

Minutes of the General Business Meeting of CSEE/SCEE

May 19, 2007, NSERC Ottawa

Convened by 2007 Council members:

Graham Bell (McGill University) – President

Douglas Morris (Lakehead University) – Vice-president

Sarah Otto (University of British Columbia) – Secretary

Louis Bernatchez (Université Laval) – Treasurer

Marco Festa-Bianchet (Université de Sherbrooke) – Councillor (2006 – 2009)

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1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved, with the addition of a discussion of the outcome of GSC-18 competition.

2. Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2006 General Business meeting (circulated on web) was unanimously passed.

3. Reports

President's report (see attached)

The CSEE/SCEE is now officially incorporated as a non-profit organization in Canada. The next step is to register as a charity, so that we can issue tax receipts for donations.

CSEE/SCEE has been engaged in on-going dialogue with NSERC. The Council met with NSERC representatives in December. We emphasized the importance of the NSERC Discovery grant program to our members and the strength of ecological and evolutionary research within Canada. NSERC officials have been sympathetic to our concerns. The formation of CSEE/SCEE is timely; we have had input into such issues as the international review of NSERC and the allocation of additional funding. (NSERC received a \$37 million increase in its recent budget with three areas targeted for the additional funding, one of which was the "environment;" we argued that a good portion of these additional funds should be invested in GSC-18 and GSC-09.)

The Council has also begun to investigate the formation of a Canadian Institute for Ecology and Evolution. We believe that this would add value to the research in ecology and evolution within Canada and would not compete with Discovery grant funding. Strong support was expressed at the workshop for the Institute.

CSEE/SCEE is now a member society of the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE). The group has information meetings for parliamentarians (e.g., "bacon and eggheads"). PAGSE also submits a budget proposal to parliament. PAGSE has had a large influence on science funding and policy in the past, and the Council looks forward to having a voice in this group.

CSEE/SCEE has joined the Organization of Ecological Societies of the Americas and is now a member (via Graham Bell) on the international committee of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE).

The society has now produced two bulletins (available on-line at www.ecoevo.ca), and we thank Marco Festa-Bianchet for his efforts on the bulletin.

Future Meetings will be held in Vancouver (May 11-14; 2008) and in Halifax (tentatively May 11-14 2009). We are seeking host institutions for subsequent years.

The President views CSEE/SCEE as an important and permanent presence, advocating for ecological and evolutionary research in Canada.

Secretary's report

Membership statistics were presented (see attached). The CSEE/SCEE website is active and highly visited (www.ecoevo.ca). Announcements may be submitted to Sally Otto (info@ecoevo.ca) for posting on the web.

Treasurer's report

See attached. Excess income from 2006 is \$12396. Expenses and revenue currently match in 2007, giving a total surplus of \$11,728. A motion was proposed and unanimously approved to accept the financial report from 2006.

Election report

Ballots were cast by mail and at the meetings. The newly elected officers of the CSEE/SCEE are:

Vice-president/President elect: Spencer Barrett (2008-2011)

Student/post-doc council member: Nathalie Brodeur (2008-2009)

Council members (2008-2011):

Andrew Hendry (McGill)

Kathy Martin (UBC)

Sean Rogers (UBC)

We are grateful to each and every one of the members who agreed to run for Council.

4. General Business

NSERC GSC-18 REPORT (Marco) – (See attached report). Questions from the floor: Will cuts continue? (Don't know. Could well.) What success rate is NSERC aiming for? (Good question. CSEE/SCEE has made an argument for the importance and success of the Discovery grant program. The international reevaluation has been charged with examining this issue.) What fraction of ecologists are applying for NSERC and what fraction are represented in CSEE/SCEE? (About 1000 applicants are in the GSC-18 system over the full five-year period, suggesting about 25% are in CSEE/SCEE.)

EcoScience – At this point, there is not unanimous support among Council that this is a priority.

Representation – Are there areas in ecology and evolution that are not well represented in CSEE/SCEE? Yes, for example, ecosystems science currently appears to be underrepresented. The society wishes to represent all areas of ecology and evolution. One suggestion would be to have local representatives at each University. Another suggestion would be to ensure that symposia are broad. The symposia at Toronto were perceived as being oriented toward evolution. Council will examine these issues further.

Motion for adjournment, passed unanimously.

5. Next General Business Meeting

The next GBM will be held at the meetings in Vancouver (May 12-14, 2008).

CSEE General Business Meeting
Toronto, 2007

President's Report

Incorporation. The main business of the Society following the inaugural meeting was to become incorporated with Corporations Canada as a not-for-profit organization, and after some correspondence this was achieved in October 2006. The process required some minor changes to the Constitution that was approved by the membership, and the revised version is now on our website. The next step is to apply for status as a registered charity, in order to be able to issue tax receipts for donations, and this is being pursued.

NSERC. Perhaps the most important activity of Council and Executive over the last year has been to open a dialogue with NSERC on behalf of the ecology and evolution community. We held a Council meeting in December 2006 at the NSERC headquarters in Ottawa which included a roundtable discussion with the officers responsible for GSC18. We emphasized the fundamental contribution that our research makes to understanding and protecting the health and diversity of natural systems, and we pointed out that ecology and evolution is not only historically strong in Canada but is currently vigorous and expanding. I think that these points are understood by the NSERC administration, who are sympathetic to our cause and glad to have a coherent group with whom to communicate. One important development is that the reallocation exercises which have had a negative impact on our field in the past have been discontinued, with future allocations being made on the basis of a funding formula that will take into account the growth in activity and the increase in the cost of research. We think that the formation of the Society has been very helpful in protecting our interests during this transition. The Executive also met with Vice-President Isabelle Blain to discuss strategic issues relating to the funding of research.

The formation of the Society has indeed been particularly timely in view of the reorganization of the GSC structure that will take place in the coming year. The Society has so far made two concrete contributions to this process. First, an international panel will be convened in the Fall to review the existing structure and make recommendations for change. The Society drew up a list of candidates for this panel with experience of research and administration in ecology and evolution and submitted this list to NSERC. Secondly, we have written to Dr Suzanne Fortier, the President of NSERC, with regard to the 2007 Federal budget, which included \$37m in additional funding for NSERC. One of the three priority areas identified in the budget statement was “environment”, and we proposed that it would be appropriate to re-invest \$11.25m in support of Discovery Grant funding through GSC18 and GSC9. This would be sufficient to restore historic levels of funding in real dollars, and we hope that our proposal will be accepted. There will of course be extensive discussion of current and future funding at this meeting.

CIEE. One of the strategic issues that we have also discussed at a high level in NSERC is the desirability of establishing a Canadian Institute for Ecology and Evolution, which Council sees as a vital initiative to maintain the momentum that we have created and to secure a permanent national resource for ecology and evolution research and outreach. We think that the climate is generally sympathetic to this idea, and that the Institute would stand a good chance of attracting substantial new funding. This proposal will be the subject of a workshop led by Doug Morris, and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

PAGSE. To establish a presence in Ottawa, the Society has joined the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering, whose membership includes representatives from the main Canadian learned societies. Its monthly meetings in 2006-2007 have been addressed by the Science Advisor, the heads of all three major federal granting agencies, and representatives of major Canadian companies. PAGSE is now in the process of developing its annual budget proposal to the House of Commons Finance Committee, and our presence on this body gives us the opportunity to put some of our own major concerns on the agenda.

The Society has also been invited to joined the Organization of Ecological Societies of the Americas and the International Committee of the Society for the Study of Evolution. We are also developing our relationship with related Canadian Societies. I addressed the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Limnologists in January, and we are currently in conversation with the Canadian Society of Zoology to discuss coordination of meetings and lobbying.

Bulletin. To keep you all up to date with our activities between meetings we have established a Bulletin, edited by Marco Festa-Bianchet. Two issues have appeared so far, in January and in May, and we expect this to continue as a regular feature of Society activities. I would like to thank Marco, on behalf of the Council and the membership, for his hard work in putting together both issues of the Bulletin, especially at a time when he was burdened with onerous responsibilities as a member of GSC18.

Meetings. Another major preoccupation of Council was the planning of future meetings of the Society. We received and accepted a proposal from Locke Rowe in August 2006 to host the 2007 meeting in Toronto, which is why we are here. It looks as though we shall hold annual meetings for the foreseeable future. In January 2007 we received and accepted a proposal from Sally Otto to host the 2008 meeting in Vancouver, and we are currently negotiating to hold the 2009 meeting in Halifax. If you think that your institution would be willing to host the 2010 meeting, or any subsequent meeting, we'd be very glad to discuss the possibility with you.

In conclusion, the past year has seen the Society establish itself as a permanent actor on the Canadian scene, and I think that this will greatly benefit the study of ecology and evolution in our country. We look forward to another year of active and successful involvement in strengthening our discipline.

Respectfully submitted,

G.A.C. Bell

President, Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution.

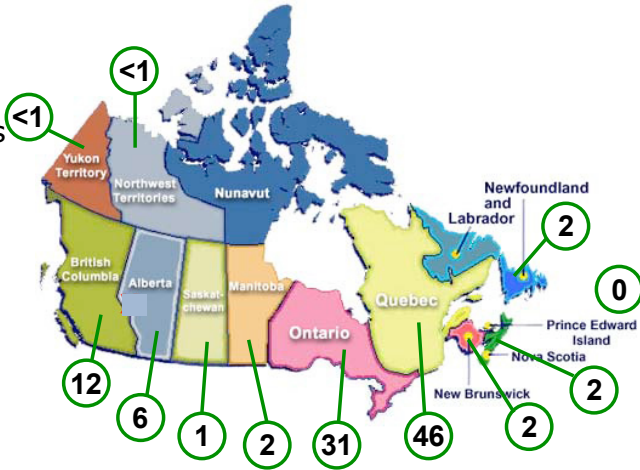
CSEE Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

SCEE Société Canadienne d'Écologie et D'Évolution

Financial statements,
December 31, 2006

Members:

532 members
 Regulars: 51%
 Students/
 postdocs: 49%
Origin:
 Canada: 94%
 Others: 6%



SCEE Société Canadienne d'Écologie et D'Évolution

CSEE Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

<u>Revenues:</u>	25 740\$	<u>Expenses:</u>	13 344\$
Membership:	16 600\$	Personal: (data base, website)	2 300\$
Conference registration:	9 140\$	Administrative fees: (Aquasalmo)	1 500\$
		Conference expenses:	8 130\$
		Office expenses:	275\$
		Incorporation expenses:	230\$
		Bank & Paypal fees:	909\$
		<u>Excess :</u>	12 396\$



CSEE Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

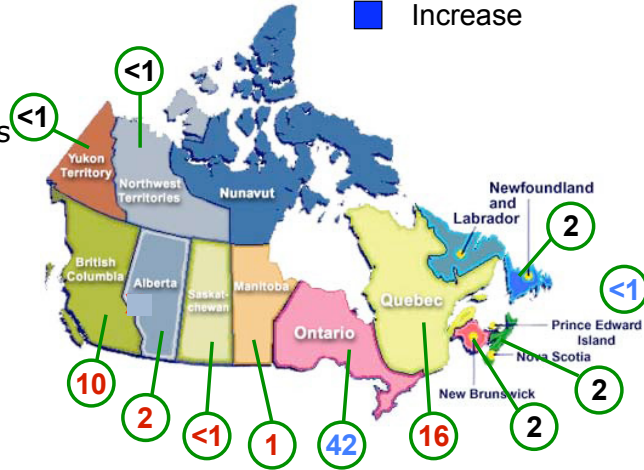
SCEE Société Canadienne d'Écologie et D'Évolution

Financial statements, Projection 2007

■ Decrease
■ Increase

Members:

490 members
 Regulars: 44%
 Students/
 postdocs: 56%
 Origin:
 Canada: 79%
 Government: 3%
 Others countries: 18%



SCEE Société Canadienne d'Écologie et D'Évolution

CSEE Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

<u>Excess 2006:</u>	12 396\$	<u>Expenses:</u>	14 080\$
<u>Revenues:</u>	14 112\$	Personal: (data base, website)	4 000\$
<u>Total 2007:</u>	26 508\$	Conference Toronto:	5 000\$
		Accountants:	1 500\$
		Partnership Group for Science and Engineering:	1 000\$
		Bank fees:	200\$
		Paypal:	700\$
		UBC Accomodation deposit:	1680\$
		Logo contest:	700\$
		<u>Excess 2007 :</u>	11 728\$



Report on the 2007 NSERC competition GSC 18: Ecology and Evolution

Marco Festa-Bianchet, Université de Sherbrooke

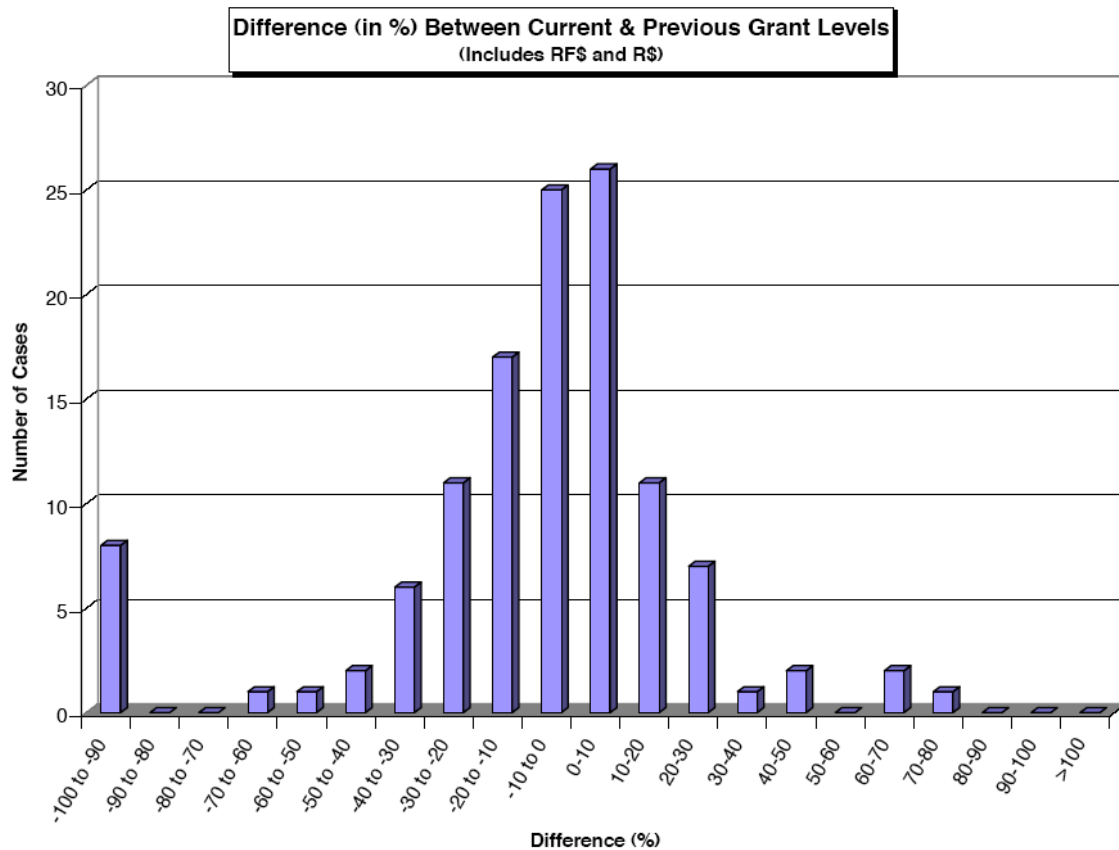


Summary

- 10% cut for returning applicants
- average \$ 29K (\$ 22K for first-timers, \$ 24K for first renewal, \$ 36K for later renewals)
- Success rate 53% for first-time applicants, 81% for returning applicants, 46% for equipment
- **A quarter of applicants (51/212) were new to the DG program. Only 41% (87/212) were applying for their third or later grant**

Returning applicants

- Received **\$ 4,073,000** in last competition (mostly 4 or 5 years ago)
- **\$ 3,666,290** available for them in the budget
- Shortfall of \$ 406,710 or 10%
- With inflation at 2% a year, decrease of 18% in purchasing power from 5 years ago



Returning	Totals	RS	RFS	RUN	RU
Number of Applicants:	161	87	35	12	27
Number of Awards:	130	84	30	9	7
Success Rate:	81%	97%	86%	75%	26%
% of Overall Avg. Grant (\$29438.3552)	104.80%	121.05%	82.87%	64.15%	56%
% of Budget:	86.93%	64.88%	15.86%	3.68%	3%
Average Grant:	\$30,851	\$35,634	\$24,396	\$18,884	\$16,500
Funding:	\$4,010,620	\$2,993,270	\$731,890	\$169,960	\$115,500

Acronyms (from Peer Review Manual)	
FN:	First-time new applicant
RUN:	Returning unsuccessful FTA
FA:	First-time experienced academic applicant
FNA:	First-time experienced non-academic applicant
RFS:	First-time renewal applicant
RS:	Second or more renewal applicant
RU:	Returning unsuccessful applicant

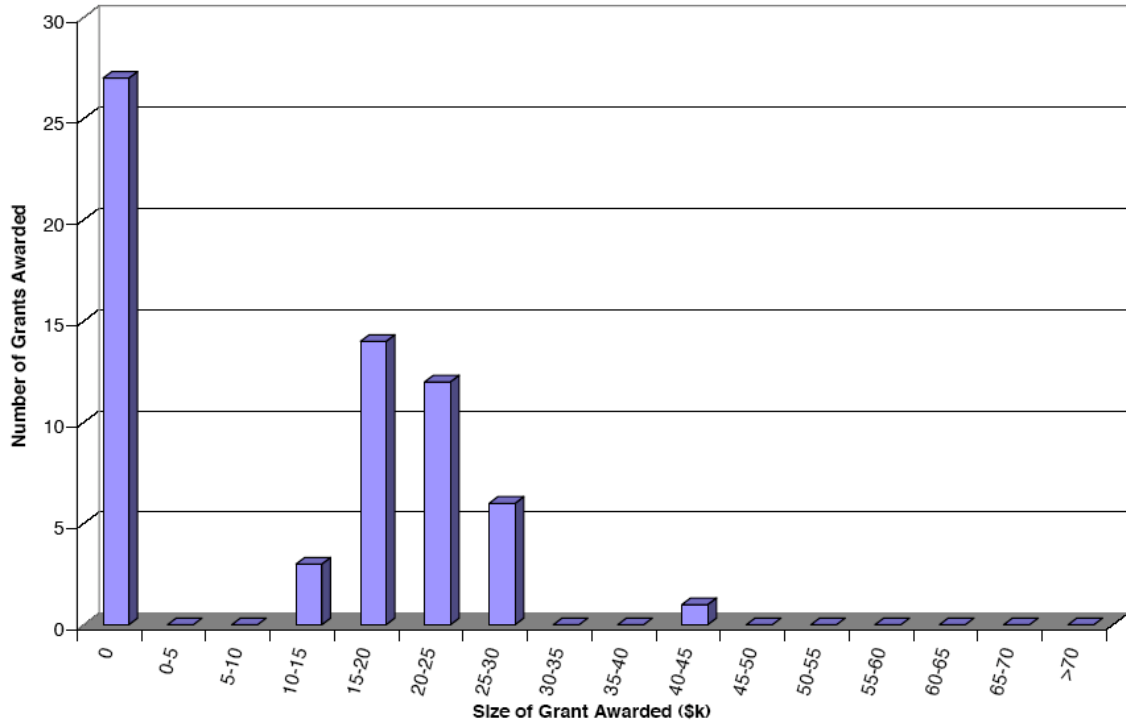
First Time Applicants (FTAs)	Totals	FN	FA	FNA
Number of Applications:	51	36	12	3
Number of Awards:	27	18	7	2
Success Rate:	53%	50%	58%	67%
% of Overall Avg. Grant (\$29438.3552)	76%	74%	88%	54%
% of Budget:	13%	8%	4%	1%
Average Grant:	\$22,334	\$21,678	\$25,864	\$15,880
Funding:	\$603,020	\$390,210	\$181,050	\$31,760

Equipment Statistics	
Number of Applications:	91
Number of Awards:	42
Success Rate:	46%
Total Requested \$	\$3,784,929
Total Awarded \$	\$1,605,405
Funding Rate:	42%

La recherche et l'innovation: faites par des gens ou des appareils?

Value of Grants Awarded to "News"

(NOTE: "News" = FTA + RUN)



Value of Grants Awarded to Renewals

(Note: Includes only RS & RFS)

