



DRAFT MINUTES - CGU Annual General Business Meeting

June 8, 2022

Remote Meeting (Zoom)

**Attendees:** Julian Lowman, Andrew Ireson, Claire Currie, Laura Brown, Alex Fogal, Mishelle Wehbe, Tiffany Lancaster (NSERC), Colin Whitfield, Robin Thorne, Pascal Audet, Celine Gueguen, Alex Donaldson, Carl Mitchell, Pete Whittington, Fiona Darbyshire, Jianliang Huang, Philip Heron, Masaki Hayashi, Zhihong Pan, T. Gardner, Rob McCrory, Breanne Lane, Zhihyong Huang, Yonas Berhan, Sean Trim, Brian Burrell, Mina Masoud

Julian Lowman called the meeting to order at 11:48 PM CST on June 8, 2022.

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion by Brown, seconded by Whittington. Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes of the July 20, 2021 CGU Annual General Business Meeting

**Motion by Whitfield, seconded by Darbyshire. Carried.**

3. President's Remarks

Lowman: Reviewed membership numbers; membership numbers have decreased in the last two years, likely due to COVID pandemic and lack of in-person meetings; CGU Executive is discussing how to increase member numbers; for 2023 CGU is planning to drop fees for student members for one-year trial

Lowman: thank you to Andrew Ireson (CGU Vice-President) for helping to organize the 2022 meeting and Genevieve Ali (CGU Awards Committee Chair) for her work in coordinating awards; CGU Virtual

Booth at this meeting has announcements of this year's award winners and additional material; CGU is planning to honour award winners for 2020-2023 at the 2023 meeting in Banff

4. Motion to appoint Lekadir LLP (formerly van Berkom Professional Corporation, Chartered Accountants) as 2022 CGU Auditors.

**Motion by Brown, seconded by Darbyshire. Carried.**

5. Treasurer's Report

Brown: CGU is in a good financial position; current account balance is \$459,816.07; this includes the ESP section balance (\$3562.90); 2021 financial statements are still being reviewed by accountants, but CGU posted a loss of ~\$18,000, which was anticipated; current annual expenses are \$18-20K and for 2022, we are projecting a surplus of \$11,000; Section transfers are expected to be similar to last year and will be finalized shortly; if a section has a major initiative, please contact the CGU Executive

6. Report from NSERC Officers

Lancaster (program officer for NSERC Geosciences): Updated from NSERC - strategic plan was released on March 14, 2022; NSERC has developed guides for incorporating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research, as well as updated guidelines on assessment of contributions to research, training and mentoring (now a single document); NSERC also has several leave policies (primary caregivers, family and medical leave), including paid maternity and parental leave for students and postdoctoral fellows; please see NSERC website for this information

Lancaster: thank you to committee members and external reviewers for 2022 Discovery Grant competition; results will be posted on NSERC website shortly; 2023 competition will also be held virtually; NSERC offers support for Early Career Researchers (ECR) through additional funds to Discovery Grants and Discovery Launch Supplement; researchers in last year of Discovery Grant will be offered optional one-year extension at current funding levels due to COVID; NSERC also has the Discovery Horizons program (NOI deadline June 15, 2022) for interdisciplinary research

7. Future CGU Meetings

Lowman: 2023 meeting will be in Banff (May 7-10) at Banff Park Lodge, all previous deposits are being honoured, there will be a Call for Session proposals in late fall; information will be updated regularly on CGU website and by email; local organizing committee is being formed and CGU Executive is currently

working to identify a conference organizer

Lowman: for the 2024 meeting, two candidate cities are Ottawa and Victoria; looking for interest in people to form a local organizing committee and/or a partner organization; please send any feedback to Lowman about these two cities; 2025 CGU meeting is tentatively planned to be a joint meeting with CMOS in Saskatoon

#### 8. Introduction of CGU's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

Heron (member of EDI committee): EDI committee has been formed; committee makes suggestion to CGU Executive on how to improve EDI within CGU; some current initiatives include the development of a code of conduct for CGU meetings and a process for investigating concerns; committee members are Sara Knox, Philip Heron, Daniel Moore, Nadine Shatilla, Colin McCarter; please get in touch with any committee member with any comments or concerns

#### 9. Update on effort to form an Executive for the Earth Surface Processes (ESP) section

Lowman: thank you to Jackie Cockburn for dedication to the section for many years; there is currently no ESP Executive and therefore the CGU Executive has been overseeing ESP activities; all current ESP members were contacted by email to seek volunteers to form a new ESP Executive but no responses have been received; after much deliberation, the CGU Executive intends to dissolve this section and current ESP members will become general CGU members (i.e., members without a section affiliation) and when they renew in 2023, can either choose a new section or remain as a general CGU member

#### 10. Consideration of membership for CGU in Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES)

Ireson: CFES is umbrella organization for various Earth Sciences groups in Canada, CGU has been invited to join CFES; the goals of CFES are posted on their website (<https://www.cfes-fcst.ca/>); there is an annual cost to join CFES (~\$400) and CGU did not join in 2015, likely due to financial reasons; the CGU Executive is seeking input on this decision, please contact Lowman or Ireson with feedback

#### 11. Questions from Members

Wehbe: does NSERC have funding for people with disabilities?

Lancaster: no, but this information should be provided in applications so that NSERC can understand if this is something needed

Mitchell: is NSERC working on any new initiatives that students should be aware of?

Lancaster: there is nothing in the works for policy and applications, but NSERC is looking at the funding amounts for students

Lowman: if you are extending a grant due to COVID, what information is needed?

Lancaster: any impacts of COVID should be discussed in application, where you provide details and timeframe; eligible researchers will receive an email soon about the possibility of an extension (do not need to provide an explanation at this stage)

Wehbe: has CGU considered doing more advertising, such as sending information to individual departments?

Lowman: this is a good idea

Darbyshire: information could also be sent to the email list for heads of Earth Science departments

Lowman: becoming a member of CFES may also help us

Darbyshire: are there plans to change session transfers (e.g., the amount per member)

Brown: there is a formula based on section membership, as well as the size of the meeting (\$12-\$15 per member), and CGU is also happy to support other activities for sections

Lowman: it would be good to look at the formula going forward, given that CGU is in a good financial position

Mitchell: comment - there is some interest in holding the 2024 meeting in Ottawa

Lowman: another issue that is being discussed is whether there is a partner organization that would drive meeting in a given city; this is something that will be discussed

Mitchell: recommend that a decision should be made before the end of summer 2022

## 12. Adjournment

**Motion by Currie, seconded by Darbyshire. Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM CST.**