



**Business Meeting, 27 May 2014**  
**Centre Mont-Royal, Salon Cartier 1, Montréal, Québec**

**Attendance**

Shelley Arnott, Beatrix Beisner, Jules Blais, Alison Derry, Rene Gregory-Eaves, Karen Kidd, Peter Leavitt, Roxane Maranger, Alain Patoine, Alexandre Poulain, Roberto Quinlan, Mike Rennie, Warwick Vincent

Jules Blais (SCL President) presides the meeting. Roberto Quinlan (SCL Secretary-Treasurer) records the minutes of the meeting.

1. Acceptance of minutes of SCL 2013 business meeting. Moved by Mike Rennie, seconded by Alison Derry, 4 abstentions, none opposed.
2. Mike Rennie discussed expanded guidelines for Rigler and Peters Award committees, including standardization of nomination packages, and an expectation that the award winner presents at the SCL annual conference.
3. Genomes to Biomes meeting – Alison Derry noted that approximately 50% of SCL's membership was attending the conference, highest amongst all the societies, even though only 8% of the conference's total attendance were SCL members (53 registrants identified as SCL members), indicating strong attendance by SCL; there were 34 SCL presentations, 6 posters (3 student, 2 postdoc, 1 PI), and 8 invited talks (symposia or plenary). Incorporation of SCL would facilitate involvement in future Genomes to Biomes meetings (and other similar multi-society conferences).
4. Newsletter – Mike Rennie noted the success of SCL's communications efforts, with 1200 Twitter followers (with the SCL Twitter account linked to SCL's Facebook page), and SCL's social media presence has been highlighted by science bloggers as one of the top societies in terms of outreach via social media.
5. Financial report from the Treasurer:
  - a. Roberto Quinlan (RQ) provided a report on SCL finances and membership, by reviewing annual incomes and expenses over the past fiscal year (which commences 01 October of each year). Details in Appendix 1 of this report.
  - b. Of the \$20,000 transferred from SIL to SCL for student travel (following the 2007 SIL conference in Montreal), \$2,500 remains for student travel.
  - c. Total membership in 2013 increased from 85 in 2012 to 100 in 2013. The 5-year average is 88. Continued recent increases in membership numbers may reflect the increased convenience of membership payment via PayPal, and the increased visibility of SCL efforts in science advocacy. 22% of 2013 SCL members were students, which is below above the 5-year average of 23.3%.

- d. Following suggested best accounting practices for non-profit organizations, \$18,500 of SCL's bank account balance should be held in reserve.
  - e. While, *sensu stricto*, this is an item for the 2014 financial report and 2015 business meeting, RQ noted an uptick in society membership to 126 by March 2014, particularly by students (increased to 29% of membership), associated with the G2B conference early registration deadline. RQ thanked Mike Rennie's efforts to notify past and present SCL members of membership dues renewal.
6. Jules Blais spoke of SCL's outreach and advocacy, noting that the society's advocacy has been in defense of good science, and that partisanship is not a motivation for outreach.
  7. The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) – SCL continues to be a member of PAGSE, which seeks to improve lines of communication between government and scientists, through activities such as the “Bacon and Eggheads” meeting on Parliament Hill, where PAGSE meets with government officials to make recommendations on science policy. SCL's perspectives are well-represented at PAGSE, with its current chair Martha Guy, who is a SCL member and past SCL President.
  8. Update on ELA – “Yay!” 3 of 4 (former) ELA scientists are now with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD); so far, the operation of ELA by IISD has been very positive.
  9. Recruiting a new SCL executive – RQ volunteered to continue with another 3-year term as SCL's Secretary-Treasurer, to 2017, which was met with approval by business meeting attendees. Mike Rennie will continue as Communications Officer; the January 2015 business meeting will include nominations and election of a new President and Vice-Presidents, so nominations amongst Canada's aquatic science community will be sought for January 2015 elections.
  10. Incorporation of SCL – SCL's involvement in G2B 2014 has highlighted the importance and need for incorporation, if SCL wishes to continue being involved in the organization and sponsorship of future scientific conferences. CSEE is incorporated, and CCFFR has now incorporated. There are nominal costs and paperwork involved with incorporation, including a \$200 filing fee and a small annual fee. A motion to pursue incorporation further was moved by Peter Leavitt, seconded by Roxanne Maranger, passed unanimously. Discussion ensued, including noting possible replication and overlap with other organizations with respect to “society membership fatigue”.
  11. Future meetings – there has been initial communication with CCFFR regarding SCL session themes at the January 2015 SCL/CCFFR meeting in Ottawa.
  12. Society website – SCL's new website should be up and fully functional by the end of 2014.
  13. Meeting adjourned.

Appendix 1 – Financial report – revenues and expenditures

<b>Previous Account Balance</b>		<b>\$ 33,474.36</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b>\$ 13,418.95</b>
SCL dues 2013	\$ 9,249.95	
SIL dues 2013	\$ 3,397.00	
Ad revenue – The Current	\$ 150.00	
Peter's Award Donations	\$ 622.00	
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>		<b>\$ 16,000.59</b>
Bank charges	\$ 134.25	
PayPal charges	\$ 345.28	
Graphic design (website)	\$ 2,015.00	
Clemens Rigler Travel Fund	\$ 2,500.00	
<b>Genomes to Biomes contribution</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	*
PAGSE membership dues 2013	\$ 750.00	
Rigler Award – travel, registration etc	\$ 1,402.06	
Peter's Award	\$ 500.00	
SIL dues - transfer	\$ 3,354.00	
<b>New account balance</b>		<b>\$ 30,892.72</b>
<b>Change in account balance</b>		<b>-\$ 2,581.64</b>

Reflects transactions 01 October 2012 to 30 September 2013

\* Loan to Genomes to Biomes corporation for costs of hosting 2014 G2B conference, to be repaid back to SCL.