: Cecilia Kutas. Request to attendees, motion put forth by Dietmar Kennepohl, seconded by Geoffrey Rayner-Canham, passed unanimously.

Secretary: Glen R. Loppnow (continuing)

Treasurer: no nominee.

Members-At-Large: Pippa Lock (continuing)

Maggie Austen. Motion put forth by Kathy Darvesh, seconded by Leslie Barton, pass unanimously.

12. Report of the Treasurer

The Chair reported that the former treasurer, Karen Kawulka, is no longer involved in chemistry and has resigned from the position. The timing of the resignation created problems for the Chair in ensuring a timely grant request from head office and in delivering a report for this AGM. The Chair reported that the division's finances are in OK shape and that a full report will be coming soon. The Chair thanked Gale Thirlwall, Anne Campbell, and Joan Kingston of the head office for working with him to reconstruct the finances of the division.

A discussion ensued regarding the future of finance handling in the division. We need a treasurer, even if the finances are handled by the head office, which is one option. For this option, we will need the OK of the head office, as our division has significant cash flow, although the head office does handle the finances for small divisions. If we continue to have the treasurer position handle the finances, we need a qualified person willing to fill this challenging position for longer than 2 years and who can come to most CSC conferences. Ideas for people should be sent to the Chair.

In addition to the treasurer position, the Chair mentioned a very possible move of the division account to the Bank of Montreal after Scotia Bank introduced significant fees for their service. Also, our GIC, which was cashed to handle the short-term cash flow problem associated with the treasurer resignation, now needs to be re-invested in the new bank, otherwise we will be in violation of CIC rules regarding the maximum amount of money we can have in our account, which is 2 years of operating costs.

13. Items for Information

- 1) Upcoming conferences
 - i) 21st BCCE, University of North Texas, Denton, TX Aug. 1-5, 2010.
 - ii) 21st ICCE, Taipei, Taiwan, Aug. 8-13, 2010
 - iii) CSC 2010, Toronto, ON May 29-June 2, 2010
 - iv) C3 conference in Kamloops, BC at Thompson Rivers Univ.

- v) ACS Semi-annual meeting in Boston, MA, USA Aug. 19-23, 2010
- 2) CED Related Awards at the 2009 Conference
 - i) CIC Award for Chemical Education - Norman Voyer, Talk Tues AM
 - ii) Clara Benson Award - Molly Soichet
 - iii) CED Student Travel Award - no applications
 - iv) Reg Friesen Award - Russ Algar (Mon AM talk) wins this award.

14. Other Business

The Chair recognized Glen R. Loppnow, Univ. of Alberta, as a winner of the 2009 3M National Teaching Fellowship from Chemistry.

A discussion regarding the slipping C3 ties ensued. In the past, Chairs of each of the C3 and CSC attended each others' AGM and conference organizing committee meetings. C3 will be in Sherbrooke, QC in 2011, near the CSC conference in Montreal for 2011. François Gauvin knows the C3 organizers and will attempt to coordinate a closer interaction for 2011. A closer interaction is not possible for 2010, as the conferences are in BC and ON. The interaction in 2011 is particularly important due to it being the International Year of Chemistry.

The International Year of Chemistry has been approved for 2011 by IUPAC. However, no one is currently looking after any initiatives associated with that project. IUPAC has a website for activities associated with that year, but activities and fundraising needs to be done. Some suggestions were global activities in the chem ed community and activities for young people, particularly on water, energy and clean air. Any ideas should be sent to Peter Mahaffy.

- **ACTION ITEM**—Attempt to coordinate C3 and CSC Chem Ed activities for the 2011 conferences in Sherbrooke and Montreal, respectively, by sending a letter from the Executive committee of the CSC Chem Ed division. (François Gauvin, Dietmar Kennepohl).

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Sudhir Abhyankow, seconded by François Gauvin, passed unanimously.