



DRAFT MINUTES - CGU Annual General Business Meeting
May 29, 2024
Carleton University

Attendees: Genevieve Ali, Rodolfo Alvarado Montero, Ana Maria Alvarez Caiza, Daniel Amaro Medina, Sarah Ariano, Pascal Audet, Christina Bao, Majid (Ara) Bayati, Kelly Biagi, Sam Butler, Sean Carey, Nora Casson, Salvatore Curasi, Claire Currie, Fiona Darbyshire, Hope Dettweiler, Tim Duval, Stephen Ferguson, Ismael Foroughi, Larissa Gospodyn, Britt Hall, Warren Helgasson, Andrew Ireson, April James, Akalya Kandiah, Kasra Keshavarz, Scott Ketcheson, Homa Kheyrollah Pour, Sara Knox, Sian Kou-Geisbrecht, Barret Kurylyk, Mickael Lalande, Natasha Leclerc, Hongli Liu, Philip Marsh, Colin McCarter, Lauren Miranda, Carl Mitchell, Tim Moore, Magali Nehemy, Erin Nicholls, Claire Oswald, Spiros Pagiatakis, Nicolas Perciballi, Javad Rahmani, Fereidoun Rezanezhad, Alexis Robinson, Michael Sheng, Lauren Somers, Oliver Sonnentag, Calder Stark, Maria Strack, Muhammad Umair, Dawn Urycki, Steffy Velosa, Kelin Wang, Yuying Wang, Alice Watts, Wyatt Weatherson, Colin Whitfield, Henry Wilson, Maryam Yousefi, Shengde Yu

Andrew Ireson called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM EDT on May 29, 2024.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Ismael Foroughy, seconded by Britt Hall. Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of the May 10, 2023 CGU Annual General Business Meeting

Motion by Colin McCarter, seconded by Pascal Audet. Carried.

3. Motion to appoint Lekadir LLP (formerly van Berkom Professional Corporation, Chartered Accountants) as 2024 CGU Auditors.

Ireson: Reappointed long-time CGU accountant (Brenda van Berkom). Cost when up in 2023 because our high balance puts us into a different category

Motion by Maria Strack; seconded by Colin Whitfield. Carried.

4. Treasurer's Report

Andrew Ireson: Currently have \$466,000 in bank; 2023 meeting made a surplus of \$20,000 and expected surplus from 2024 meeting is about \$7,000.

Yearly expenses are: \$3000 awards; \$7000 to sections (\$15/member + special requests from sections), \$2500 miscellaneous (conference \$5800 professional fees), \$3000 secretariat (assistant to the executive + webmaster), \$3500 website

Questions and comments

Member question: have a lot of money and opportunities to increase help for students; is this possible to do?

Member question: do we need to make money every year? Could student fees be decreased for conferences?

Andrew Ireson: we do not have to make a profit; we also make money from interest and could look at using this for student awards; have tried to keep costs of meeting to a minimum for all members; have free student membership which will continue

Member question: why do student awards change from year to year?

Genevieve Ali: the funding associated with awards varies from year to year because some awards are not given out every year

Claire Oswald: also had registration waivers processed by EDI committee and funded by CGU

Member question: what is the major source of conference revenue in 2019?

Fiona Darbyshire: revenue came from IUGG meeting in 2019; was president of local organizing committee; there were a large number of last-minute registrations that provided additional funding to all organizations that were involved

Member question: why not partner with other organizations when opportunities arise?

Andrew Ireson: to be discussed later today

5. Secretary's Report

Claire 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 are: Biogeosciences = 63; Geodesy = 15; Hydrology = 196; Solid Earth = 54; General/None = 55. The Earth Surface Processes section was dissolved in 2022.

Questions and comments

Member question: Is it possible to require people to join a section when they join CGU or renew their membership?

Claire Currie: we will look at this for the 2025 memberships

6. Awards Chair report

Genevieve Ali: CGU has two union-level awards for students: (1) CGU best student paper award (\$500) – open to members; (2) Don Gray Scholarship in Canadian Hydrology \$2500) – funding renewed on yearly basis based on discussion between the CGU President and Gray sisters.

CGU previously had two other student awards: (1) Stan Paterson Scholarship in Canadian Glaciology (\$2500) – discontinued in 2024; (2) Chevron Canada Outstanding Student paper in seismology (\$500) – discontinued in 2020

There are also three non-student awards: Young Scientist, Meritorious Service, Tuzo Wilson

Reviewed number of applicants/nominees for awards – in the last six years (2019-2024), several awards had one applicant or less: Don Gray (2 times), Young Scientist Award (4 times),

Meritorious Service (5 times), Tuzo Wilson (3 times)

Reviewed current process for selecting recipient of non-student awards: awards committee consists of the Awards Chair (non-voting), and judges from each of 4 sections + EDI committee (5 in total, voting, selected anew every year based on COI); judges provide ranking to Awards Chair who identifies the majority vote and writes a report for the CGU executive

Process for student awards: Awards Chair distributes application to sections who take care of judging; the Best Paper Award is determined by 3 judges (invited by Awards chair) who evaluate extended abstracts and they create short-list whose presentations are judged during meeting

Upcoming changes to processes: implement a Deputy Awards Chair position, Awards Chair is putting together a document outlining all award procedures and is examining whether some changes are needed to award terms of references (e.g., provision for parental leave for Young Scientist Award); document and changes to be vetted by EDI committee and approved by the CGU executive

Questions and comments

Member question: in the awards process, will there be opportunities for members to comment on procedure?

Andrew Ireson: yes, possible to have comments; our agenda is to be more transparent and to encourage more applications/nominations

7. Future CGU Meetings

Claire Oswald: Thank you to those who helped organize the 2024 meeting, especially the Scientific Program Committee (consisting of the VPs of section + EDI committee)

2025 meeting – meeting will be held jointly with CMOS, May 25-29; at TCU Place in Saskatoon SK; theme is Resilient Futures; CGU has been working to make meeting more welcoming to Solid Earth and Geodesy aware that this meeting may not appear to be as welcoming to Solid Earth and Geodesy and have people on organizing committee to address this

2026 meeting – currently in early discussions about aiming for meeting in Halifax, on Dalhousie University campus to keep costs down

8. Reports from sections and committees

Barret Kurylyk (Hydrology section president): Hydrology has 95 abstracts and 13 blocks/sessions + Woo lecture at the Annual Meeting; currently working on a special issue in Hydrological Processes (7 papers in last year's issue; 15-20 manuscripts in current SI); section has 7 active committees, most active is CYHS (student conference, writing workshop); Hydrology executive staying as is, except for the CYHS representative (Rachel Lackey)

Britt Hall (Biogeosciences section president): 93 abstracts + plenary (Merrin Macrae) and an increase in student award candidates (thanks to Hoskins for sponsoring awards), Biogeosciences hosted two virtual "coffee" events for student mentoring, section is working on a special collection in FACETS and looking at updating bylaws and continuing virtual coffee events

Fiona Darbyshire (Solid Earth section president): 6 Solid Earth sessions at Annual Meeting, including two sessions in memory of Roy Hyndman; running the SES Best Student presentation award; considering potential Solid Earth partnerships for the 2026 meeting (e.g., Eastern Section of Seismological Society of America); discussion during the Solid Earth section AGM about how best to revitalize memberships (assuming retention, attracting more students, reaching out to other organizations with similar interests); section is also looking at opportunities to run workshops and pursue other meetings

Ismael Foroughi (Geodesy section president): 24 abstracts (last year: 7) + one invited talk at Annual Meeting; using funding from CGU, the section organized a geodesy field trip to Dominion Observatory on May 28, the section also has Geodesy t-shirts and a Geoid2022 puzzle, and the section has created a student award (\$500)

Colin McCarter (EDI committee): the committee held 7 meetings as a group over the last year and worked on a number of topics including: implementing the registration fee waiver, organizing the EDI plenary talk and supporting the EDI technical session, writing bylaws, creating an info sheet for convenors, creating a list of suggestions for a more inclusive and accessible conference; future plans for the committee include: finalizing bylaws for review by CGU executive, finalizing an inclusive method of bringing in new members to EDI committee, creating plans to make committee more transparent (e.g., accessible meeting notes), streamlining the registration fee waiver, creating a yearly EDI report; planning another EDI plenary at the Annual Meeting; considering running a Science Communication workshop for the Fall; the EDI committee welcomes members to get in touch: edi@cgu-ugc.ca

9. President's Remarks

Andrew Ireson: At the Annual Meeting, there are 283 talks and posters; 311 participants (~50% attending for the first time); meeting will make about \$10K

CGU Executive: reviewed current executive membership; noted that several positions will turnover in 2025; the executive held two meetings (Nov 2, 2023; May 8, 2024); several issues currently being discussed, including the EDI committee bylaws and review of awards procedures

CGU Budget: CGU has a healthy bank balance; proposed ideas for how this can be used: fund another union level scholarship? Introduce a mid-career award?

10. Questions from Members

Member comment: an easy thing to do would have some period of continuance for student awards, with the CGU funding them (e.g., Stan Paterson)

Claire Oswald: would be nice to have student award at union-level for each section

Andrew Ireson: The CGU executive will discuss these ideas

Member question: some people can not attend the meeting banquet because they are leaving early; is it possible to hold the banquet on the second night of meeting?

Claire Oswald: the banquet is held on the last night because awards are given out

Andrew Ireson: we do not know all the student award winners until the end of the meeting

Genevieve Ali: in past, we did not give out student awards in banquet

Member comment: it would be nice to have more student awards (perhaps with less money per award)

Claire Oswald: each award requires multiple judges, which means that so having more awards creates a significant workload

Genevieve Ali: securing 5 judges takes several weeks of work by the Awards Chair

10. Adjournment

Motion by Colin Macrae, seconded by Fiona Darbyshire. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM EDT.