

**Minutes of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
(WDCAG) AGM, Thompson Rivers University  
Kamloops, BC. March 11, 2006.**

**1. Adoption of Agenda - (Craig Coburn/Robert Rogerson).**

Carried

**2. Approval of the Minutes from WDCAG AGM March 12, 2005.** (Robert Rogerson/Neil Hanlon).

Carried

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes - None.**

**4. Action Items.**

**1. Awards Pilot Project – (Jim Windsor)**

- a. W.C. Wonders Award – Research (Scholarly Distinction) awarded to Dan Smith.
- b. J.A. McVey Award – Teaching Excellence awarded to David Gibson.
- c. J.L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service to the WDCAG awarded to Ivan Townshend.
- d. Mug of Distinction awarded to Patrick Buckley (Western Washington University).

**2. CAG Travel Grant disbursement.** The distribution of the travel grant this year was based on travel distance to Kamloops. The following departments with student representation were allotted \$300 (UVIC, UNBC, UofA, and UofL). A stipend of \$100 was awarded to the following participants (Malaspina, CNC, and UBCO). (Jim Windsor/Craig Coburn)

Carried

**3. Jim Windsor is waiting for revisions to a number of manuscripts and will be producing his final version of Western Geography (Volume 15/16).** The publication costs will result in the division spending around \$2100 to print this volume. (Jim Windsor/Robert Rogerson).

Carried

**5. Reports.**

a. **Secretary/Treasurer Report.** Craig Coburn reported a balance of \$8050.37 as of February 29, 2005. Revenue for the year ending February 29, 2006 was \$2500, while expenses amounted to \$1635.00. Revenue exceeded expenditures by \$865.

Motion – Claire Beaney/Gilles Viaud. That the Secretary/Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Carried

b. **Western Geography - Editor's Report.** Volume 15/16 is forthcoming and will have 37 copies produced. A new editor for Western Geography is required and Neil Hanlon agreed to take on the task while a new Editor is found.

c. **Newsletter Editor's Report.** The newsletter still suffers from a lack of contributions. It would be good to get club write-ups from the geography clubs and departments. A vote of thanks was extended to Ineke Dijks for long service as editor.

d. **Presidents Report.** Neil Hanlon circulated a written report and a brief discussion followed.

The president thanked Jim Windsor for his long-term work as the editor of Western Geography. Thanks were also extended to Dan Smith for continuing efforts with the website. Special thanks to Ben Moffat for 4 years of top-level service to the Western Division. A brief discussion on how to improve attendance by the larger institutions in the division followed. It was resolved that the president should write a letter to department chairs at UofA, UofC, UBC, and SFU to encourage participation in the CAG and in the WDCAG.

#### **6. Next Meeting.**

To be held at University College of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, BC, March, 2006.  
(Robert Rogerson/Cliff Raphael) – Carried.

#### **8. Elections.**

- a. President - Neil Hanlon (UNBC - 2 year term).
- b. Vice-President – Robert Rogerson.
- c. Past-President – Open this year.
- d. Secretary-Treasurer - Craig Coburn (UofL).
- e. Members at large –
  - Sandy Vandenberg (TRU)
  - Hester Jiskoot (UofL)
  - Gilles Viaud (TRU)
  - Barb McNichol (Mt. Royal College).
- f. Student Members –
  - Leifka Vissers (UCFV)
  - Donald Iwanicka (UofL)
- g. Publications – Neil Hanlon (UNBC - Temporary).
- h. Newsletter Editor – Claire Beaney (UCFV).
- i. Archivist – Ken Brealey (UCFV)

#### **9. Other Business.**

- a. Student Presentation Awards – each student will be awarded a one-year membership in the CAG (total \$135).
  - i. Kelly Penrose (UVIC).
  - ii. Kristin Simpson (SFU).
  - iii. Matt Summerskill (UNBC).

#### **10. Adjournment.**

## **Newsletter Editor=s Report**

**8 March 2006**

The Newsletter is a communication device to keep WDCAG members informed about the activities of its associated institutions and members. The newsletter is issued two times each year, one issue in the spring and one in the fall and is distributed electronically only.

This past year the spring issue was sent to the members in April 2005 with contributions from 10 representatives. The fall issue had 14 contributions. Some are detailed with interesting photographs, others are short memos, nevertheless all information is important. Several institutions contributed to both, the Spring and Fall issues, others contributed to one or the other. Overall there were 16 institutions contributing throughout 2005.

In order to keep up-to-date we need the input from as many members as possible and I encourage all institutional representatives to send in news items. Last year I suggested that student geography clubs of the various institutions contribute to the newsletter, for example information about their activities and projects. Perhaps some could write a short note about their experiences of participating in the WDCAG Conference.

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WDCAG Newsletter Editor  
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**President's Report**  
**Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**11 March 2006**

There has been an important and positive development since our last meeting that I wish to highlight to begin this report. Largely through the efforts of Jim Windsor, we have established two new awards to be presented as a pilot initiative at today's AGM. These are the William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction and the Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence. Together with the Lew Robinson Award for Meritorious Service, we now have a formal means of recognizing excellence in the three key areas of academia – scholarship, teaching and service. We will discuss a motion at today's AGM to make the Wonders and McVey awards a regular part of our annual meetings. I see this as an important step in making membership in our division even more meaningful and rewarding for geographers working in the full range of postsecondary settings in our region – i.e., from community colleges to the medical-doctoral universities.

As you all know, the work of an association such as ours depends on the voluntary efforts and abilities of its members and I wish to single out some key figures who have made valuable contributions to the WD-CAG over the past year.

1. Dan Smith has once again done a great job of updating and maintaining the website and list-serve. Keep your comments, questions and messages flowing.
2. Some long-standing members of the Executive are not seeking renewal in their present positions and I wish to thank each of them for their efforts.
  - a. Jim Windsor is stepping down after many years of service as editor of *Western Geography*. Many thanks, Jim!
  - b. Ineke Dijks has asked to hand over responsibilities for editing our Newsletter, at least for the coming year. Very special thanks to her for carrying on with these duties over the previous twelve months.
  - c. Ken Favrholt is not seeking renewal as Archivist.
  - d. Gilles Viaud and Glen Hvenegaard are completing their terms as members-at-large, and Ian MacLachlan is stepping down a year early to focus on his new duties as a CAG Councilor
  - e. Rachael Clasby and Casey Vandenberg are completing their stints as student representatives.
  - f. Last, and certainly not least, Ben Moffat's role as Past President comes to a close today. Well done, Ben!

We remain a very vibrant division. The present meeting has attracted a large number of presenters and participants. In-between meetings, our listserve remains active and we continue to produce a bi-annual Newsletter that updates the activities and accomplishments of our member departments.

Once again we received some financial assistance from the national office to help run a more successful annual meeting. The CAG Executive has once again graciously provided our division with a travel grant (\$1,500) to help defray some of the costs of travel. Last year we divided the grant evenly amongst four departments (CNC, Thompson Rivers, UNBC and UVic).

Details of this year's distribution will be determined at the AGM, but should follow the same basic principles (e.g., transfers by department rather than individual members, distance and # participants as factors in which departments eligible).

While there is much to be pleased about, there are always areas where we might improve. Below, I present what I see as some of our pressing concerns.

1. The BC Education Chair – this position was not filled at last year's AGM and subsequent efforts to find someone to fill the role were unsuccessful. We are all aware of the importance of enrolments to departmental budgets and it is vital that we know what is happening in our secondary school systems. Later in today's meeting, we will deal with the issue of what to do about the present state of the BC Education Chair. We need to consider ways to renew/revamp the position.
2. The future of *Western Geography* – following the publication of the next issue (expected in May 2006), we need to find a new editor and a way to finance the operation. There has been some discussion of moving to a purely electronic format, but concerns have been raised that this will diminish the appeal of the journal (e.g., for libraries). This, too, is part of our agenda for today's meeting.
3. We should continue to make it a priority to expand and retain our membership base – not just from the large metropolitan-based departments but from across the full spectrum of programs and departments in various post-secondary institutions in AB, BC, Yukon, and parts of the US Northwest. We should also be thinking about those outside of the post-secondary sector (e.g., those in education and the public and private sectors).
4. In a related vein, I am concerned about the potential for volunteer fatigue – we need to keep attracting new blood to fill various posts on the Executive, expand the conference rotation (we shouldn't be asking certain departments to host every five years) and participate in our key activities (conference, newsletter and list-serve submissions).
5. A number of students have asked me about having some sort of job fair at the annual meetings. While this adds yet another responsibility on the conference hosts, it would be a big selling feature for students.
6. Hosting the annual conference is a gracious act of service to the division and we should do what we can to make this process as smooth and seamless as possible. To that end, I would like to resurrect the binder (or simply a file folder) that organizers of future conferences receive from the previous year's hosts to help with planning and logistics. I will therefore be asking the present organizing committee to forward me materials that might be relevant to future planning as the first step in preparing this file for subsequent hosts.

With that said, it has been a most rewarding and productive year for the WD-CAG and I have great optimism for the one ahead. I hope to see you all at the CAG meeting in Thunder Bay this May/June 2006.

- Neil Hanlon