

Minutes of the Canadian Society of Soil Science Special Meeting on the Future of Soil Science

Location: Winnipeg Convention Center, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dates: Wednesday July 18, 2000

Time: 1:50 B 3:00

52 attendees

Regis Simard opened the meeting and commented that the CSSS has had a decrease in membership over the past few and that this concern should be addressed.

1. Joining an Earth Science Environmental Organization

Gary Kachanoski provided information about the Canadian Geophysics Union (CGU) and indicated that it covered a broad range of earth sciences. Research areas include wetlands, streams, natural areas, the North and atmosphere. It is a coalition, or a federated group with an executive committee. CGU deals with National issues, requests funding, sponsors collaborative projects and work with the Tri-councils. It is a single earth Science Group and this coalition establishes research priorities and provides Feedback on issues.

The CGU annual meeting will be held in Banff in May 18 to 20th, 2002 and CSSS is also planning to meet with CGU in 2002. In response to a comment from the floor about the cost of holding a meeting in Banff, Gary Kachanoski indicated that the meeting will be held in the Banff conference centre and CSSS members will have access to the residence for lodging and the cafeteria for food. Then the costs should be cheaper than that for the Winnipeg meeting.

David Burton commented on the fact that it would be a separate meeting from AIC and will enable us to focus on graduate students.

Further, the presidents of the Canadian Society of Agronomy and the Canadian Society of Animal Science are writing letters to the executive committee of the Canadian Agricultural Science Societies of Canada to express their concerns.

Gary Kachanoski also mentioned that other societies have formed similar federations such as Plant Canada.

There was a suggestion that the chemical societies should organize a symposium.

Clarke Topp indicate that the CGU fosters team work and that they also are the research component of Natural Resources Canada.

2. IUSS

IUSS is composed of National Soil Science Societies

Taumeiy Mahendrappa also indicated that there are 100 Canadian members of ISSS who are not members of CSSS. Hence CSSS growth can increase and international programs could also benefit from this association.

Clark Topp indicated that there are already mechanisms in place through NRC. The CGU, IFAO, and the UN committees can also have access.

Gary Kachanoski indicated that CSSS must be recognized by NRC - hence NRC must also be contacted.

N. Juma - what is CSSS doing for its members? Are we attracting graduate students? Why are their only 10% of graduate students members of CSSS?

Sharma indicate that many students are not aware of CSSS and that more PR is required.

It was suggested that a pamphlet be printed and sent to graduate students (i.e. a welcome package).

Alain Plante: Students want to come to the meetings and talk to experienced-scientists and not just to other students.

What are we - Environmental, Forestry, Agronomy, ...?

Regis Simard: Symposia should be held to attract good/key researchers.

Carlos Monreal commented that the twinning projects provide an opportunity to learn more about different cultures, soils, and to promote projects and open up other opportunities.

Clark Topp: We should do more to promote ourselves as leaders by recognizing on own members.

David Burton: This can also be done on our web page (i.e. list of fellows, award winners, etc.).

Vasile Klassen suggested that Clark should write more about this (and submit it to council).

3. AIC restructuring

Currently, \$15/member is required to be an associate member of AIC.

Bonnie Bal Coelho: There are currently not enough certified crop advisors. We can funnel them through CSSS. Perhaps part of their training could be met by combining this program with our annual meetings.

Gary Kachanoski also suggested that the certification could go through SSSA.

Ali noted that the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineers were very concerned that they did not have a Soil/Water Session. They were concerned about the state of the environment. They invite each one to participate and now Soil and Water is a very strong part of ASAE. We are concerned about the state of Soil Science and maybe we could have a similar initiative.