



Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Academy of Science

December 03, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

(Held as Zoom meeting)

Attendees: Staff, Nicolas Lafreniere; Pierre Berini, Robert Bioly, David Bryce, Troy Day, Jacques Derome, Tee Guidotti, Janet Halliwell, Steve Larter, Lawrence Mysak, Gary Slater, John Smol, Kimberly Strong, Michel Tremblay, Rui Wang

Rui Wang moved to approved agenda. Seconded by John Smol, with the following additions to Varia: (i) Lawrence Mysak mentioned that the registration fee was very high for the Vancouver meeting. This should be discussed; (ii) John Smol asked if we are going to keep holding virtual meetings since the attendance is low (14 members); (iii) the approval of the minutes from the 2023 meeting was postponed because of an error in the dates listed (*in the end we forgot to return to this item*).

Presidents Report

- (i) Michel Tremblay introduced new President of Academy III, Robert Boily. President Elect Boily introduced himself and briefly described his vision for Academy III.
- (ii) Michel explained the rationale for making the Annual Academy III meeting online rather than during the COEE. The goal was to increase attendance and to use the time freed up at the meeting for more interactive activities (there were 5 topics discussed during thematic sessions of the Vancouver meeting). Other ideas discussed included the possibility that the low turnout today at the virtual meeting was due to its timing at the end term (Tremblay) and whether there might be enough time during the COEE to have both engagement activities and the annual general meeting (including a hybrid option for the latter - Smol). One benefit of holding the annual meeting during the COEE is better engagement with new inductees. Several people suggested that having more frequent virtual meetings throughout the year would also improve engagement with the membership.
- (iii) A summary of the Vancouver meeting was provided.
- (iv) An update on the S7/G7 event was provided and it was explained how the topics and the document were produced for this event.
- (v) Michel gave an overview of a joint event between the RSC and the UK Royal Society in Ottawa on genetics and informatics.
- (vi) Michel described the previous 4 Massey Lectures that were supported by the three Academies and the College (the Academy III lecture was on AI) and the lecture this year at the Université de Québec en Outaouais on Cybersecurity by Dr. Benoit Dupont and Dr. Atefeh Mashatan.
- (vii) The issue of better communication with the RSC membership was a recurring theme throughout the meeting. It was also suggested that the website could be improved to make it easier to search for members with particular expertise (Slater).

Secretary Report

- (i) Troy Day summarized the current state of the five divisions with respect to diversity and inclusion as well as the group of new inductees.
- (ii) There was considerable discussion about the importance of encouraging a larger and more diverse pool of nominations, as well as examining the recent patterns in the pool of nominees.



- (iii) The question of the number of Indigenous members was raised (Wang) but it was unclear if this data was available and publicly shareable.
- (iv) There was a suggestion that allowing nominations to stand for multiple years might help to increase diversity in the pool of nominees (Day). It was also suggested that such a change would help ensure more consistency across years (Mysak).
- (v) It was suggested that the number of francophones is probably underestimated because of the difficulty of finding a suitable and operational definition (Slater).
- (vi) Member Derome mentioned that a previous membership committee made several recommendations about the nomination and selection process and asked what happened to this report. The answer was not entirely clear.
- (vii) There was a consensus that the RSC should actively encourage institutional nominations as a means of increasing the diversity of the pool of nominees.
- (viii) Troy provided a summary of the awards and medals given out this year, as well as the upcoming deadlines for nominations for the next competition.
- (ix) There were several openings on the five division committees noted and it was discussed how to solicit good candidates to fill them.
- (x) **There are three new chairs of the division committees this year: – Pierre Berini (Applied Science and Engineering), Rui Wang (Medical Sciences), and Jillian Buriak (Mathematical and Physical Sciences). Marla Sokolowski is continuing as chair for the Biological Sciences Division and Keiko Hattori continuing for Earth, Oceans, and Atmospheric Sciences.**

Varia

- (i) The cost of the COEE. A question was raised as to who sets the cost of the meeting and why it increased so significantly for the Vancouver meeting. Suggestions were made to seek sponsorship opportunities as well as to make use of less expensive venues and facilities.
- (ii) John Smol raised the question again about what happened to the Medal for Science Communication.
- (iii) Tee Guidotti offered to help with the functioning of the RSC in any way that might be useful.
- (iv) Nicolas Lafreniere introduced himself as a staff member with the RSC and his role is supporting the functioning of the society.

Adjournment- 3:00pm