

Canadian Society of Zoologists
Société Canadienne de Zoologie
Draft Minutes / Procès verbal
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE
6 May 2022/ 6 mai 2022
Zoom meeting

Present: approximately 126 members.

1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Guderley/Morash) carried

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM OF 21 May 2021 (Bucking/Morash) carried

3) REPORTS

a) President (Anderson) thanks Nicolas Pichaud, Simon Lamarre and the VOC for a remarkably well organized virtual meeting. He thanks the executive and council members for all their work and underlines that everything that happens in the CSZ is done by volunteers. He mentions the open letter sent to Trudeau and his government emphasizing the need to increase student and PDF stipends so that they are above the poverty level. The letter has been circulated to members and is open for signing. Gary explains that there have been great discussions with editors of the Journal of Experimental Biology about establishing a workshop on Scientific Communications for Early Career Researchers. The workshop is to be run before the Saskatoon meeting, be limited to 25 participants and focus on improving scientific communications using a variety of media. The workshop would be funded by the JEB, ZET and the SEB. Places would be attributed by a lottery system. The workshop will be promoted on social media and in the CSZ blog. Gary mentions that a new MOU has been signed with Canadian Science Publishers, essentially committing the CSZ and CSP to promoting each other and setting a limit of \$4000 to facilitate symposia with papers destined for publication in the Canadian Journal of Zoology. To obtain these funds, contacts need to be made with the editors of CJZ. Gary emphasized that the deadlines for submissions of candidacies for the major society awards have been moved forward to June 30. Such submissions should be sent to Gary Anderson who as Past President will be the chair of the Nominations and Recognitions Committees

As a major aim for this AGM was to discuss the Code of Conduct proposed for integration into the bylaws, the following **Motion** (Anderson/Guderley) was made: That the Canadian society of Zoologists adopt the Code of Conduct as circulated to the society membership on May 10th, understanding that the Code will be translated into French and that this document is fluid and may be subject to revision and ratification by the CSZ over time.

In the discussion that follows, Joanna Wilson brings out the fact that the two stage mechanism proposed for dealing with problems (private first, institutional second) could be hard on Trainees. As written in the circulated version of the code, she felt that it would be very difficult for junior trainees to confront someone from whom they had felt discrimination. Trish Schulte proposed the following formulation as a friendly amendment to the Code of Conduct. "Although many issues can be dealt with directly by the parties involved, all individuals should feel comfortable to raise issues through the process outlined in section 9." Overall, as there were no major negative comments, the question was called.

Final version of the Motion: That the Canadian society of Zoologists adopt the Code of Conduct as circulated to the society membership on May 10th after inclusion of the friendly amendment ("Although many issues can be dealt with directly by the parties involved, all individuals should feel comfortable to raise issues through the process outlined in section 9.") understanding that the Code will be translated into French and that this document is fluid and may be subject to revision and ratification by the CSZ over time. 88% were in favour, 12% abstained.

Next came the motion for approving these revisions:

Motion (Anderson/Bucking): That the Canadian Society of Zoologists approve the revisions to the bylaws reflecting the adoption of the Code of Conduct with the understanding that these changes will be translated into French. (93% in favour, 7% abstention)

b) 2nd Vice President reporting on diversity issues (Bucking) Carol congratulates the amount of work done by the EDI committee as clearly evidenced by the Code of Conduct we had just finished discussing. While there has been more EDI activity, she keeps her report very brief. She does mention that while over 60% of the nominees for the major awards were women, over 80% of the judges for the major awards were women as well. She encourages members to volunteer as judges and notes that the post-doctoral members were marvellously ready to act as judges.

d) Treasurer (Milligan) Explains that the financial position of the society is good as there were few expenses, outside of running the virtual meeting. With good attendance at the virtual meeting and reasonable sponsorship, the society looks to break even for the meeting. The financial statements provided are for 2021 and were audited by Yolanda Morbey and Sheila Macfie.

Motion That the AGM accept the audited financial statements for the CSZ for 2021 (Milligan/Guderley). 94% in favour, 6% abstentions

In discussing ZET finances, the fact that few donations are received by ZET (and that they always come from the same individuals) is mentioned. As ZET is the source of all the financial awards made by the CSZ, donations are needed to maintain this capacity.

Motion That the AGM accept the audited financial statements for the ZET for 2021 (Milligan/Marshall). 94% in favour, 6% abstentions

Motion That the AGM appoint Yolanda Morbey and Steve Perry as auditors for the CSZ for 2022 (Anderson/Bucking). 96% in favour, 4% abstentions

e) Secretary (Guderley) Helga explains that she will retire after the May meeting in 2023. She welcomes discussions with potential replacements about the roles and responsibilities of the secretary.

f) Communications officer (Marshall) The CSZ has 597 members! Katie credits the low registration costs for the meeting for the uptick in numbers. She looks forward to working with the new councillors and explains that a website revamping committee will examine the potential solutions to improving website functionality. She invites volunteers to assist with this process.

4) SECTION REPORTS

a) CPB (Morash) Says that the section has lots of money given the lack of travel spending during 2021. The section voted to use some of these funds to support travel to some international meetings this year. The section ran a successful symposium featuring 8 early career researchers. Comments were very positive about the symposium. The incoming section chair is Paul Craig. Nominations for the next section chair are solicited.

b) IEE (Diana Sharpe) thanks the VOC for organizing an enjoyable meeting. She describes the successful symposium on biological invasions and the considerable number of candidates for the Cas Lindsey award. Sigal Balshine is the incoming chair. She is a professor of behavioural ecology at McMaster University. IEE is seeking a vice chair

c) PIE (Pat Hanington) He also thanks the VOC. PIE is doing well, good numbers and a great symposium. The 2021 Wardle winner, Shelley Adamo, gave a great presentation. The 2022 winner will speak at next year's meeting. Laura Ferguson is the incoming chair. They are seeking a vice chair.

d) CMDB (Shadwick) Bob reports that the CMDB symposium was very successful: highlighting biomechanics in deep time, with presentations by three young Canadian paleontologists working abroad. Bob congratulates Em Standen for winning the Boutilier Award. Ehab Abouheif is the

incoming chair. The section needs a vice chair. Bob promises that a new logo will soon incorporate the recently added "B".

e) Students (Schoen/Lyons) Alex thanks Sully for all his work organizing the networking event. She thanks the volunteers for participating in the event. She presents Serita Fudlosid who is the incoming student councillor. She explains that three travel awards are to be given and encourages folks to apply. The CSZ blog is a collaboration between the students and pdfs and has a small editorial committee. She encourages submissions, says that they should be sent to her and mentions that there is funding to support the authors (that aren't on the editorial committee). The students are responsible for the social media content sent out by the CSZ. Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are the primary platforms. Web postings are shared on these platforms. She invites students to run for the student councillor position.

f) PDF (Dzal) As she is changing positions and couldn't attend, Yvonne sent her regrets.

5) ANNUAL MEETINGS

a) 2022 Virtual Meeting (Lamarre) Simon mentions that there were over 380 registrants and believes that the meeting was a success. He thanks the VOC and Showcare staff for all their work.

b) 2023 Meeting in Saskatoon (Gray/Niyogi) Som and Jack are hopeful that the many preparations they made for the 2020 meeting will pay off. They are "inviting everyone to Saskatoon to find out why it is called the Paris of the Plains". Citing the information from last year's preparations: "Housing will be in brand new student residences or in an on-campus hotel. Great conference venues are available as well. Banquet will be in the Art Centre that showcases indigenous arts and culture. It overlooks the river in downtown Saskatoon."

c) 2024 Meeting in Moncton (Pichaud) Nicolas indicates that the meeting will be held at the Delta hotel following the plans they had put in place for 2022. There will also be lodging at the university dormitory. Anne Dalziel, Andrea Morash, Ben Speers Roesch, Simon Lamarre and Nicolas are the primary contacts in the LOC. The committee was exceptionally adept at avoiding a huge bill to the CSZ by agreeing to host the meeting down the road, when the fateful decision was made in February to have a virtual meeting this year. Congratulations and deep gratitude are expressed!

6) Address by incoming President Jamniczky. Heather thanks the VOC, executive and council for their hard work. She welcomes the incoming councillors and Tamara Franz-Odendaal as the incoming 2nd Vice President. She warmly congratulates all the award winners and looks forward to the upcoming awards presentation.

7) ADJOURNMENT (Jamniczky/Anderson)

Respectfully submitted,

Helga Guderley, Secretary