



MINUTES - CGU Annual General Business Meeting
May 10, 2023
Banff Park Lodge

Attendees: Julian Lowman, Andrew Ireson, Claire Currie, Laura Brown, Carl Mitchell, Kristy Thornton, Sarah Gigi, Wai Lam, Plank Huang, Sayuri Sagisaka Mendez, Nora Casson, Lauren Somers, Kerri Finlay, Mennatullah Elrashidy, Terri Whitehead, Arsh Grewal, Phil Heron, Andrew Frederiksen, Sara Knox, Nigel Roulet, Steffy Velosa, Peter Morse, April James, Magali Nehmy, Audrey Maher, Don Peters, Sara Saraswati, Elise Devoie, Taiwo Ojo, Joshua Guerrero, Pejvak Javaheri, Robert McGrory, Fiona Darbyshire, Maria Strack, Colin McCarter, Mike Waddington, Scott Brown, Scott Ketcheson, Tim Duval, Cindy Moraastock, Akalya Kandiah, Prabin Rokaya, Kevin Devito, Hongxiu Wang, Faraz Khan, Zohra Zahir, Chong Liu, Colin Whitfield, Salvatore Curasi, John Pomeroy, Jeff McKenzie, Phil McCausland, June Skeeter, Zach Boudreau (Campbell Scientific), Megan Holland, Alexis Robinson, Noah Bacal, Ismael Foroughi, Spiros Pagiatakis, Holger Steffen, Frank Seglenieks, Shakil Ahmed, Britt Hall

Julian Lowman called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM MDT on May 10, 2023.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Andrew Frederiksen, seconded by Jeff McKenzie. Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of the June 8, 2022 CGU Annual General Business Meeting

Motion by Andrew Ireson, seconded by Rob McGrory. Carried.

3. President's Remarks

Lowman: The last couple of years have been a difficult period. In particular, there has been a reduction in the number of nominations for CGU awards. CGU members are encouraged to think about who should receive recognition (Wilson medal, Young Scientists Award, Meritorious Service award), as there were no nominations for any of these award this year. CGU is looking to form an awards committee that has one member from at least 3 of the 4 sections. An announcement and call for committee members will be sent by email this summer. CGU is also working on formalizing the EDI committee and and more will be presented later today.

Lowman: CGU has had successful meetings in the past by partnering with other organizations. There are opportunities coming up in future years to partner with other societies. CGU should be flexible about opportunities, and it is difficult if we get locked into 3 or 4 year cycles of meeting with other organizations. CGU is also mindful of meeting costs and is looking at reducing costs through meeting location choice and catering inclusion, especially in the current inflationary environment. For inclusivity and encouraging student involvement, reduced costs are important. Next year's meeting will be at a university which will help.

4. Motion to appoint Lekadir LLP (formerly van Berkom Professional Corporation, Chartered Accountants) as 2023 CGU Auditors.

Motion by Colin Whitfield, seconded by John Pomeroy. Carried.

5. Treasurer's Report

Brown: CGU is still in good financial shape with over \$465K in bank account. \$300K has been put into GIC's where interest is staggered and CGU will be able to use the interest for initiatives. We have currently made \$15K in deposits for next year's meeting. The section transfers for 2022 were \$12/member. The low number of members means that the transfers were quite low. Sections are encouraged to request funds for initiatives. The CGU executive will be reviewing the section transfers for 2023 in the next few months.

Brown: The projection for the current year is a loss of about \$45K. This was planned and we will recover next year. This includes a loss of \$30K for the Banff meeting. This was needed in order to bring down costs for participants by lower the registration fees, especially for students. The other expenses are similar to past years (website, secretariate, and student awards). The professional fees have increased slightly due to our larger bank account. We have lost some of the student award sponsorships (Don Gray), and this is the last year for those awards.

6. Secretary's Report

Currie: Thank you to Kristy Thornton for her work in managing CGU memberships and compiling membership numbers. CGU currently has 383 members, 51% are students. The number of student members increased significantly this year, likely because of the free student memberships and the return to an in-person meeting. Over the last 10 years, membership has fluctuated, with a high value of 500 members in 2017. Membership has been low for 2020-2022, due to COVID, but we are now in an upswing. Current section memberships is: Biogeosciences = 63; Geodesy = 15; Hydrology = 196; Solid Earth = 54; General/None = 55. The Earth Surface Processes section was dissolved in 2022.

Question from member: where did the ESP members go?

Currie: For 2022, they were moved to the General section. If they renewed this year, they may have chosen another section.

Lowman: Before dissolving ESP, there were a number of emails send to ESP members. This included a call for people interested in forming a section executive, but no one stepped forward to volunteer

7. Future CGU Meetings

Lowman: 2024 meeting – the CGU is under contract for a meeting Ottawa, to be held at Carleton University (May 26-29). Murray Richardson has been working on organization.

Lowman: 2025 meeting – CGU has a joint agreement with CMOS for a meeting in Saskatoon. CGU has been approached by other organizations about potential partnerships for meetings in 2026, 2028, and 2030.

8. CGU Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

Sara Knox: The EDI committee has been working on a number of tasks. One key objective of the committee is to develop a code of conduct for CGU meetings. The committee has also drafted bylaws to formalize committee. The tentative structure is for the committee to have at least 6 members: 1 member for each of the 4 CGU sections + minimum of 2 members of large. The committee should also have a minimum of one student or postdoctoral fellow (either as section representative or member at large). The committee is working on appointment procedure and details of committee descriptions and term limits. The current EDI committee includes: Sara Knox (UBC), Dan Moore (UBC), Natash Leclerc (Memorial), Kelly Biagi (Brock), Colin McCarter (Nipissing), Phil Heron (UTSC). The committee encourages all CGU members to get in touch with them (edi@cgu-ugc.ca) with comments, suggestions, and ideas.

9. Election of Executive Officers

Lowman: This year, we will have an election for the CGU Executive Officers. The slate of candidates is:

Andrew Ireson (President)

Claire Oswald (Vice-President)

Laura Brown (Treasurer)

Claire Currie (Secretary)

Julian Lowman (Past President)

Note that only the Vice-President position is voted by members at the AGBM.

Ireson: I am stepping into the role of President after serving as Vice-President for the past 2 years. I am a hydrologist from the University of Saskatchewan, and served as the Vice-President and President of the Hydrology section. I have been coming to CGU meetings since arriving in Canada in 2011, and it has been a very rewarding experience and hope to continue that.

Ireson: The only position that is voted on is the Vice-President position. Claire Oswald is standing for this position. Claire is also a hydrologist from Toronto Metropolitan University. She has served on the Hydrology section executive. Treasurer and Secretary positions are not voted on – Laura Brown remaining on at Treasurer and has significant institutional memory.

Nomination for Claire Oswald by Mike Waddington; seconded by Julian. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

Lowman: I would like to express deep gratitude to Andrew Ireson for his extensive work in organizing the 2022 virtual meeting and 2023 meeting.

10. Questions from Members

Lam: Is budgeting for CGU student conference part of CGU budgeting. Does CYHS host student conference or does someone else do this?

Lowman: There are a number of student conference that CGU supports and this is something that CGU would like to continue to do

Zahir: I am really enjoying the CGU meeting but as outsider, I have found that there is a lack of representation by people of colour in presentations and committees. Is the CGU acting on this?

Knox: This is something the EDI committee would like to act on and the committee encourages people to send suggestions and to become involved of EDI committee and other parts of CGU

Lowman: Changes are happening; the current people in executive came through CGU in 1990s and 2000s, when demographics were quite different. CGU does want people to become involved

but it takes time for people to come through system.

Zahir: It is important to reach out to people to invite them to be part of committees.

Lowman: I agree with this

Whittington: What are the dates for the 2025 Saskatoon meeting. The dates for the Ottawa meeting will create problems for people doing fieldwork.

Lowman: The 2025 meeting dates will be determined by CMOS; Ottawa dates were determined by the availability of the venue.

Ireson: The dates for Saskatoon meeting are Sunday May 24 to Thursday May 29, 2025

John Pomeroy: Are there plans for possible future meetings with AGU?

Lowman: CGU is looking at a partnership with the AGU Hydrology group for 2026. There are currently no other plans for meeting with AGU, but there are discussions for joint meetings with other organizations, including International Geological Congress (Calgary, 2028) and International Soil Sciences (Toronto, 2030)

Ireson: There is suggestion from Zoom attendee that EDI and Awards committee should be combined

Lowman: This is something that needs to be discussed by CGU Executive; there are confidentiality issues related to the handling of awards that would need to be addressed.

Ireson and Mitchell: clarification that the suggestion was not for the two committees to be combined, but that the awards committee should consider EDI and perhaps one member of the EDI committee should be part of the awards committee.

Casson: Will free membership for students continue? There was significant support for this to continue from Biogeosciences section AGM

Lowman: CGU would like to continue this for as long as it is financially feasible; CGU Executive will review this on an annual basis.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Jeff McKenzie, seconded by Fiona Darbyshire. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 PM MDT.