

16 April 2019

Report on 20th CFES Council Meeting

April 12 and 13, 2019 Tabaret Hall, University of Ottawa

Mary-Louise Byrne attended the meeting as a representative from Canadian Association of Geographers.

Detailed Board reports are attached.

President Iain Samson called the meeting to order delivered opening remarks that outlined activities over the last year.

There is significant, healthy changeover in Board membership. Several members are leaving the Board: Sandra Barr (Past-President), Sarina Cotroneo (Communications Director), Lesley Hymers (Outreach Director), and Sam Kelley (Finance Director). The slate of Directors proposed for 2019-2020 includes two changes to roles and three new directors. Iain Samson will become Past-President and Graziella Grech will take over as President. The incoming President-Elect is Ollie Bonham. Beth McLarty Halfkenny will be joining the Board as the Outreach Director (as she is the incoming President of CGEN). In addition, nominees for the two other directors' positions are Diane Hanano (Communications) and Jen Parks (Finance). In addition, Mostafa Fayak became International Director during the past year. The Board will be seeking a nomination for a new President-Elect for the next term.

CFES Finances are in good shape, working on a break-even basis. The Geosciences and Canada brochure was developed and there was a donation to the Science Media Centre of Canada and a sponsorship of a Bacon and Eggheads talk on Parliament Hill.

Mustafa Feyak delivered a report on GeoParks. There are three existing GeoParks – Stonehammer, Tumbler Ridge, Percé. A number of proposals are in the works. GeoParks has existed as subcommittee of CFES but is creating an independent, not for profit organization to oversee GeoParks that is independent of CFES, but will continue to communicate with CFES going forward. This will conform better with the UNESCO structure under which the GeoParks program exists. That body is working with US and Mexico to create a North America Association of GeoParks.

There was a brief update on the RFG 2018 meeting that was held in Vancouver. There have been a series of meetings of CNC-IUGS in the last few months to discuss the possibility of Canada continuing a leadership role in this area and potentially hosting future RFG meetings and related activities. A document was prepared to facilitate discussion of this topic, and was one of the discussion items at this council meeting. The document and some PowerPoint slides were distributed with the meeting materials were reviewed. Daniel Lebel from the Geological Survey spoke to the item. There will be continuing discussion of this idea by some of the member organizations.

Other discussions at the meeting focussed on CFES interaction with European organizations, the Mentorship Medal, The Canada Prize, The Four Billion Years and Counting publication, CanGeoRef and Outreach and Education.

There was a presentation by Geoscientists Canada outlining the statistics of growth of Professional Registration in Geosciences across Canada. Geoscientists Canada exists to serve members who are the provincial bodies that regulate Geoscience and to align the profession Canada-wide. As a voice for all members nationally, it facilitates assemblies and forums to maintain the profession. There are 14 000-plus registered and licensed Geoscientists in Canada. There is an effort to increase female representation, especially in the younger cohort. Professional Geoscience has a better gender balance than professional engineers do. New knowledge and experience requirements were published recently and are available on the Geoscientists Canada website (<https://geoscientistscanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/GC-Knowledge-Req-BKLT-REV-EN-web-final.pdf>). Geography is included in the Environmental Geoscience stream with geomorphology and hydrology along with remote sensing and geomatics. The annual Board and AGM will be held in Toronto on June 14

A Communications Update illustrated that there are good analytics of social media with website, twitter and facebook communications reaching an audience across the country. CAG is linked from CFES website, <https://www.cfes-fcst.ca/member-organizations>

Danielle Fortin presented a report about PAGSE - Partnership Group for Science and Engineering that hosts the Bacon and Eggheads breakfasts on Parliament Hill. PAGSE includes linkages to 24 Societies, and was sponsored by the Royal Society, but is no longer associated. Now the Canadian Museum of Nature hosts it and NSERC funding supports it. PAGSE hosts about 8 breakfasts per year including topics like Automated Cars, Cannabis in Canada, Food Safety for 21st C, Chemical contamination, Plastics in the Environment, Indigenous water supply and health challenges, Metals and sustainability, Toxic algae, etc. There is a typical attendance of about 59 MPs, Senators, support staffers and Deputy Ministers. The breakfasts, held in the Sir John A Macdonald building, are very useful to communicate Science to parliamentarians. Usually after a breakfast, a SciEng Page is developed and posted online to detail information on the topic associated with the breakfast. It was reported that those who attend are always quite enthusiastic about the materials they learn at the breakfasts. There is an Earth Science or Environmental research focussed breakfast about once a year. CAG can suggest to CFES who might be a good speaker, and can work with the CFES President to make suggestions. Information about the breakfasts is available on the PAGSE website (<http://pagse.org/en/breakfasts.htm>).

Lesley Hymers updated the council on The Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN) that focusses on all levels of geoscience education in Canada. This report included information

on: EdGEO Workshop Program – in place since 1970 to provide professional learning programs for teachers; Geoscience Aware Challenge – booklet of activities for Manitoba Girl Guides, document with learning principles and core competencies in Earth Science; Outreach and Public Engagement Guidebook; and Geoscientists in Canadian National Parks.

Kathy Dunnell, CFES Media Liaison, reported the results on a survey of how information is disseminated by the Science Media Centre of Canada.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00.