

MINUTES OF THE ARRCU SIG EXECUTIVE MEETING

Date: April 11, 2019 (videoconference)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY BOARD:

Paul Kushner (chair), Pierre Gauthier (secretary-treasurer), Kim Strong,
Roland Stull, Peter Taylor

PARTICIPANTS: Kristina Archibald, Stéphanie Lancaster, Tristan McLean, Sylvie Roy

REGRETS: Hind Al-Abadleh, John Gyakum, Paul Myers, Randall Martin, Rebecca Saari

1 Adoption of agenda

2 Business

2.1 Budget

The main expense was the subscription for WebEx. This is not needed anymore as we can use Zoom through UQAM's subscription. Small funds are required for the Open meeting at IUGG (e.g., refreshments).

2.2 Review of actions

None at the moment. The advisory board is asked to suggest names of candidates to fill positions that will be vacant in July.

2.3 Membership

Three positions on the advisory board will have to be filled to replace Kim Strong, John Gyakum and Rebecca Saari.

3 Evidence for Democracy (E4D)

Presentation by Tristan MacLean on current E4D activities. A survey on funding of science in Canada has been conducted and 82 participants completed it. The results are being compiled and a report should be released by the end of May and presented at the IUGG meeting.

4 Review of last open meeting

The last open meeting was well attended and provided interesting information on topics such as climate services. However, it did not lead to specific actions or recommendations. To be more useful, these meetings should discuss the next steps towards a strategic plan resulting in specific actions. When ARRCU was created, the goal was to give a voice to our community to provide recommendations on a future funding programme to succeed to CCAR and CFCAS. This resulted in a white paper describing the objectives of Atmosphere Related Research (ARR) and two others on ARRCU-Industry and ARRCU-Government,

a third one on ARRCU-Education to be released next summer. These give a clear picture of the current situation and the problems we are facing.

5 Strategic issues for ARRCU

The papers mentioned above do provide some general recommendations. The discussion was on ideas for mechanisms that could be considered. Given that we are concerned with ARR, the relation with government is mainly with ECCC. Peter Taylor mentioned that, in the past, the “Heads of and Chairs” meeting invited representatives of universities and government to discuss common interests and potential collaboration. Since ECCC will have a scientific advisor in the near future, it would be important to contact him/her about the situation in ARRCU and to support ARR in universities.

Why have the Heads and Chairs meeting stopped? With time, as pointed out by Roland Stull, these meetings were not very productive and were more about ECCC giving information about what they were doing. Then ECCC asked that universities organize these meetings with government organizations (e.g., ECCC, DFO, NRCan). This did not occur because of lack of funding. An alternative would be to have those in videoconferences but it would not be the same as a face-to-face meeting.

A similar Heads and Chairs meeting is held for Earth Science which is attended by NSERC, NRCan and industry. Discussions revolve around common issues (e.g., existing and potential collaborations, student recruitment). It would be interesting to know more about the outcome of these meetings. It may be possible to envision a similar consortium for atmospheric science.

Paul Kushner reminded us that the role of ARRCU is to give a voice to our community at the request of NSERC. Representatives of NSERC attend our meetings and exchange information through ARRCU. A strategic plan should focus on a few topics. Some example were given such as the Arctic, air quality or research needed to support impact and adaptation studies related to climate change and high impact weather. Amongst specific actions that could help, ECCC could fund a supplement to NSERC’s Discovery Grant programme to encourage scientists in ARR.

The *Oceans Research in Canada Alliance (ORCA)* “*was established to improve the coordination of ocean science and technology (S&T) in Canada. ORCA brings together Canada's ocean S&T community to increase collective knowledge, align efforts, and forge stronger collaborative ties*”. It is funded by DFO and organizes an annual meeting (one dan and a half). It would be interesting to know how this works and what it has it led to. More on ORCA at

http://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97482.html.

6 Education and ARRCU-E

Paul Myers has drafted a first version of the white paper but he was not be able to attend our meeting. This will be discussed at the ARRCU Open meeting in July. Paul Kushner has been contacted by H. Charlton (University of Reading) regarding the WMO Global Campus. The objective is to share information on atmospheric science and provide international coordination of the creation of educational material. This is similar to the COMET program (to which ECCC contributes) but has a broader scope. This will be discussed at the ARRCU-SIG Open meeting in Montréal.

7 Report on National Climate Change Science and Knowledge Workshop

Paul Kushner attended this 2-day workshop funded by ECCC. There were only a few government scientists and only two from universities. The emphasis of the workshop was on the applications and nearly no contributions on the fundamental science. Clearly, there is a need to advocate for the need of this research to provide reliable information to support impact, mitigation and adaptation studies. Recent advances in climate science indicates that changes in some physical processes (e.g., representation of clouds) may lead to important differences in the climate projections at all scales. It would be important to stress that our models are far from being perfect and that it is important to foster research to better understand the interaction of the processes that govern the evolution of the Earth system.

Could we envision joint NSERC-ECCC calls for proposals to promote more fundamental research? It would be important to present the issue that quantitative information is needed to support policy recommendations for those to be able to achieve their objectives. What level of funding would be needed? If such a programme were created, this brings us back to the initial objective of ARRCU: how should it be organized for it to achieve its goals?

8 Schedule of upcoming meetings

Townhall meeting at the IUGG-CMOS Congress in Montréal

IUGG-CMOS 2019 - ARRCU-SIG town hall

Wed, July 10	12:00-14:00	MCC - Floor 5	ROOM : 518A
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Tentative items for the agenda:

- Update on the ARRCU-Education white paper
- Update on the ARRCU-Industry white paper
- Summary of recommendations from the white papers
- Broader discussion on how to advocate that fundamental research is needed for policies related to impact of climate change and high impact weather.
- Update from NSERC (Kristina Archibald on NSERC Alliance program)
- Next steps:
 - a. Open science workshop on Building Resilience or any other theme.
 - b. Candidates for three positions on the ARRCU Advisory Board.