**ACAG Annual General Meeting 2023**

**November 3, 2023**

**Via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

**AGENDA**

**Agenda**

* MOTION: Approval of agenda.
* MOTION:
* **Seconded:**
* **Carried**

**Minutes**

* MOTION: Approval of minutes from 2022 (SMU).
* MOTION:
* **Seconded:**
* **Carried**

**Officer’s Reports**

* **President’s Report:** Carissa Brown
* Brown thanked all the attendees and presenters at the conference and commented that the virtual format continues to work for our division. Our division is so widely distributed that it is simply too costly for folks to travel to MUNL when they host, and for MUNL geographers to travel out of province when the host is in the Maritimes. Virtual format is much more inclusive and equitable and lets a range of people attend who might not make that commitment if it involved travelling, such as our dear members who are now retired. There were 21 talks over the two days and a plenary lecture by Dr. Richard Shearmur from McGill. Approximately 60 registered for the conference.
* ACAG Exec intends to continue with the virtual conference format. This year we tried something different by having it on weekdays rather than the weekend, as we have for the past few years. Brown notes that the original choice of scheduling on weekends was a vestige of in-person meetings, when attendees needed to teach / take classes and then travel. Noted that she is also conscious that holding the meeting on the weekend means that some folks can’t attend, because they have caretaker or work obligations. The weekday meeting required a bit of finessing for the programming to meet everyone’s schedule needs, but it wasn’t so onerous that it was an issue. In the future, we may consider alternating weekend and weekday meetings from year to year. Feedback on that idea is welcome.
* One thing that is special about ACAG is our representation of the many different subdisciplines of Geography. Brown notes that at MUNL, they actively work against divisions of human and physical geography, social science and natural science. The talks we have each year at our annual ACAG conference also meet that goal, and Brown thinks we have managed to maintain a participation of all subdisciplines of geography in a way that the national conference has not.
* Brown is proud that we continue to be a comfortable and welcoming place for undergraduates to give likely their first conference presentation, and that we have continued participation of Geographic professionals. It’s the bringing together of all these members of our geography community that creates opportunity, engagements, and idea generation between our Atlantic Canadian members.
* Brown takes a formal moment to thank the ACAG exec for their contributions to our Division, and particularly for quickly responding when I send an email with all of those exclamation alerts on them asking five questions at the last minute.
* Thanks to Evan Andrews and David Lieske for helping to moderate, and thanks to David for being available this past year during our presidential transition, and Mat Novak for keeping an eye on our money.
* Finally, Brown announces that she is serving as co-organizer and lead on the academic program for CAG 2024, to be hosted by MUNL in August 2024. Chief Misel Joe will open the conference, and we have also invited Indigenous scholar plenary Dr. Sherry Pictou at Dalhousie as an Indigenous Scholar Keynote speaker, and she has accepted. It should be a great conference.
* **Financial Report: Mat Novak**

**2023 Financial Report**

January 2023 saw an opening balance of $4,429.65 with expenses comprising of student awards given at the annual conference totalling $750.00. The year ended with a balance of $3,854.65.

Opening Balance: $4,429.65

Revenue: $175.00 (ACAG Annual Rebate)

Expenses: $750.00 (Student Awards)

Closing Balance: $3,854.65

At current drawdown rates, our funds will be depleted in approximately six years. Discussions began at this year’s AGM about the possibility of instituting a registration fee or optional donation for attendees at the annual conference to support student awards.

Mathew Novak

ACAG Treasurer

**Additional Business**

**-**Executive nominations

* No nominations made
* Current board:
* **Dr. Carissa Brown (MUNL)**, ACAG President from fall 2022 to fall 2025.
* **Dr. Mat Novak (SMU)**, ACAG Secretary-Treasurer (2022-2025).
* **Dr. Dave Lieske (MTA)**, ACAG member-at-large (2022-2025).
* **Dr. Josh Lepawsky (MUNL)**, ACAG member-at-large (2022-2025).
* **Mr. Johnathan Carter (NB),** ACAG member-at-large (2022-2025).
* Joshua Barrett as a member-at-large (2022-2025)
* Miranda Frison as student-rep (2022-2025)

-Other business

* No other business

**Presentation of Student Awards**

**Best student presentation:**

Marina Cuselli Memorial University  The use of nature based infrastructure for mitigating coastal erosion

**Founder’s Award:**

Tolulope Victoria Akerele Memorial University Building Inclusive Transit System for Immigrants in Canada’s Small and Mid-sized Cities

**Lightning Talk Award**

Olivia Kokkinen Saint Mary’s University  Comparing Different Methodologies in Connectivity Modelling for Protected Areas Design in Southwest Nova Scotia

Honourable mention: Mary Londero Memorial University of Newfoundland Integrating Scientific and Community Knowledge for Marine Conservation through the I-ADApT Framework: A Burgeo case study

**2023 ACAG Meeting**

* TBA, but Mount Allison is next in the rotation.

**MOTION to adjourn**

* MOTION:
* **Seconded:**
* **Carried**