

## **ACAG AGM (Mount Allison University), 2021 Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

Date: 6 NOV. 2021

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

ACAG Conference Main Stream, Sat Nov 6

Time: Nov 6, 2021 12:00 PM Atlantic Time (Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87016672062?pwd=YVJLTzdwNzhYc1NHamZwN3AxZ3pwQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1667 2062

Passcode: ACAG

Attendees: There were 22 official registrations for this meeting. Of the registrants, 5 were CAG members in good standing.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Agenda**

- MOTION: Approval of agenda.
- (No motion made; adopted de facto).

#### **Minutes**

- MOTION (J. Lepawsky): Approval of minutes from 2019 (MUN), Seconded by C. Brown, Carried.

#### **Officer's Reports**

- **President's Report** (presented by D. Lieske)
  - Thank you for attending this 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, and for supporting both the Division as well as the national organization.
  - Reflecting on the past-few years, coping and adapting to COVID-19, and the ensuing challenges, is sobering. Those who were ill, or with small children or ill or elderly family members were especially burdened. Whether having children at home during lock down, a necessary medical procedure delayed, or not being able to travel to visit and support family, these challenges have been nearly overwhelming.
  - But I want to say congratulations to you; congratulations for making the best of a difficult situation and really persevering. One day we'll look back and wonder how we did it all.

- At the end of the day, if we've learned anything it's how much we truly need each other. Professional associations like CAG/ACAG provide a way to network, exchange knowledge, collaborate, grant awards, recognize our colleagues and our students, and basically: offer inspiration.
- Like any association, we get from it what we put into it. And we have to make this association *work for us*.
- Based on previous deliberations, the Executive feels that a biennial meeting structure makes sense for the ACAG, i.e., meetings held every two years. This reflects a few things:
  - 1) Shrinking participation in ACAG meetings;
  - 2) The fact that meetings have already become *de facto* biennial anyway;
  - 3) The fact that we are the smallest division in the CAG and that planning, organizing and conducting meetings every single year is no longer sustainable;
  - 4) That annual regional meetings unnecessarily compete with the annual national meeting of the CAG, resulting in "conference fatigue". Simply, for many of us, we simply do not have the time or travel funds (\$) to attend all these meetings.
  - P. Bush: why not have annual virtual meetings like this one, with in-person meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> year? Surely a virtual meeting is easier to manage and less trouble to host than an in-person meeting?
  - M. Novak: I support the idea of continually using virtual conferences in the coming years.
  - J. Lepawsky: Regardless, I think a perpetual virtual option to participate is a must have.
  - C. Brown: we could have a local in-person meeting within our home institutions and 'beam into' the main meeting remotely.
  - Discussion from the floor indicated a general desire to maintain Zoom-based participation in perpetuity, both to eliminate the hassle, expense, and risk of air travel but also to reduce carbon footprint and encourage participation.
  - D. Lieske: these are good ideas and should be taken back to the Executive. We don't have a confirmed host for the next meeting, which could be 2022 or 2023.
- **Financial Report** (presented by G. Vincent):
  - Funds are now centralized and held in a bank account held by the CAG.
  - The banking is now hosted by the CAG account.

- The role of the Treasurer is to agree and disagree with the expenses and to approve the refund amounts and the expenses.
- In years when meetings are hosted, CAG transfers \$2000 to help offset travel expenses for students.
- Annual rebate = based on membership, usually around \$235.00 We have lost about half our CAG members so have been receiving a smaller CAG rebate.

2000\$ We received student travel grant money that was not used since the Moncton meeting was canceled on top of which we already had a substantial amount.

225\$ Along with the CAG rebate that we receive every year based on our membership (April 4th 2018)

150\$ CAG rebate based on membership

No Student travel grant money since last year's was not used.

5631.24\$ in the bank

400\$ To be deducted for the 2021 student presentations (1x \$250, 1x \$150). Normally, student travel grants would be awarded out of the surplus funds but this is a virtual meeting so no travel costs will be incurred. We did not receive a student poster submission this year, which the Executive deemed worth a \$150 prize.

~200\$ There will be an additional engraving expense associated with the Semple Award trophy.

### **Executive Nominations** (chaired by D. Lieske)

- The terms of all members of the Executive are expiring in 2022.
- What that means is that the "Executive" slate is clear and free for anyone to step up and contribute a 3-yr term.
- A bit about the Executive positions:
  1. **President:** One of the required positions;
    - 1) This person liaises with the CAG Executive and there is an expectation that they attend annual CAG meetings;
    - 2) This person submits an annual report to the CAG Executive;
    - 3) This person oversees meetings and chairs the AGM. Under our proposed biennial model, that means that at least one meeting occurs over the course of a three-year term;
  2. **Secretary-Treasurer:** Another of the required positions:
    - 1) This person manages the finances of the Division – signing cheques for student awards, reporting to the general membership;

- 2) This person keeps the files of the Division – quite modest for ACAG and made easier by the fact that banking is now online and centralized through the CAG which means this person can count on Katie Laferrriere for assistance.

3. **3x Members-at-Large:**

- 1) Assist the Executive with decision making;
- 2) Represent their home institutions, and communicate with colleagues;
- 3) Assist with the planning and execution of conferences.

- The floor is open for anyone to declare an expression of interest to serve in one of these positions
  - A self-nomination was received from **C. Brown**, and a willingness to assume the role of ACAG President (barring others wishing to assume the role), from fall 2022 to fall 2025.
  - A self-nomination was received from **J. Lepawsky** to serve as a member-at-large, from fall 2022 to fall 2025.
  - A self-nomination was received from **M. Novak** to serve as a **Secretary-Treasurer**.
  - A self-nomination was received from **D. Lieske** to serve as a member-at-large, from fall 2022 to fall 2025.
  - A self-nomination was received from **J. Carter** to serve as a member-at-large, from fall 2022 to fall 2025.
  - All nominations were carried.

### **Stuart Semple Award**

- The Stuart Semple Award is intended to recognize contributions to enhancing geography education in Atlantic Canada.



Stuart Semple award (image courtesy of G. Vincent)


- This year's recipient is **Professor Michael Fox**, a person who fully embodies the spirit and commitment of fostering geography education at all levels: primary, secondary, and post-secondary.
- Michael joined the Atlantic division in 2002 when he became Mount Allison's Vice-President (Academic and Research). In 2005, Michael completed his term as VP Academic and entered the Department of Geography and Environment as a full-time faculty member, retiring on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.
- In those 16 years, Michael worked tirelessly to advance geographic education at all levels in New Brunswick: primary, secondary, and post-secondary. Always keen to initiate and nurture partnerships, he advanced many projects with colleagues in other provinces and countries which introduced youth to geographic concepts and inspired them to pursue further studies at the post-secondary level. His passion and drive is well communicated with a partial list of some of his projects.
- The list is as long as my arm, so I'm not going to exhaust you by recounting them all except to say that if you drive around Sackville and check out the demonstration solar powered house at the Elementary school, or the outdoor education work he does, etc. etc. you will quickly come to understand the impact Michael has had.

- Michael has also actively contributed to ACAG over the years, for instance, co-organizing a geographic educators co-conference with Mr. John Trites and Mr. Stuart Semple at Mount Allison University in 2016.
- Michael is a past-recipient of the **CAG Award for Excellence in Teaching (2012)**, and is widely admired and respected for his contributions to geographic education.
- To sum up: Professor Fox is a tireless supporter of Geography Education in Atlantic Canada and is a worthy recipient of this important award.
- Mike can't be here today, ironically he is leading an all-day workshop on place-based learning – go figure. But he did leave me with some words which I'm going to quote:

"Well, this is a wonderful surprise for me, I must say. It is truly an honor to be nominated for and awarded the ACAG Stuart Semple Award. Thank you very much for your nomination and the kind words of support... I first met Stuart back in 1992 at a summer geography teaching institute with National Geographic and the RCGS and have been inspired by his tireless work in geography education across the next 30 years. Who could have imagined that I would come to share an office with him here at MTA and to continue to have regular discussions on the state of geographic education and his regular visits for lunch. Stuart, your message today is further support of your deep connection to the discipline and your professional mentorship and lasting friendship. Thanks so much to you and your family of geographers for all your support over these many years.

Ironically, I am actually a facilitator in a workshop on place-based learning all day Saturday, so I will not be able to join in on the meeting on Saturday.... my apologies for this situation, as I would love to have been able to be there. My sincere thanks to all the ACAG for this recognition... thanks again, Mike"

**Student Awards**

<p>First prize, student presenter: <b>Shreya Nemani</b> (MUN).</p>	
--	--

<p>Second prize, student presenter: <b>Erin Pearson</b> (MUN).</p>	 A video call screenshot showing a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark top, smiling slightly. The background is a room with a window and some items on a shelf. A name tag at the bottom of the video frame reads "Erin Pearson".
--	---

**2022 or 2023 (?) ACAG Meeting**

- TBA

**MOTION to adjourn: J. Lepawsky**

**Seconded: C. Brown**

**Carried**