

GENETICS SOCIETY OF CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday March 18, 12:00 PM

Attending: Carolyn Brown, Virginia Walker, Frank Nargang, Ross Hodgetts, Heather Prior, John Bell, Barbara Spyropolous, Bernie Duncker, Kyle Anderson, Peter Moens, Brian Staveley, Heather McDermid, Shelagh Campbell, Arthur Hilliker, Jianping Xu, Rama Singh, Peter Petersen.

Regrets: Dr. Derrick Rancourt

Virginia Walker called meeting to order.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved: Barbara Spyropolous; Seconded: Rama Singh; Passed unanimously

2. APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES of 2004 as published in the Bulletin.

Moved: Barbara Spyropolous; Seconded: John Bell; Passed unanimously

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Virginia Walker

Several initiatives are being passed to lead to a new svelte GSC. This is necessary as annual expenses continue to outstrip revenues, and it was felt that fees should be kept below \$100. Over half of the dues paid by our members to GSC are currently collected for CFBS. CFBS offers their members essentially three advantages. First, they offer the potential for management and web services. GSC has not partaken of these, and is pursuing other management options and currently has superb web management by Brian Golding. Second, the CFBS sponsors meetings, however the GSC favours small student-oriented meetings while CFBS meetings tend to be larger and more expensive. Third, CFBS provides advocacy, which is important, and yet difficult to monitor effectiveness, and the question had been raised of whether this benefit was sufficient for the fees charged. As the question was put to the membership, Virginia gave 1 years notice last July. A vote at the AGM in Toronto favoured leaving the CFBS, but to obtain more even representation a referendum was initiated. Both the vote at Toronto and the referendum favour that GSC cease collecting dues for CFBS. Advocacy continues to be an issue, and the GSC will explore additional avenues.

A second major expense is the printing and mailing of the bulletin. The executive has suggested email notices with hotlink rather than postage. Discussions are underway with sponsors to make the June issue a more widespread mailing.

A third large expense is the business office, and Vett Lloyd has explored alternatives and the executive will pursue finding a more cost-effective choice. The overall goal of these initiatives is that by next year the budget will be balanced. Towards this end there will be membership drives and reductions in award costs.

It was noted by Art Hilliker that there is a 'catch-all' society that allows members who wish to continue with CFBS to pay their dues separately. This information will continue to be provided with invoices. It was further clarified that withdrawal from CFBS would be effective in July (thus members will be members of CFBS for the CFBS June meeting). There was considerable discussion about the merits of continuing to provide paper copies of the bulletin. It was questioned whether enough advertising could be recruited to cover mailing costs. It was noted

that the printed version gives visibility and features not available in journals, and could be useful in new member recruitment. The executive will look into acquiring additional advertising and reducing costs before proceeding with email only.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT – Dr. Derrick Rancourt (presented by Dr. Virginia Walker in Derrick's absence).

The treasurer's report was presented, the notable finding being that expenses continue to exceed income. As new management service providers are being costed it was asked whether members felt that accepting credit cards and accepting payment on-line were important issues. The former was felt to be essential, and the latter was favoured if not too cost prohibitive (although it was noted that faster payment of fees might prevent lapsed memberships and not require reminder mailings).

Motion to Receive the report: Art Hilliker, seconded by Sheilagh Campbell.

5. ANNUAL DUES. – Dr. Derrick Rancourt (per Virginia Walker)

In addition to removing the CFBS collection, it was moved to increase fees as follows:

Members 60;

husband/wife: \$70;

student \$15.

Moved: Art Hilliker; Seconded JP Xu with Ammendment of Husband/Wife to \$70 by Virginia Walker. Passed unanimously.

This revised fee schedule will appear in the June bulletin. As memberships are usually January-January, new members will pay the new fees as of June and will be joining for the 2006 year. .

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

For the past year the auditors were: Drs. Ross Hodgetts and John Locke.

Dr. Virginia Walker commended the auditors for their careful and helpful report. In addition it was useful to have 2 auditors at the same institution so that boxes did not have to be shipped cross-country, and if management service changes then having experienced auditors would also be helpful. Thus it was moved to thank and reappoint the same auditors.

Moved: Art Hilliker; Seconded: Barbara Spyropolous; Passed unanimously.

7. GENOME REPORT - Dr. Peter Moens

Dr. Moens extended thanks to the many members who work to make the journal a success.

Ottawa has moved to electronic processing, which has generated problems that are being resolved and will lead to reduced costs and improved processing times. In the last year the journal published 132 and rejected 66 manuscripts. There is currently a backlog that is trying to be resolved. The impact factor of the journal is ~ 2, which is amongst the top three journals for NRC press. Content continues to have a flavour of insect and agricultural genetics from the early days of the Genetics Society. The journal has a high reputation and impact in those areas, which are of particular world-wide importance.

Move to receive report: Art Hilliker; Seconded: JP Xu.

8. ELECTION REPORT – Dr. Art Hilliker

Art Hilliker has a strong candidate for secretary, Denise Clark. For director Rama Singh nominated Art Hilliker; and Frank Nargang nominated Andrew Simmons. Synopses on these individuals will appear in the bulletin. Rama Singh noted that we need new direction for

membership, and that directors should take a strong role in contacting their constituents to give the svelte new GSC an appealing shape. It was noted that the evolutionary biologists also needed to be recruited, and that in future meetings, symposia could serve as recruiting tools, and might be designed along such lines.

9. MEETING REPORT - Dr. Virginia Walker

Banff Centre is running finances, so a final report will be available for the June bulletin. The collected registration/accommodation charges have been used to cover GSC expenses until our GIC came due, and will now be transferred to Banff Centre to cover the meeting expenses. Our initial commitment to the Banff Centre had been for 110 rooms, however this was reduced over time. Some problems were encountered with JETSGO failure, however guest speakers were booked via a GSC-associated travel agency, so hopefully insurance will cover. For 2 students who were unable to attend registration costs will be refunded less a processing cost.

The 2006 meeting will be June 18 to 21 in conjunction with the Canadian Society for Microbiology at Western in London, Ontario. Suggestions for symposia and speakers can be sent to Shiva Singh (ssingh@uwo.ca).

10. AWARDS – Dr. Rama Singh

Until the GSC's financial situation improves the cash awards associated with the awards will be eliminated, but all expenses will continue to be covered. The 'lifespan' of nominations will be extended to two years, and all members are urged to consider making a nomination for your Society's awards.

11. STUDENT REPORT – Joanne Hinks (in absentia)

Joanne's report was tendered. A motion was made to eliminate the affiliated student category and make all awards available only to full student members.

Moved: Barbara Spyropolous, Seconded: Kyle Anderson. Passed unanimously.

The new student representative, Kyle Anderson, was welcomed, and the students also elected Joanne Hackett to another term as student representative.

12. NEW BUSINESS.

Motion to destroy ballots from referendum: Virginia Walker; Seconded John Bell; passed unanimously.

It was also noted that the Husband/Wife category should be changed to Spousal; Partner; or Family.

13. CHANGE OF OFFICERS.

This will be delayed until June, however Art Hilliker moved to express appreciation of current officers; Barbara Spyropolous seconded. Rama Singh extended his thanks to Virginia Walker for her heroic efforts in leading the GSC through a series of thorny issues and difficult times including altering the constitution to provide additional stability to the society; long discussions with CFBS; and emergency organization of this meeting in Banff.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion to end meeting: Frank Nargang; Seconded: Ross Hodgetts; passed unanimously.