



CGU Biogeosciences Section Business Meeting

May 17, 2011, 5:00-5:45 pm
Banff Park Lodge, Castle Room

Attendance:

Altaf Arain, Ed Johnson, Maria Strack, Lijun Xia, Pablo Pina, Mark Johnson, Mike Waddington, Merrin Macrae, Nigel Roulet

Regrets:

Carl Mitchell (secretary)

Agenda:

- 1) Business Arising
- 2) Acceptance of Agenda
- 3) Overview of past activities
- 4) Financial Report (Altaf Arain)
- 5) Preview of future activities
 - Review article – Recent developments in Biogeosciences (Ed Johnson)
 - BS Student conference- Joint with HS, Jan 2012, McMaster Univ. (Altaf Arain)
 - Membership (Merrin Macrae)
 - Advise about overall direction (Nigel Roulet)
- 6) Student awards format
- 7) Potential collaborations with other societies e.g. CSAFM and CSSS
- 8) Special sessions for 2012 meeting
- 9) Other business
- 10) Adjournment

Minutes:

- 1) Business Arising

None.

- 2) Acceptance of Agenda

Motioned by Macrae. Seconded by Roulet. Motion carried.

- 3) Overview of past activities

(a) 2010-2011 Executive Committee

Altaf Arain (President & Treasurer)	Merrin Macrae (Member at Large)
Ed Johnson (Vice President)	Carl Mitchell (Secretary)

-The committee seeks an additional Member at Large and would prefer to have representation from Quebec on the executive committee.

(b) Sessions at the 2011 Annual CGU assembly

- 2010 CMOS meeting had 40 abstract submissions. There were 46 abstracts (21 oral and 24 posters) submitted to the 2011 CGU meeting. Therefore, the Biogeosciences section is the 3rd largest in terms of abstract submissions at the current meeting. This is encouraging in such a short time.

B1 - Effects of Invasive Earthworms on Biogeoscience Processes (9)

BC3 - Carbon & Water Cycling in Canadian Forests and Peatlands (26)

B4 - General Biogeosciences (10)

(c) The website is now up. http://www.cgu-ugc.ca/BGS_section/index.htm

4) Financial Report (Altaf Arain)

Date	Item	Total
October 2009	Starting Balance	+\$700.00
October 2010	Membership from CGU	+\$240.00
June 2011	Student Plaques	-\$102.72
Balance		\$837.71

5) Preview of future activities

- Review article – Recent developments in Biogeosciences (Ed Johnson)
 - Johnson has been asked to write a yearly review on biogeosciences. He does not wish to write about “What is Biogeosciences”. However, we must define what we consider “Biogeosciences”. What do we all share?
 - We all share processes and integration of concepts
 - Increasing use of distributed instrument arrays
 - We increasingly need to share info but don’t have a platform for this
 - BS Student conference- Joint with HS, Jan 2012, McMaster Univ. (Altaf Arain)
 - We discussed the student conference. We agreed that this is a great idea and we were happy to move it to January to avoid conflicts with the AGU annual meeting. Also, it acts as a stepping stone to the spring CGU meeting for students.
 - Waddington suggested that student meetings are more successful when remote rather than in Southern Ontario as it forces people to travel and truly participate in the conference rather than commuting in for the talk and going home. Possible venues include the Muskoka centre or Mont St. Hillaire Centre.
 - Keynote seminar at student conferences could be Webinar (virtual) to reach out to other institutions. Need a key person to organize this. Waddington would like to have input for the keynote speaker this year.
 - Membership (Merrin Macrae)
 - Macrae requested advice from our current members on specific communities to reach out to (i.e. to increase our membership).

- Johnson noted that the Evolutionary Ecology meeting overlapped with our meeting. However, the Ecosystem component did not have a “home”. Waddington recommended reaching out to these folks at student meetings to begin with, in hopes that they will eventually start to attend the CGU meetings.
 - Roulet recommended offering a social gathering
 - Johnson suggested pairing senior people with students for networking at meals
 - We will remind students that they can propose sessions
 - Waddington suggests that student meetings are a great place to grow our membership
 - Roulet suggested we could try to be a section that has a student member at large who sits on the exec (maybe our Quebec member?)
- We could pursue CSSS and build a relationship with them
 - Strack is on the Alberta soil science board → Perhaps we can get some CGU BG SWAG to increase our visibility at these meetings?
 - We discussed organizing an east-meets-west student conference where we telecon each other in for say 3-4 hours (i.e. virtual meetings)

For student membership make efforts on following fronts:

- Word of mouth
 - Visibility
 - Cross approach
 - Pair-up Prof and Students
 - Student proposed sessions
- Advise about overall direction (Nigel Roulet)
 - Roulet commented on the overall position of Biogeosciences within the CGU and AGU:
 - In the AGU, 20% of the members declare Biogeosciences as their primary affiliation whereas 80% declare it as their secondary affiliation.
 - The Biogeosciences section is, however, one of the largest sections in the AGU with a significant amount of crossover with other units. Thus, if we draw comparisons between CGU and AGU, we are very healthy.
 - We discussed NSERC. Of the total Geosciences proposals, 25% had a biological or geochemical component and 20% of group proposals had at least one biogeosciences specialist included on the proposal.
 - JGR Biogeosciences is a rapidly growing journal.
 - We are optimistic that our new Biogeosciences section will be successful within the CGU.

6) Student awards format

- There are two student awards at the current meeting: 1 for best oral presentation and 1 for best poster presentation. ***NOTE: We originally planned to have a plaque only for the winners but the CGU president chose to give the students \$500 each to be consistent with other sections. This occurred after the BG board meeting.***

7) Potential collaborations with other societies e.g. CSAFM and CSSS

- We discussed our role in the CGU as an integrative area. We agreed that we are poised to make great linkages with other joint organizations (e.g. CWRA in 2012, etc.). Such connections will help us grow as a section.

8) Special sessions for 2012 meeting

- We are looking forward to next year's CGU meeting (Banff) with the CWRA. We wish to have a session on catchment biogeochemistry and advances in Biogeosciences e.g. session on distributed sensor arrays. We also wish to continue having sessions on carbon fluxes from forests and peatlands as we had this year.
- Some groups at the CGU (e.g. fluvial geomorphology) do not have a home. Perhaps they could find a home in our section? Perhaps this is something that could occur during the joint meeting with the CWRA next year.
- Ecologists and DSA can also be engaged in student conference.
- Roulet noted that we must look at collaborative ventures for membership rather than plucking members from other groups.
- We want to have 3-4 good sessions next year with broad appeal:
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 - Catchment biogeochemistry,
 - River processes or river restoration
 - Fish habitat
 - Advances in Biogeosciences - distributed array of sensors
 - Carbon, water and energy - Fluxnet session
 - Ecology and Evolution
 - Session on sites with long term data – 10 years
 - General session
 - Site trip to arid lands (Letts and Flannigan, U of Lethbridge)

Future Meetings:

2012 June 5-8, Banff Centre Alberta

2013 May 26-30, Saskatoon with CWRA

2014 Banff with GAC and MAC

2015 Montreal with AGU/IUGG

9) Other business

None.

10)Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.