

# **Minutes of the General Business Meeting of CSEE/SCEE**

May 17, 2009, Dalhousie University, Halifax

## **Convened by 2009 Council members:**

**Douglas Morris (Lakehead University) – President (2008 – 2009)**  
**Spencer Barrett (University of Toronto) – Vice-president (2008 – 2009)**  
**Sarah Otto (University of British Columbia) – Secretary (2006 – 2011)**  
**Louis Bernatchez (Université Laval) – Treasurer (2006 – 2009)**  
**Marco Festa-Bianchet (Université de Sherbrooke) – Councilor (2006 – 2009)**

## **Agenda:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Adoption of Agenda                                      | 2 |
| 2. Minutes   | 2 |
| 3. President's report (Doug Morris)                        | 2 |
| 4. Secretary's report (Sally Otto)                         | 3 |
| 5. Treasurer's report (Louis Bernatchez)                   | 3 |
| 6. Canadian Institute for Ecology and Evolution (Art Weis) | 3 |
| 7. COSEWIC report (Marco Festa-Bianchet)                   | 4 |
| 8. Comments from Members                                   | 4 |
| 9. Next General Business Meeting                           | 4 |

## 1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved. 43 members in attendance.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes from the May 12, 2008 General Business meeting (circulated on web) were approved.

## 3. President's report (Doug Morris)

**Elections** – The elections were conducted electronically in March 2009. Jeff Hutchings was elected as Vice-President (2010 – 2011) to become President (2012 – 2013). Stephen Heard, Nadia Aubin-Horth, and Arne Mooers were elected as Councilors (2010 – 2013), and Kathryn Morton was elected as the student/post-doc Councilor.

As of January 1, 2010, the new CSEE Council will be:

Spencer Barrett (University of Toronto) – President (2010 – 2011)  
Jeffrey Hutchings (Dalhousie University) – Vice-president (2010 – 2011)  
Sarah Otto (University of British Columbia) – Secretary (2006 – 2011)  
Steeve Côté (Université Laval) – Treasurer (2010 – 2013)  
Andrew Hendry (McGill University) – Councilor (2008 – 2011)  
Kathy Martin (University of British Columbia) – Councilor (2008 – 2011)  
Sean Rogers (University of Calgary) – Councilor (2008 – 2011)  
Kathryn Morton (Memorial University) – Student/Post-doctoral Councilor (2010 – 2011)  
Stephen Heard (University of New Brunswick) – Councilor (2010 – 2013)  
Nadia Aubin-Horth (Université de Montréal) – Councilor (2010 – 2013)  
Arne Mooers (Simon Fraser University) – Councilor (2010 – 2013)

### National Activities

- Email to Prime Minister Harper re: funding reductions to Tri-Council. Email referred to Minister of State for Science and Technology, Gary Goodyear.
- Email to Minister Goodyear re: belief in evolution. No response.
- Email to Minister of Industry Tony Clement re: MSc one-year funding. No response.
- CSEE now has a three-year limited membership on the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC). Please contact Albrecht Shulte-Hostedde <aschulte@hostedde@laurentian.ca> regarding issues of concern.
- CSEE is a supporting society of the Partnership Group in Science and Technology, which advocates for science to Parliamentarians and makes policy suggestions.
- CSEE is not a member of the newly formed Life Sciences Canada (formerly the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies). Council is waiting to determine the benefits of joining for our Society and members.
- CSEE provides some financial support for regional meetings regarding ecology and evolution involving graduate students. Three meetings have been funded (PEEC, OEEC, La Biologie dans tous ses états).
- The Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B has offered to publish the CSEE addresses of the President and the President's Award winner, subject to review.
- The Council of the CSEE discussed the possibility of having a Society journal. While the Council felt that a Society journal might some day be appropriate, given the right circumstances, there was not sufficient support for pursuing a Society journal at this point in time.

## **International Activities**

- CSEE is a member of the Federation of Ecological Societies of the Americas.
- At the request of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), CSEE now has a representative on the International Affairs Committee of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE). Andrew Hendry <andrew.hendry@mcgill.ca> is serving.
- CSEE has arranged to co-host Evolution 2012 in Ottawa (6-10 July), along with ASN, SSE, ESEB, and SSB.
- We are a supporting society for INTECOL-2013 (18-23 August, London UK), a meeting that also celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British Ecological Society.
- At the request of the Society for Conservation Biology, CSEE will coordinate a symposium for the SCB meeting in Edmonton (3-7 July, 2010).

## **Society Activities**

- Future CSEE meetings will be held in Québec (9-12 May, 2010), Banff (12-15 May, 2011), and Ottawa (6-10 July, 2012).
- Membership is now over 800.
- Local representatives of CSEE are now in place at institutions throughout Canada
- We have launched an Outreach website (<http://www.ecoevo.ca/en/outreach.htm>) and a Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=58815627374>)
- We will continue to publish a regular Bulletin to facilitate communication.

Doug Morris concluded his President's report by extending thanks to the volunteers and Local Organizing Committee, especially Sina Adl and Tamara Romanuk, for their hospitality and many efforts that have led to the success of the meetings in Halifax.

## **4. Secretary's report (Sally Otto)**

A major role of the Secretary is to facilitate communications among the members of the Society. The CSEE/SCEE website is active and highly visited (<http://www.ecoevo.ca>). Please let Sally Otto ([info@ecoevo.ca](mailto:info@ecoevo.ca)) know if there is additional material for the website or if there are other ways to improve communications.

## **5. Treasurer's report (Louis Bernatchez)**

Louis Bernatchez summarized the membership and financial statistics (attached). We now have 813 members (230 regular, 579 students and post-docs).

Excess income from 2008 was \$27,067 (revenue \$120,046, expenses \$92,979). Expenses include administrative support (e.g., student support of Treasurer), travel grants, awards, and student workshop. Balance at the end of 2008 was \$61,619. 308 members have already paid for 2010. Given projected expenses, our balance would be \$48,689, if the Halifax meetings break even.

A motion was proposed and unanimously approved to accept the financial report from 2008.

## **6. Canadian Institute for Ecology and Evolution (Art Weis)**

Art Weis described the Canadian Institute for Ecology and Evolution (CIEE) whose goals are to build collaborations among ecological and evolutionary researchers and to bring added value to research via further analyses and syntheses of data.

CIEE is planned as a corporation co-owned by member Universities.

CIEE hosts thematic programs, symposia, and workshops.

- November 2008: A scientific assessment of the present and projected effectiveness of the Canadian Species at Risk Act.
- February 2009: Ecological and Evolutionary Implications of Climate Change
- Summer 2009: Modeling the adaptive movements of interacting species in space
- Summer 2010: Short-course on epidemiological modeling using the R package.

An application for MRC funding was rejected this spring, but the reviewers have raised a number of suggestions for use in improving the proposal, which will be incorporated into a revised draft.

This year, the CIEE will be soliciting memberships from several universities, which will entitle graduate students from those universities to have priority access to workshops.

A second call for proposals for workshops at the CIEE will be held in the near future.

## **7. COSEWIC report (Marco Festa-Bianchet)**

COSEWIC ([http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index_e.cfm)) is the scientific body that provides advice and information to policy makers about threatened and endangered species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). There are ~20 positions for academic scientists, and currently several CSEE members serve on COSEWIC. All interested persons with relevant expertise are strongly encouraged to apply for a position. The assessment process, overseen by COSEWIC, is going well.

A review of SARA will soon take place, but it is not yet known which government arm will carry out this review. CSEE should take the opportunity to make a brief and/or act as a witness.

## **8. Comments from Members**

- Thank you to the Council for its efforts on behalf of the Society and its members.

## **9. Next General Business Meeting**

The next GBM will be held at the meetings in Québec (May 9-12, 2010).