

MEETING OF THE ARRCU SIG EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Date: September 13, 2018 (videoconference)

PARTICIPANTS:

Paul Kushner (chair), Pierre Gauthier (secretary-treasurer)
Hind Al-Abadleh, Randall Martin, Paul Myers, Sylvie Roy, Rebecca Saari,
Rawni Sharp, Roland Stull

REGRETS:

Kim Strong, John Gyakum

1 Review of minutes

The objective of this group is consultation and there is no need for a formal acceptance. However, participants are invited to provide feedback so that we can keep an accurate account of our discussions and recommendations.

2 Committee operations

The terms of reference have established the composition of the executive and advisory committees for renewable terms of three years. To ensure continuity, the terms of the current members should be staggered to bring in gradual changes. For the executive, the terms for the president, vice-president and secretary will be of three years (June 2018-May 2021) and it is at the renewal that the terms will be staggered.

The advisory committee currently includes seven (7) members. They should be contacted to know if they would like to stay for one, two or three years. We will then identify two members with a one-year term, two with a two-year term and three with a three-year terms.

ACTION 2.1. PG and PK: Contact the members of the advisory committee to know their preferences for the length of their term and then establish who will stay for one, two and three years.

The ARRCU-SIG has a few tasks that would need volunteers. Bob Christensen previously handled those but he has now moved to another position and will not be able to continue. The tasks mainly consist of

- a) Maintenance of the website

A volunteer is sought to do this which would require about one day per month. If some funds were available, a contract could be offered to a student. R. Saari and H. Al-abadleh provided ideas on models for this, e.g. a co-op program student.

- b) Managements of postings

ARRCU has two mailing lists to which announcements are sent: a community mailing list (ARRCU_Announcements) and a NSERC list administered by Sylvie Roy. Someone has to look at posted announcements and approve them or respond to posters with feedback. In addition, membership on the lists should be kept up to date. The secretary (Pierre Gauthier) has volunteered to assist Paul K and Sylvie with this.

As CMOS special interest group, the ARRCU-SIG has a modest budget which in 2018-2019 is \$1K provided one-time-only by the Noble Trust in the Department of Physics at the University of Toronto. This covers the cost of Webex meeting, and arrangement for meetings at the CMOS congress but not much more than that. Although it would be convenient to have a budget to cover travel expenses for the committee members, the budget of CMOS is tight and cannot even cover such expenses for their own executives. Since many attend the CMOS congress and that it is possible to attend through Webex as well, we will have to operate this way.

3 Schedule of upcoming meetings

The schedule of the ARRCU-SIG meeting through Webex except for the townhall meeting at CMOS Congress in Montréal.

- a) October 11 - ARRCU-SIG open
- b) December 6 - ARRCU-SIG Executive-Advisory
- c) February 7 - ARRCU-SIG open
- d) April 11 - ARRCU-SIG Executive-Advisory
- e) IUGG-CMOS 2019 - ARRCU-SIG town hall

4 Federal interactions, in particular ARRCU-SIG input into pre-budget consultation, follow up on ISES-ISEE (Paul K)

4.1 Contribution to the report of Evidence for Democracy

The report can be found at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ExoCjp5N7YYqiGFc87-bNthymISABY0Q/view>.

It was presented in the framework of the pre-budget consultation of the federal government, presenting arguments that would warrant to inject funds in atmosphere related research. Our contribution reflected what was stated in our white paper. As a next step, the discussions focused on the hypothetical scenario of how to manage such funds if they were granted.

This raises a number of questions regarding the objectives the program would have: these would be stated in a call for proposals. It is likely that such a program would have requirements. It was pointed out that there has been some reflections on this issue when

CFCAS was created. However, it would all depend on requirements that would be attached to the program if this is a partnership based research on climate change.

ACTION 2.2. Executive and Advisory Committee: Raise this issue at the next open meeting of the ARRCU-SIG by drafting some text around this.

4.2 *Federal interactions regarding the partnership between government research and universities*

4.2.1 Health Canada

Following their the ISES-IEEE conference on Epidemiology and Exposure held in Ottawa in August, 2018, the Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research consortium (CANUE) sought participants from ARRCU in a side workshop. The objective was to inform the ARRCU community of research opportunities relating to atmosphere related health issues.

4.2.2 NSERC

It was mentioned that the postdoctoral fellowship program that formerly hosted visiting scientists at ECCC and other departments is now managed by NRCan and not by NSERC. Rawni Sharp (NSERC) has sent the following link

<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/careers/17880>

for an announcement for a postdoctoral program to fill positions at NRCan, ECCC, Agriculture Canada and Fisheries and Oceans. This was also suggested as a topic of discussion at the next ARRCU open web conference.

ACTION 2.3. Executive: Organize discussion involving ECCC and other reps on the new postdoctoral program at the October ARRCU open web conference.

5 Update on ARRCU-E (Paul M), assessment of goals for year.

Paul Myers brought an update on the status of the paper on education/training/communication/outreach. It is expected that a first draft can be shared at the beginning of October. It will be circulated for feedback and discussed at the web conference. Minutes of the ARRCU-E townhall meeting at the CMOS congress in Halifax have are available. They reveal that there is a lower number of students registering in meteorology programs which raises issues about the relevance of these programs. It was pointed out that the link between environment and climate change issues could be more reflected in these programs. Employment opportunities are increasing in the applied meteorology areas such as land management, health issues and adaptation to the expected climate change. It is important to stress also that employment at ECCC is offering opportunities in R&D still requiring a solid background in physics, mathematics and computer science.

ACTION 2.3: present a summary of the ARRCU-E conclusions for discussions at the next ARRCU general meeting in October.

6 Update on ARRCU-I

Peter Taylor summarized the current status of the ARRCU-I white paper. Representatives of the industry include the Weather Network and AMEC (now part of the Wood Group). There is an interest in road weather for instance. It would be important to know what the status is with the Cooperative Research and Development program to be able to prepare joint projects with the industry. The white paper is progressing and this topic will also be raised briefly at the October conference.

7 Any updates from CMOS UPEC etc. (Adam M update)

In terms of UPEC updates: 20 letters of offer went to candidates for the Meteorologist Occupational Training Program last year. This number represents about 1/3 of people who wrote the exam. Most of those who were unsuccessful on the exam were so because of a weak meteorological background, as opposed to physics/math. The committee discussed holding a "*Workshop on Educational Requirements Supporting Private and Public Employment in Meteorology and Oceanography*" in response to changing needs (particularly in ECCC). It was suggested that this workshop could be linked to the 2019 IUGG meeting in Montreal, and organized in association with ARRCU. MSC has indicated it would provide some support for this workshop. Details are expected to be developed this autumn.

8 Goals for open meeting October 11.

- Formulate recommendations based on the white paper to be presented in a pre-budget consultation.
- Info from NSERC regarding visiting fellowships from ECCC, NRCAN, Health Canada. See <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/careers/17880>.
- IUGG meeting/CMOS congress: promote participation to the ARRCU townhall.
- Update for ARRCU-E (Paul Myers)
- Update for ARRCU-I (Peter Taylor)

9 List of actions

9.1 Review of actions

ARRCU1.1: to formulate recommendations based on the white paper to be presented in a pre-budget consultations.

Done.

ARRCU1.2: define a mechanism to inform this community of opportunities like ESA's ITT. This could be done in collaboration with CSA.

This could be more relevant for the SPACE-SIG. The action is therefore closed.

ARRCU1.3: Ms Roy and Ms Sharp are not involved in the partnership program which is supporting several atmospheric scientists in Canada. We have an action to find out what type of changes if any can be expected for that program.

Done. Information on the partnership program is not yet available but will be communicated to us as soon as it is.

ARRCU1.4: ARRCU-SIG will consult the CMOS scientific committee on the review of the research classification for clarification from NSERC about what is required from us, and return an answer to them once the timeline of a decision required is known.

This action remains open.

9.2 *New actions*

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