

To: ARRCU "All" list

Subject: ARRCU Communiqué, 9 May 2017

Dear Colleagues,

This communiqué will provide you with the latest update on the ARRCU Working Group's activities. Topics covered include

1. Report on Academic-Government Partnerships meeting
2. Academic-Government Partnerships paper: next steps
3. Academic-Industry Partnerships
4. Federal Budget 2017 and Federal Science Review
5. ARRCU at CMOS.
6. Endorsements
7. Reminder: ARRCU Announcements List.
8. Review of actions/deadlines

The previous communiqué of November 28, 2016 can be found at the ARRCU.ca website at the link: <http://www.arrcu.ca/s/ARRCU-Communique-2016-11-28.pdf>

1. Academic-Government Partnerships (AGP) meeting, University of Toronto, Friday January 20, 2017

This meeting, held at the Faculty Club at the University of Toronto, was convened to discuss a first draft of the Academic-Government Partnerships paper arising from the outline scoped at the Nov. 7 webinar. The meeting is summarized in the document linked below. The meeting was attended in person and remotely by over 20 participants. The discussion covered all aspects of the first draft and plans for the AGP paper. The following day (January 21, 2017), the author team of the AGP paper met to plan next steps for the document and this activity. We wish to thank all participants for their hard work in moving this document forward.

A principal outcome of this stage of strategic planning was to identify the need and terms of reference for the Panel on Atmospheric Related Research in Canada (PARRC), which would serve as an advisory panel dealing primarily with the interaction between academic and federal government researchers in ARR. Details of the PARRC terms of reference will be found in the next draft of the AGP focus paper.

Another key outcome of the meetings was a renewed emphasis on the themes of *fundamental research* and of *education and training*. Although the ostensible focus of our meetings was AGP, it was felt strongly that the ARRCU community should more strongly emphasize promoting fundamental ARR. Fortunately, this theme also resonates with our government research colleagues. The long-term work required to articulate what constitutes fundamental research and how it should figure in our strategic planning is of mutual interest. It was recommended that a focus on the role of fundamental research in ARR become a formal part of our strategic planning process. In addition, the section of the AGP paper dealing with education and training was favourably viewed as critical to the potential payoff of the ARRCU effort.

For more detailed documentation, please see:

- First draft of AGP paper: www.arrcu.ca/s/AGP-ARRCU-Draft1-2017-01-13.pdf

- Slide presentation used at the meeting: www.rrcu.ca/s/ARRCU-AGP-Slides-2017-01-20.pdf
- Meeting summary: www.rrcu.ca/s/ARRCU-AGP-meeting-Summary-2017-01-30.pdf

2. Academic-Government Partnerships paper: steps after the University of Toronto meeting

After the January 20 meeting, we sought additional feedback on the AGP focus paper from the ARRCU community, and this feedback was summarized and shared with the author team, which met again by telecon on April 4, 2017. Paul K ran into delays in revising the document, and as such our timeline is set back by several weeks. We apologize to those adversely impacted by this delay.

In order to expedite finishing the paper, and recognizing that this focus paper is only one of several papers contributing to a larger strategic planning document, we recommend foregoing the formal approval process of soliciting signatures that was undertaken for the White Paper. Accompanying this communiqué is a second draft of the AGP focus paper. We ask for input on this draft by Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at which point we will revise and post a final version of it. Please let us know if there are concerns about this way of proceeding.

3. Academic-Industry Partnerships: first steps

On March 15, 2017, the ARRCU Working Group committee met to review progress and discuss the part of our strategic planning process focused on Academic-Industry partnerships. A committee consisting initially of Peter Taylor, Pierre Gauthier, and Roland Stull was struck to engage industry in this area. Solicitation of interest is being sought from industry, and we welcome any further input from the ARRCU community. A town hall focused on this topic has been scheduled for the upcoming CMOS Congress (see item 5).

4. Budget 2017 and Canada's Fundamental Science Review

The 2017 federal budget (<http://budget.gc.ca>) was released March 22, 2017. We noted an absence of new funding for programs, such as the Climate Change and Atmospheric Research program, that supported partnership in ARR.

Canada's Fundamental Science Review (<http://sciencereview.ca>) was released April 10, 2017. We noted that the ARRCU was listed as one of the organizations that made submissions to the science review panel (see p.203 of the report at [http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapj/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf/\\$file/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf](http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapj/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf/$file/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf))

and that the report included a few references to climate change and environmental degradation (e.g. p.20). The main thrust of the report was broadly concerned with structural issues related to support of scientific research in Canada.

We are reviewing these documents, particularly the Federal Science Review, and welcome the community's ideas on the best way forward. Because the ARRCU Working Group is not a formally incorporated organization, we are not well positioned to advocate directly for the ARR community in Canada in relation to either the Federal Budget or the Federal Science Review process. Our view remains that our current strategic planning effort will help make the best case for enhanced funding support for University based ARR in Canada.

5. ARRCU Town Halls at CMOS

We would like to invite you to two scheduled discussions on ARRCU activities at the CMOS Congress, which will take place in Toronto from June 4-8.

- *ARRCU panel/townhall style meeting* (P. Kushner, chair):
 - Wednesday, July 8, 16h30-18h00 in the Carmichael Room.
 - This will provide a general update and discussion forum on the status of the ARRCU activities.
- *ARRCU panel/townhall on Academic-Industry Partnership and Collaboration* (P. Taylor, chair):
 - Thursday, July 9, 10h30-12h00 in the Harris Room.
 - This will provide a focused discussion on Academic-Industry partnerships in ARR.

Please contact Paul Kushner or Peter Taylor if you have questions about these events.

6. Endorsements of the ARRCU Activity

We are very pleased to report that both NSERC and Environment and Climate Change Canada have provided formal letters of endorsement for the ARRCU activity. These letters can be found on the ARRCU website under “Documents”. We thank both agencies for their support.

7. Reminder - ARRCU Announcements List

A reminder that we have created an announcements list,

ARRCU_ANNOUNCEMENTS-L@listserv.utoronto.ca

to communicate employment opportunities, panel participation calls, educational and training program announcements, and related communications in atmospheric and related sciences in Canada. The list is open to all, so please encourage your research group members and colleagues to subscribe by following the link below.

https://listserv.utoronto.ca/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ARRCU_ANNOUNCEMENTS-L

8. Review of actions/deadlines

In summary, please note the following items for follow up:

- Please review the second draft of the Academic-Government Partnerships paper and return comment to Paul Kushner and Sylvie Roy by **May 23, 2017**.
- Please let us know your thoughts on the Federal Budget and Federal Science Review processes.
- Please attend the CMOS Congress events on June 7 and June 8.

Sincerely,

Paul Kushner, on behalf of the ARRCU Working Group Committee

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