

Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution
Meetings of Council:
12 May 2013, continuing on 15 May 2013
University of British Columbia - Okanagan, Kelowna BC

Present: Jeff Hutchings, Judy Myers, Julie Turgeon (voice link), Spencer Barrett, Locke Rowe, Mary Reid, Leanna Lachowsky, Steve Heard, Arne Mooers, Fanie Pelletier (voice link), Andy Gonzalez (voice link)

Guests: Andrew Simons (Councillor-elect), Jeremy Kerr (PAGSE, VP-elect), Jason Pither (2013 meeting LOC), Andrew Hendry (2014 meeting LOC), Alison Derry (2014 meeting LOC), Diego Steinaker (CIEE), Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde (CCAC)

The meeting commenced with introductions around the table.

1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION (Mary, Judy) adopt the previously circulated agenda.

Passed

2. 2013 Okanagan Annual Meeting - Jason Pither (Chair, Conference Local Organizing Committee)

Jason provided a summary of the current organizational state of the conference. The LOC expects revenues of about \$120,000 in, expenses of about \$118,500, more than 400 registrants, including some single day registrants, and a total 430 participants in total. The \$6400 refund from 2012 banquet is part of the funding and so included in the revenues projections. Participants include a typical mix of students, faculty, and others. It will take at least a week to get the final finances sorted, but the worst case scenario is a \$5000 loss (for instance due to catering changes, etc.). The Children's Outreach program was on Saturday, 11 May. It had been unexpectedly moved to 9 am, and attendance was low (8 kids). Media releases about the conference went out on schedule, but in hindsight the releases should have been earlier because they were getting displaced by the provincial election which is on Tuesday. However, local newspapers have already covered the conference. Tony Sinclair's public outreach talk is going to be well attended it seems. Only three sponsors will be in attendance, despite inviting complete list of sponsors from the Ottawa Evolution meeting as well as a list from the Entomological Society of Canada. However there will also be two non-profit groups among the exhibitors.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2012 (Ottawa).

MOTION (Steve, Leanna) to accept the minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2012.

Passed

4. President's report – Jeff Hutchings

The President's Report was circulated to Council prior to the meeting (see attachment).

Jeff highlighted his efforts to improve the benefits of membership in the society, which should help in attracting new members, and solicited suggestions for journals that CSEE could approach about such benefits as publication privileges, etc. For instance, could we offer an endorsement to a journal in return for discounts on publication charges? Jeff has already contacted Evolutionary Ecology Research about such an arrangement, and we need to consider whether there are difficulties in such arrangements.

Fanie suggested that we also need a way to promote the society, such as a flyer or handout as promotional materials, that could perhaps be distributed at meetings or conferences of other societies.

5. Treasurer's report – Julie Turgeon

The Treasurer's Report was circulated to Council prior to the meeting (see attachment).

a. Budget update.

Julie provided highlights of annual expenditures versus revenues, reiterating the message that the current budgetary situation is unsustainable, and estimating that at current levels of expenditure, it will be only about 3 years until the society is broke. A major step in addressing this issue is to gain a clear understanding of the budget, so Julie suggested clarification of two budgetary items, "Secretary costs" and "Treasurer's help", which have been rather imprecisely described in past budgets. Council agreed that more precise itemization of costs is necessary in order to track spending.

b. Paypal.

Julie has investigated solutions to the ongoing issue of the Paypal account. In general, Council agreed that the best procedure is for successive Treasurers to establish new Paypal accounts upon taking office, so that old accounts can be suspended when a previous Treasurer finishes her or his term. This will finally release Sally Otto from ownership of the current Paypal account.

Motion (Julie, Judy): that the Treasurer will make arrangements to create and become the owner of the Society's new Paypal account and to have the old account suspended.

Passed

c. Not for profit status.

Julie reviewed the requirements from Industry Canada that all not-for-profit corporations must review their status and submit an application for continue by October 2014. The Secretary and the Treasurer will be in charge of sorting out this process. Julie also commented that the company handling the 2014 meeting thinks that the society needs a tax registration number because of issues related to QST rebates. However, having consulted with an accountant, it appears that as a not-for-profit corporation, we do not need to do this. However, the company will still be charging taxes on registration. The result is that taxes will be collected from the members based on payments for the conference, and then the Society will get the rebate.

6. **Secretary's report** – Miriam Richards

The Secretary's Report was circulated to Council prior to the meeting (see attachment).

a. Translation of official communications.

Miriam requested consideration of her proposal to create a list of several bilingual graduate students who could be kept "on call" to provide translations on a speedy basis. Council agreed that this was desirable, and Julie and Fanie offered to recruit students able to do this.

b. Finalization of website.

Miriam expressed satisfaction that the website had been more or less finished as two separate sites, one in French and one in English. Creating a bilingual site, in which pages in each language are linked was proving difficult and Miriam expressed frustration at the difficulties and cost of getting this task finished, as the process had now lasted about a year. Council agreed that if the site could be made bilingual in short order, then we should proceed, and if not, then the website would remain as two separate language sites.

Reports of Committees

7. **Membership & Communications** – Andy Gonzalez

Andy suggested that we need to produce a brochure describing the actions of the society that could be distributed in various venues, and which would promote Society membership. Council agreed.

ACTION: Andy, together with other members of the committee, will prepare a brochure to present at the November meeting.

Andy also agreed that a funds distribution policy for dealing with external requests is necessary.

ACTION: Andy will distribute a funds distribution policy by the fall Council meeting.

8. **Nominations** – Judy Myers

Judy reported that the 2013 elections had included a full slate of candidates, that the election had been completed without incident, and that all successful candidates had been notified and had accepted their respective positions. The following is from the official announcement to the membership:

Persons Elected to CSEE Council (terms beginning 1 January 2014)

Vice-President: Jeremy Kerr (University of Ottawa)

Treasurer: Julie Turgeon (Université Laval)

Councillor: Jill Johnstone (University of Saskatchewan)

Councillor: Heather Proctor (University of Alberta)

Councillor: Andrew Simons (Carleton University)

Councillor (student and postdoc representative): Anne Dalziel (Université Laval)

9. **Awards & Recognition** – Locke Rowe

a. **President's Award**

The major award to be given at the 2013 meeting was the President's Award. Locke noted that the committee did not rank award recommendations because it is the responsibility of the President to select the recipient.

b. **Honorary memberships**

A short discussion ensued about categories of membership that could be conferred as honorifics. Currently, the Society does not have honorary memberships, although there are lifetime memberships (which anybody can purchase) and 10 year memberships are given as part of the Early Career Awards. If we were to create honorary memberships, what would the criteria be and how would they differ from President's Award nominations. One suggestion is that honorary memberships would be for lifetime achievement in research related to ecology and evolution.

Continuing the theme of highlighting members, perhaps it would be useful to post the list of lifetime members on the website, together with biographical sketches. The President's Award address is generally published in Proc Royal Soc, B and it is important to highlight these on the website.

10. **Outreach** – Fanie Pelletier

The Outreach Committee Report was circulated to Council prior to the meeting (see attachment).

The Outreach committee received a request for funding for a pollinator conference, and Fanie noted that this request should probably have been directed to the Membership and Communications committee. Outreach activities at Kelowna were organized by the LOC (see report from Jason Pither, above). Two new members had volunteered for the committee.

11. **Biodiversity & Conservation** - Arne Mooers

The Committee's Report was circulated to Council prior to the meeting (see attachment). There was no further discussion. Arne pointed out that he is leaving Council at the end of 2013 and we will need to replace committee chairs for outgoing councillors

12. **2014 Meeting in Montreal** - Andrew Hendry and Alison Derry

Andrew and Alison presented a summary of preparations for the Montreal meeting. They also requested key words/ topics for talk sections and categories and symposium themes. Other important details brought to Council's attention:

- a. The LOC needs suggestions for outreach activities.
- b. The CSEE plenary will be Jeff's Presidential Address as past President
- c. The LOC will not be giving out student travel awards – this is the responsibility of CSEE.
- d. Costs/profits will be apportioned among societies.

13. **CIEE** - Diego Steinaker (Associate Director, CIEE)

a. CIEE sent out a call for proposals for new programs in June 2013. CIEE can now offer new facilities through the University of Regina. CIEE is proposing to emphasize thematic programs and synthesis.

b. Council asked about the prospects for CIEE hosting the 2015 meeting in Regina. Diego agreed that it would be a benefit to CIEE and that he was already planning a meeting with University of Regina Biology Department members, as well as their dean, to discuss prospects for hosting.

Jeff reminded Diego that CSEE provides some funds up front for expenses associated with conference organisation.

c. CIEE membership: Diego distributed a new brochure intended to help in recruiting new institutions to join CIEE. In the ensuing discussion, Judy suggested that \$8000 is rather a large fee. Diego responded that fees are graduated such that universities with lower NSERC funding (1.5 – 5 million) pay a lower fee. In fact, it would appear that only UBC has paid fees this year, but many university representatives are “working on” hurrying this process up. In response to a question about the relationship between the CIEE directors (Peter Leavitt, Diego Steinaker) and the CIEE management board, Steve (who is chair of CIEE management board) explained that the relationship is arms-length but that there is frequent communication. The Board oversees the director and does not actually manage the CIEE.

Spencer inquired whether a list of publications from past CIEE workshops had been compiled, suggesting that such a list could be posted on the CIEE website.

14. **Canadian Council on Animal Care** - Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde

Albrecht is now on the board and is chair of the guidelines subcommittee at CCAC. CCAC is undergoing a major transformation at the behest of NSERC and CIHR (which supply 80% of funding). The CCAC inspection process will no longer be covered by granting agencies, which means that CCAC would have to go to cost recovery with institutions paying for inspections. A consultant has been hired to help sort out a new governance structure with consultations to be completed by Christmas. Spencer commented that one issue is that the CCAC board is tilted towards lab scientists who don't really understand field work. Albrecht agreed but pointed out that the reality is that lab animal use comprises the majority use of CCAC researchers and also that agricultural researchers have a different perspective on the issue at hand. He believes that much of the problem with CCAC stems from the model of local university committees interpreting federal rules inappropriately, with local vets attempting to dictate practices to field scientists who often know more about the appropriate means of providing 'care' to such organisms. Albrecht also noted that the Canadian Society of Zoologists is officially represented at CCAC and that he is working toward such representation for CSEE.

15. **PAGSE** - Jeremy Kerr (CSEE representative)

PAGSE is the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering, the sponsor of Bacon and Eggheads, a breakfast-scheduled meeting for scientists and engineers to talk to parliamentarians, federal scientists, and associated staff. It holds intermittent meetings (6-8 per year) with significant policy makers (e.g. presidents of CFI, NSERC), providing opportunities for academic scientists to communicate with policy makers. As a recent example, PAGSE was asked to comment during the recent consultation exercise for changing the administration of the NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship program (which is going to be centralized and much of it will be devolved to universities). The question is whether these communications are worth the costs to the society, given that input on issues such as CGS was probably ignored. Jeremy thinks that it is probably worth the investment, but this should be continuously re-evaluated. Jeremy noted that PAGSE is vociferously non-partisan and is there as a resource for science related issues.

16. **NSERC** – Jeff

There was a short discussion about the annual NSERC update from the Ecology and Evolution Group Chair.

Society Business

17. **Graduate students and post-docs** – Leanna Lachowsky

The Student/Postdoc representative's report is attached.

a. Leanna received responses from 7 student/post-doc members to her request for feedback about NSERC's recent decision to impose a single application limitation on the post-doctoral fellowships program. Jeff suggested that a 1-page document regarding the new PDF procedures might be useful to forward to NSERC.

b. This year's student workshop topic is entitled "Business skills for scientists" and will take place on Wednesday at lunchtime. There was a short discussion about gifts for speakers at student workshops. A \$60 budget was suggested for two gifts.

c. Student travel awards – the society awarded 15 awards at \$500 each. Miriam confirmed that the names were chosen randomly for students whose university addresses were >500 km from the site of the 2013 CSEE meeting. The applicants included several undergraduates, but there is no policy in place for dealing with these individuals. Miriam also requested guidance in deciding how travel awards should be apportioned among universities.

ACTION: Leanna will propose a policy for how to deal with undergraduate applicants for travel awards, and also propose a policy for deciding how many travel awards can be given to students from the same university.

18. **Bulletin** – Mary Reid

Mary proposed a deadline of 3 June for submissions for the next bulletin. Jeff suggested including sections of the NSERC Group 1503 report.

19. Website – Miriam Richards

The Secretary's Report had been previously circulated and is attached.

The Secretary's report included a proposal to post Council meeting minutes on the website. Fanie suggested a 'members only' section where only members could access the minutes. A motion to post minutes starting today was postponed to Wednesday's discussion pending determining what other societies do.

20. Future Meetings of the Society

Judy reported that there is an effort to encourage CIEE/University of Regina to host the 2015 meeting and for Memorial University to host the 2016 meeting.

21. Other Business

a. Attendance at November/December Council Meetings – Jeff

After a short discussion, Council concluded that ideally the Executive should attend in person but that other members may attend by an external communications link (e.g., video, teleconference) if they wish.

b. Term Lengths for Members of Council - Jeff

As a result of the nominations and elections process, it has been suggested that perhaps 4 years is rather a long term length, and that this may be a deterrent to standing for Council positions. In general, Council agreed with the idea that some positions should be shortened to three years. Such changes would entail changes to the Constitution.

Further discussion of this and remaining items was postponed to the Wednesday follow-up meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

**CSEE Council Meeting (second meeting)
Wednesday, 15 May 2013**

Present: Jeff Hutchings (chair), Spencer Barrett, Arne Mooers, Judy Myers, Mary Reid, Leanna Lachowsky, Steve Heard, Andy Gonzalez (by voice link)

Guests: Andrew Simons, Jeremy Kerr

All items in today's meetings comprised follow-up discussion or agenda items postponed from the previous meeting.

22. Other Business (part 2).

a. Term lengths for Councillors.

In principle, Council is in favour of shortening terms to three years for Councillors and possibly for the Secretary and Treasurer as well. Doing so requires changes to the society's constitution that would then have to be approved at the next AGM in 2014. Leanna wondered if the Student-Postdoc representative term should be shortened to a one-year term, but Council thinks that 1-year terms would be too short. A proposal is required at the November meeting for how this would actually be implemented.

b. Future meetings of the Society

2016: Representatives from Memorial University have been approached and agreed in principle to host the 2016 meeting. Tom Chapman and Ian Fleming will organize a Local Organizing Committee.

2014 meeting in Montreal: the LOC has requested keywords for organizing talks. Council suggests that best policy is simply to use those used this year in combination with those used in 2012. There was a short discussion about a topic for the CSEE symposium. It was not completely clear what the schedule was for soliciting suggestions from the membership. More discussion with the LOC might clarify this.

c. Data access and management policy – Arne Mooers

The Tri-Council agencies (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC) do not yet have a data management policy for dissemination of research results based on Tri-Council funding. A proposal from Arne and Mike Whitlock (UBC) was presented to Council with the suggestion that CSEE adopt a formal position on data management. Council agreed that in principle, it is important to support the principle of openness in data sharing.

d. INNGE proposal and request for support.

This is a new, European group, apparently composed of students and postdocs. Although we would probably not provide formal sponsorship, Jeff will communicate an expression of interest on behalf of CSEE.

e. Benefits for members – Jeff Hutchings

Jeff has been in further communication with Evolutionary Ecology Research about possible benefits to CSEE members, such as a discount on publication charges or editorships based on nominations from CSEE. A possible benefit to the journal would be access to the Society membership list, but this idea was rejected by Council. The idea of editorships met with some enthusiasm although this might work better if the Society had formal relationships with several journals. Other journals to be contacted include Evolutionary Applications and Proc R Soc B. The Membership and Communications Committee will brainstorm other ideas for promoting membership in CSEE, and will report to Council in November.

f. Liber Ero postdocs

This is a new post-doc program in conservation biology. Sally Otto (UBC) has suggested that perhaps there could be a formal link between CSEE and the Liber Ero foundation. There was general enthusiasm from Council for a formal link. Suggestions include memberships for fellows, although these should not compete with the Early Career Awards. What would CSEE get out of such a relationship? Jeff made two suggestions, namely an annual white paper on conserve biology or a symposium funded and organized by Liber Ero at CSEE every 2 years.

g. Availability of Council Meeting minutes

After a brief discussion, Council decided to continue past practice and not post minutes. They would be made available to individual members only on request.

The meeting adjourned.