

**Canadian Society for Chemistry – Organic Division Annual General Meeting 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**In attendance (11):** Christine Gottardo, Rik Tykwinski, Jeffrey Van Humbeck, Frederick West, Marc Adler, Shawn Collins, Rebecca Davis, Tabitha Wood, Andrew Martins, Trevor James, Tabitha Wood, Jeremy Wulff

1. Welcome and Introductions

Prof. Gottardo convened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were made to the members of the executive who were in attendance:

Past Chair: Fred West

Current Chair: Christine Gottardo

Vice-Chair: Rebecca Davis

Treasurer: Shawn Collins

Secretary: Jeremy Wulff

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motioned by Fred West. Seconded by Marc Adler.

Passed with none opposed. No abstentions noted.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Previous Meeting June 7, 2021.

The minutes passed by consensus.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes.

Much of the previous meeting was devoted to a discussion of new individuals would be appointed to the executive in the future, in particular how the future members-at-large would be selected. Further discussion on this point is noted below in the minutes.

No further points were advanced for discussion.

5. Report from the Chair (C. Gottardo, Chair)

The virtual joint IUPAC | CCCE meeting took place from August 13–20, 2021. The excellent quality of the talks and posters was remarked upon by the Chair. Thanks were extended to Rebecca Davis for coordinating the poster session.

There were 48 posters overall, across several symposia. Prof. Davis extended thanks to all the judges who assisted with the evaluation.

Due to the limitations of the virtual event, only 3 undergraduate posters were submitted for evaluation by the judges. Of these, the undergraduate poster winner was Geneviève F. O'Keefe, from the University of Ottawa.

For the graduate posters, the judges awarded one 1<sup>st</sup>-place award, one 2<sup>nd</sup>-place award, and declared a three-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The graduate award winners were:

- 1st. Anthony Labelle, McGill (\$200)
- 2nd. Michael West, University of Toronto (\$150)
- 3rd. Lana Hiscock, Wilfrid Laurier (\$50)  
Ilan Chagunda, University of Victoria (\$50)  
Hugo Mayrand, Université de Montreal (\$50)

Prof. Davis is working with the CIC to get the students their award money.

Prior to this year's CCCE meeting, there was discussion about whether the organic division wanted to hold a virtual event during the conferences. It was decided that a virtual event would attract limited interest, and so there was no organic social. There is considerable appetite for a great social to be held as part of the 2022 meeting.

#### 6. Financial Report (S. Collins, Treasurer)

\$15k was transferred to support the Alfred Bader award (see further discussion below)

~\$4k was spent in awards and prizes

\$250 was contributed toward the EDI symposium

~\$3k was directed toward CSC speakers' registrations (no travel costs due to the virtual meeting format)

The actual number of this year's speakers who received registration credits is not known, but it was noted that one registration per half-day symposium is typical.)

The Organic Division budget remains in surplus – partly due to money made from the Division's investment – leaving sufficient resources in place for future.

In discussion around the budgeting for future CCCE meetings, Prof. Gottardo noted that it was not clear how participation in different symposia will be counted this year (again due to the challenges associated with the virtual meeting format), and so it is not clear how our society grant will be calculated for next year.

Regarding future poster sessions, Prof. Davis noted that it would be helpful if the division organizers could be clearer on what sections are to be included in the 'organic division' for judging purposes. Making sure that all posters receive a fair review can be challenging given all the cross-listed symposia.

#### 7. Ratification of New Members (Nominations Chair)

A motion was considered for the following individuals to serve as the 2022 CSC Organic Division Executive:

- chair: Rebecca Davis
- vice-chair: Shawn Collins
- treasurer: Jeremy Wulff
- secretary: unknown
- past chair: Christine Gottardo

- member-at-large: unknown
- member-at-large: unknown

The recommendation from the current Chair was that the secretary and members-at-large not be appointed at present. The executive is currently considering changing the mechanism by which these appointments are done (see further discussion below).

The suggestion from Prof. Gottardo was that it would be reasonable to leave these slots open until later in the year, by which point we will have a sub-committee in place, which will be specifically tasked with appointing new members of the Executive committee. Because the membership does not change until January 1<sup>st</sup>, this provides sufficient time for the Selection Committee to do their work.

Past Chair Prof. West indicated that he is comfortable until waiting until this new appointments mechanism is in place.

A motion to approve the partial Executive detailed above was moved by Rebecca Davis, and seconded by Fred West.

The motion was approved with no further discussion, and with none opposed. No abstentions were noted. The motion is carried.

#### 8. Symposia for Upcoming Conference (Organic Division Program Coordinator – J. Van Humbeck)

A first draft of symposia had been submitted earlier to the Executive committee, which noted a few small absences from the usual collection of symposia, specifically in the areas of complex molecule synthesis and carbohydrate chemistry. A revised draft was offered for consideration at the AGM.

In the current draft, all the usual topics of organic chemistry appeared to be well represented.

There was discussion about whether or not approval was needed or whether the symposia list was merely informational. Consensus coalesced around the notion that the symposia list did not require approval, but an opportunity was provided for all attendees to offer additional commentary.

Andrew Martins inquired about specific industry-related organic symposia. Jeff Van Humbeck advised that several industry participants were acting as co-organizers of specific symposia (or otherwise providing their input) for the 2022 meeting.

#### 9. Charter Review – Nominations

'Proposed Amendment to the Charter' document from Christine

Christine Gottardo noted that historically within the Organic Division, members have typically cycled through the various roles of the Executive. Normally members are brought in as Secretary the year before that member's university hosts the CCCE conference, and then that member would 'graduate' to the Treasurer position the following year, while they are looking after the symposia organization for the

annual meeting. In subsequent years that same member would move to Vice-Chair, Chair and Past-Chair positions.

Likewise, historical precedent has been that one of the two at-large-members has been from industry, while the other at-large-members have been appointed from academia.

In the previous AGM, Michel Gravel had advocated for a change to this process to increase engagement/representation from across Canada, improve representation from different backgrounds, etc.

In response to this suggestion, Prof. Gottardo proposed that the Organic Division Charter be amended with the following language:

A Nominations Sub-Committee consisting of three active members of the Organic Division shall prepare a proposed slate of officers for the following year. Having ascertained their willingness to serve, this slate shall be distributed to the Division, together with an invitation for other nominations, prior to the Annual Business Meeting of the Division. Any such further nominations shall be made in writing and shall be in the hands of a member of the Executive Committee not later than 48 hours prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Such nominations shall bear the signature of at least three members of the Division and the written consent of the nominee.

The Nominations Sub-Committee will solicit nominations from the membership with the intent to ensure diversity of the Executive membership including gender diversity, language diversity, regional diversity, and professional diversity.

In addition, it was proposed that the existing custom of appointing one of the two members-at-large from industry be formally included within the Charter.

Past-Chair Fred West asked whether the Division wanted to have prescriptive language/guidance on how this committee will secure its slate of candidates. Prof. Gottardo responded that CSC guidelines are silent on this issue, and suggested that the key is to structure the committee appropriately, beat the bushes for prospective members to the executive, and do a general call for people to self-nominate. Prof. West asked who would be responsible for naming the sub-committee. Prof. Gottardo indicated that this would be determined at the annual general meeting.

There was discussion around membership lasting >1 year so that there is continuity. Prof. Gottardo proposed that the Past-Chair of the Executive could chair the Selections Sub-committee, and that the sub-committee would be charged with crafting their own terms of reference.

With the current 3 empty positions among the Executive, the hope is that the sub-committee would be able to select candidates by the end of 2021, so that they could be approved at a brief organic division meeting in January 2022. This would provide a full slate of members to the Executive for 2022.

There was general approval for the language in the proposed Charter amendment, among those present at the AGM.

A motion to approve the Charter amendment as written was moved by Fred West. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Davis. No further discussion was brought forward. The motion was passed with none opposed, and no abstentions.

Discussion then turned to appointing the members of the sub-committee. There was general agreement that either Christine Gottardo or Fred West will serve as the first Chair of the Selections Sub-committee (to be decided amongst themselves). If Prof. West serves as the inaugural Chair, then Prof. Gottardo would assume the Chairship when she becomes Past-Chair of the Executive in January 2022.

Prof. Gottardo further proposed that of the two non-chairing members of the committee, one would be appointed for two years, and one for three years. In the future both members will serve for the same time-frame (either two years or three; this will be decided by the sub-committee in its Terms of Reference) so that the membership will be renewed on a staggered schedule. The Chairship of the sub-committee will rotate every year, as a new individual becomes Past-Chair of the Executive.

Tabitha Wood and Shawn Collins both volunteered to serve on the Selections Sub-committee.

In subsequent discussion, Prof. Gottardo clarified that the historical sequence for members serving on the Executive committee (i.e. Secretary → Treasurer → Vice-Chair → Chair → Past-Chair) will still be followed, but that the Selections Sub-committee will be responsible for choosing each year's incoming Secretary and for nominating the members-at-large.

Clarify: the chair will rotate in every year (as past-chair of the executive).

Clarify: the regular members will both have either a 2-year or 3-year appointment so that there is always staggering

A motion to appoint Tabitha Wood and Shawn Collins as the members of the Selection Sub-committee was moved by Rebecca Davis. The motion was seconded by Andrew Martins. The motion was approved with none opposed. No abstentions were noted.

#### 10. Alfred Bader Award

Fred West announced that at the behest of the central CSC, the organic division provided \$15k to stabilize the Alfred Bader award. Prof. West then reached out to Isobelle Bader to see if Bader Philanthropies would be willing to further support this award. Following guidance from the foundation, Prof. West submitted an application for funding, which was subsequently approved.

As a result of this successful application, US \$100k will now be received from Bader Philanthropies to permanently endow the Bader Award. Funds will be arriving in two tranches of \$50k. The first of these allotments was received over the summer; the second is expected in the Summer of 2022.

Prof. West also anticipates that there will be sufficient revenue to also support 2 graduate student travel awards.

Prof. Gottardo thanked Prof. West for all of his hard work on this file. Prof. West in turn advised that the Executive should look to permanently endow other awards whenever possible, since the vagaries of funding mean that many high-profile awards are on somewhat less solid ground.

#### 11. Other Business

Prof. West thanked Prof. Gottardo for her initiative on the new nominations process. Prof. Gottardo thanked the earlier members who suggested changes to the selection methodology in the previous AGM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am Pacific Time.