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MINUTES of the CANSSI Annual General Meeting

May 28, 2016 at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario.

4:30 – 5:30PM EDT.

Chair: Nancy Reid, University of Toronto (CANSSI Director)

Recording Secretary: John Braun, UBC (CANSSI Deputy Director)

Present:

Mary Thompson, University of Waterloo (CANSSI Associate Director, Ontario)

Hugh Chipman, Acadia University (CANSSI Associate Director, Atlantic Region)

Alexandre Leblanc, University of Manitoba (CANSSI Associate Director, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, NWT and Nunavut)

Jeffrey Picka, University of New Brunswick

Jean-François Plante, HEC Montréal

Shirley Mills, Carleton University

Hanna Jankowski, York University

Angelo Canty, McMaster University

Julie Horrocks, University of Guelph

Changbao Wu, University of Waterloo

Jim Stallard, University of Calgary

Jason Loeppky, University of British Columbia and UBC Okanagan

Derek Bingham, Simon Fraser University

Aaron Smith, University of Ottawa

Christian Léger, Université de Montréal

JC Loredano-Osti, Memorial University

René Ferland, UQAM

Myron Hlynka, University of Windsor

Ed Susko, Dalhousie University

Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University (CANSSI Board Member)

1. **Approval of agenda**

The agenda of the meeting had been sent to institutional members, posted on the CANSSI website, and distributed at the meeting.

Motion (Thompson, Canty): To approve the agenda. Carried.

2. **Approval of minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting (Attachment A)**

Motion: (Canty, Chipman) To approve the minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting. Carried.

3. **Director's report and new initiatives (Attachment B)**

The Director summarized activities undertaken over the previous year, including the rapid advances made by the recently established Health Science committee. Four new LOI proposals have been received for the CRT program.

New Initiatives:

- The Board has just approved the CANSSI Distinguished Visitor program, which is inspired by the Distinguished Lecturer program at Fields.
- A fast application process for CANSSI funding to support participation in ASA's DataFest program will be put in place soon.
- A "kickstart" program for small amounts of funding for researchers who want to push the envelopes or step outside of their current research programme.
- MITACS MOU is under discussion.
- Industrial Problem Solving Workshops
- CANSSI Collaborative Health Science Centres initiative
- Statistics Canada internship initiative

Jason Loeppky expressed support for the kickstart program. Jeff Picka raised questions about ASA support for DataFest and about how CANSSI is developing connections with computer science.

4. **Minor changes to operating policies – benefits of membership**

Motion: (Reid, Bingham) To approve additions to the list of benefits of membership:

- employment advertisements featured on CANSSI web pages and in CANSSI social media posts

- eligibility for CANSSI Distinguished Visitor Program
- eligibility for DataFest funding

Carried.

5. **Review of finances and budget** (Attachment C)

- Nancy Reid reviewed the financial statement for 2015-2016. She discussed the carry-forward in the institutional membership funding, but noted that this should not be a problem, since not-for-profit organizations often need contingency funds of about the amount being carried forward.
- John Braun asked about in-kind support from U Toronto, which is not reflected in the budget. Reid replied that this was taken out because the true dollar figures are difficult to ascertain. Angelo Canty asked about the postdoc budget differential from one year to the next; this is because PDFs in 2015-2016 were paid from NSERC funds instead of institutional membership funds. Reid pointed out that a large number of workshops have been funded. Braun pointed out that Fields and the other institutes will still support statistics workshops. Canty asked why the SSC Student Conference was funded at such a low value; Reid replied that more has been given this year.

Motion: (Chaubey, Leblanc) To approve the financial statement for 2015-2016. Carried.

Nancy Reid summarized the budget for 2016-17 that had just been approved by the Board, and she mentioned the new carry-forward policy for Collaborative Research Teams adopted by the Board.

6. **Board Nominating Committee Report and election of CANSSI Board for 2016-2017** (Attachment D)

The BNC has submitted a slate equal to the number of vacancies, and the two representatives of the institutional membership are continuing, so no ballots are needed. Alex Leblanc (BNC chair) summarized the nomination proceedings. Two new Associate Directors were to be found (for Atlantic and for AB/BC/Yukon). These Associate Directors have been approved by the Board. Four positions in the Board need to be replaced.

Motion: (Leblanc, Chaubey) To approve the list of incoming at-large positions for the Board of Directors, given in the report of the Board Nominating Committee. Carried.

7. **Planning for the future of CANSSI** (Attachment E)

We are beginning to prepare for the renewal of CANSSI funding in 2019. Nancy Reid led a discussion about the next grant application and how the institute might evolve. First, it may be advisable to incorporate as a national non-profit organization. Second, thought must be given to the future location(s) of the institute. Two models could be considered:

1. upon selection of a new Director, the home university of the Director becomes the host of the institute, or
2. the host location becomes fixed at a particular location, and any new Director is re-located there.

The first model is currently being followed. The math institutes follow variants of the second model. Under the second model, there is the possibility that there would be regional nodes.

Christian Leger asked how much space is required for CANSSI. The answer is “not much”, currently. There are likely to be local arrangements issues once we become more independent of the math institutes, if CANSSI is to independently support events such as thematic programs and workshops. This will require substantially more infrastructure.

8. **Other business**

Nancy Reid acknowledged the contributions of the outgoing members of the Directorate: Will Welch, Hugh Chipman and outgoing Board Members Yogendra Chaubey and Michael Kramer. Hugh showed off the new CANSSI t-shirt.

Reid welcomed incoming Associate Directors, Gemai Chen (Alberta/BC/Yukon) and Joanna Mills Flemming (Atlantic).

9. **Motion to adjourn** (Canty, Chaubey): Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25PM.