

Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers

**MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
Simon Fraser University
Harbour Centre Campus, Vancouver, BC
March 16, 2002**

37 members in attendance

1. Meeting called to order 5:10 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To accept the agenda.

Moved: Bob Horsfall, SFU

Seconded: Michael Wilson, Douglas College

Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 2001 AGM

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 2001 meeting.

Moved: Ross Nelson, UCC

Seconded: Bob Horsfall, SFU

Carried.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) New Policy on student conference funding.

Rodney Fowler distributed copies of the suggested new policy on student conference funding (see attached).

Following discussion of the alternate scenarios presented, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To introduce Item 1 only ("Waiver of registration fee for student presenter [student actually making the presentation]") as the criteria for student awards.

Moved: Bem Moffat, Medicine Hat

Seconded: Bob Horsfall, SFU

Discussion:

Following discussion of the pros and cons of adopting this policy, as well as other alternatives, the motion was withdrawn.

The president will strike a committee to review the student funding issue and to consider an application process for financial aid to attend the WCAG meetings.

Withdrawn

5. Reports

a) Sectreatry/Treasurer.

Ivan Townshend reviewed his written report. The accounts show a moderate surplus, and \$549.47 is expected from proceeds of the 2001 meeting (Calgary). The only unusual expense reported was the \$500 expense in support/sponsorship of the CCGE/NCGE meeting (c/o Margaret North). The treasurer described the current accounting confusion resulting from 2 separate accounts

(operating account and special education account) and requested the membership close the education account and roll these funds into the general operating account.

MOTION: To accept the Secretary/Treasurer's Report.

Moved: Jim Windsor, CNC
 Seconded: Alistair McVey, North Island College.

Carried.

MOTION: To close the Education trust account and transfer the balance to the general operating account.

Moved: Ivan Townshend, Lethbridge
 Seconded: Bob Horsfall, SFU

Carried.

b) Publication Editor.

Jim Windsor reviewed his written report. The Editor again commented on the paucity of submissions to the journal and the danger of its demise. Only 1 manuscript has been received for Vol 12. The editor described that there is a possibility of publishing Vol 12 as a special issue with papers on Northern BC. Jim asked for volunteers to begin to assume some of the responsibilities of editor of Western Geography.

MOTION: To accept the Publication Editor's Report.

Moved: Ben Moffat, Medicine Hat
 Seconded: Ross Nelson, UCC

Carried.

MOTION: To publish Vol 12 as a special issue on Northern British Columbia.

Moved: Ross Nelson, UCC
 Seconded: Bob Horsfall, SFU

Carried.

Other business:

Neil Hanlon (UNBC) and Ross Nelson (UCC) volunteered to replace two members retiring from the Editorial Board of Western Geography (Paul Thomas and Colin Wood).

c) Newsletter Editor.

Bob Horsfall presented an oral report and raised a number of issues for action.

MOTION: To accept the Newsletter Editor's report.

Moved: Rod Fowler, Kwantlen
 Seconded: Jim Windsor, CNC

Carried.

Items requiring action:

i) The decision to continue printing the newsletter in hard-copy or to move to electronic format.

MOTION: To move to electronic-only publishing of the newsletter.

Moved: Bob Horsfall, SFU
 Seconded: Alistair McVey, North Island College.

Carried.

ii) Problems in obtaining department information / news.

The editor identified a need to identify a key resource person in each geography department who would be responsible for regular and timely submissions of departmental news. Rod Fowler (president) will contact all departments to identify these individuals.

- iii) Appointment of new Newsletter Editor.
Ineke Dijks (Indep) volunteered to take over as Newsletter Editor from Bob Horsfall. The membership thanked Bob Horsfall for his dedicated service as Newsletter editor.

d) Education Committee.

Ross Nelson (UCC) presented an oral report of the Education committee. He outlined the following work of the committee:

- The CCGE meeting held in Vancouver in 2001
- The work of the Geography Network in BC and their receipt of \$75,000 from the BC government.
- A workshop for Education students held in Kamloops and the potential for a future certificate course in geographic education.
- The potential for new funding opportunities through the NGS.

June Whitmore (UVic) addressed the members and commented on:

- Issues surrounding the incorporation geography in the education curriculum in BC
- The work of the Social Studies Overview Committee and the need for geographic representation on this committee
- The review of the BC grade 12 curriculum to ensure geographic concepts are included.
- The provision of Geomedia and Arview software (free of charge) to BC schools.

The membership recognized June Whitmore for her service to education in geography. June was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

MOTION: To accept the Education Committee's Report
 Moved: Michale Wislon, Douglas College
 Seconded: Bob Horsfall, SFU

Carried.

e) President's Report.

Rod Fowler presented an oral report (no written report distributed).
 The president outlined some of his activities over the past year. These included:

- His attendance at the GSC open house to provide representation from geography.
- Rod identified that the GSC had expressed interest in making presentations at future WCAG meetings.
- The president attended the Pacific Northwest Consortium on Geographic Education. He outlined a number of joint initiatives this group is involved in, and the potential for research and student funding through these joint initiatives.
- His attendance at a workshop concerning NAFTA issues and American/Canadian government policy implications.
- Further details of the president's activities will be published through the WCAG newsletter.

MOTION: To accept the President's Report
 Moved: Earl Noah, Douglas College
 Seconded: Jim Windsor, CNC

Carried.

6. New Business

a) The GST problem.

The president identified a potential problem arising from the fact that the WCAG does not have GST Number. This is most problematic in terms of conference registrations--especially when organized through university conference service departments. The president will investigate the requirements for GST collection or exemption prior to the next AGM.

b) Division Archivist.

The WCAG archives are housed at Simon Fraser University. There is a need to identify someone to take over as WCAG archivist from Len Evenden who is retiring. Len Evenden has agreed to continue as archivist for one year until a replacement can be found.

MOTION: To appoint Len Evenden (SFU) as archivist for one year.

Moved: Jim Windsor, CNC

Seconded: Dan Smith, UVIC

Carried.

c) Constitutional Changes

Rod Fowler identified two changes to the constitution that would benefit the functioning of the WCAG:

- i) That all WCAG executive be members of the CAG.
- ii) To eliminate the category of WDCAG-only membership.

These items will be placed on the agenda for next year.

7. Awards

The following awards were made.

a) SOGS Scavenger Hunt:

Students from UCC were winners of the 2002 Scavenger Hunt. (this award not made at the AGM).

b) Student Paper Awards:

This was the fifth year of the student paper presentation competition. The winners were:

Undergraduate:

Winner: Julie Bogdanowicz, UVIC "Surfurbia in Vactoria"

Honorable Mentions:

Jennifer Harvey, UVIC.

Diane Parker, Heather Rogers, Carla Salituro, UCC

Masters:

Laura Ryser, UNBC, "Defining Responsibilities For Climate Responsive Design: Conflicting Political and Structural Frameworks."

Honorable Mentions:

Kelly Giesbrech, UNBC

Alexis Johnson, UVic

PhD.

No PhD paper presentations were made at the 2002 meeting.

c) Certificates of Service

The Division recognized three members for their contribution to the WCAG and to geography:

- June Whitmore, Uvic
- Bob Horsfall, SFU
- Len Evenden, SFU

d) WCAG Coffee Mug Award

- Dan Smith, Uvic, for his service in maintaining the email list.

e) Special Merit Presentation

- On behalf of the members Alistair McVey and Greg Halseth presented Len Evenden (and Mrs Evenden) with a print in recognition of his many years of service to the WCAG. Len was recognized as a superb teacher and mentor for graduate students.

8. Location of Next Meetings.

The location of the next meeting has not been decided. Members will be notified through the newsletter and/or email list when a decision has been reached.

9. Elections

President Rod Fowler conducted the election for the 2002/2003 executive. The following were elected:

Vice President

Joseph Mensah, Kwantlen (1 year)

Members at Large:

Two Year Terms:

Ian Walker, Uvic

Earl Noah, Douglas College

Secretary / Treasurer

Tom Johnston, Lethbridge

Editor / Co-Editor of Newsletter:

Ineke Dijks (Indep Consult)

Education Committee Appointment:

Lyle Courtney, Douglas College

10. New Business

No new business.

11. Adjournment

MOTION:

To adjourn the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers.

Moved: Jim Windsor, CNC

Seconded: Earl Noah, Douglas College

Carried at 6:58PM