

Western Canadian Computing Education Society (WCCES)
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, 4:30pm PDT
Okanagan College, Kelowna, BC

1. Call to order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 16:43

Mike Zastre explained the purpose of the society for people who had not attended its previous meetings.

Attending were: Patrice Belleville (University of British Columbia, Vancouver), Celina Berg (University of Victoria), Bill Bird (University of Victoria), Joseph Brown (Thompson Rivers University), Sarah Carruthers (Vancouver Island University), Anthony Estey (University of Victoria), Sahlil Ghosh (Northern Lights College), Bryan Green (Langara College), Charles Hepler (Mount Royal University), Piper Jackson (Thompson Rivers University), Youry Khmelevsky (Okanagan College), Kevin O'Neill (Thompson Rivers University), Ben Stephenson (University of Calgary) and Mike Zastre (University of Victoria).

The meeting was chaired by Mike Zastre.

2. Approval of the agenda

Mike Zastre went over the agenda briefly and moved its approval. Bryan Green seconded.

3. Review of minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting from May 4th, 2023 at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver)

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. Mike Zastre went over the most important points of the minute.

Mike Zastre moved for approval, seconded by Charles Hepler

4. Treasurer's report

The Society has had no income or expenses over the past fiscal year. It has a bank account that was established in 2016 and currently contains about \$4000. With the formation of a functional executive committee, control of the account will go to them.

5. President's report

The Society currently has a Board of Directors but no Executive Committee. Therefore a report on behalf of the board will be presented by Mike Zastre. The directors were: Donald Acton (University of British Columbia, Vancouver), Yasaman Amannejad (Mount Royal University), Bill Bird (University of Victoria), Ashley Blacquiere (North Island College), Diana Cukierman (Simon Fraser University), Charles Hepler

(Mount Royal University), Youry Khmelevsky (Okanagan College), Jonatan Schroeder (York University), Ben Stephenson (University of Calgary) and Mike Zastre (University of Victoria). Mike Zastre thanked all of the board members.

The board of directors had two meetings. They reviewed the discussion from the previous Annual General Meeting, identified four goals and discussed issues of immediate concern for upcoming events.

The four goals and the actions towards them were:

Goal 1: Elicit from other computer-science educators in Canada what they wish to gain for themselves, their colleagues and their students from the WCCCE; and also elicit how these educators would like to participate with — and contribute to — the conference.

Action: A survey was sent out but the raw data is not appropriate to share at the Annual General Meeting.

Goal 2: Determine if there exist organizations who are suitable long-term advocates for (or perhaps sponsors of) the WCCCE.

Action: the board sought advice on approaching CS-CAN. It was determined that now was not the right time. Outreach will be easier if the conference is perceived as stable and strong.

Goal 3: Clarify / articulate / revise the roles played by the WCCES (and roles within the WCCES) with respect to the WCCCE.

Action: The formal recognition that the Annual General Meeting is the single entity in charge of the WCCCE is item 6.1 on this meeting's agenda.

Goal 4: Capture, maintain, and make easily available checklists and other resources needed either by those organizing a conference or by those considering approaching their institution to host a future offering of the conference.

Action: no action has been taken yet.

Mike Zastre then reminded those present that WCCCE 2025 will be held at Mount Royal University in Calgary (either on May 1st and 2nd, or on May 8th and 9th, 2025). The location and dates for WCCCE 2026 remain to be determined.

6. Other business

- (a) Resolution regarding the relationship between the WCCES and WCCCE steering-committee activities.

Whereas:

- A. For nearly 20 years the WCCCE steering committee has been constituted informally as an advisory body to incoming conference chairs, without elected membership or formal proceedings.
- B. Discussions between members of the steering committee and members of the British Columbia Computing Education Committee (BCCEC)

have normally resulted in decisions on WCCCE locations and dates, even though the BCCEC officially has no responsibilities or obligations towards the WCCCE.

C. An institutional arrangement is needed for WCCCE and WCCES activities as there is more and more cooperation with organizations such as (but not limited to) the ACM and the IEEE.

Be it resolved by a majority vote of members at the 2024 Annual General Meeting that the Executive Committee of the WCCES immediately assume responsibility as the sole WCCCE steering committee.

The motion to approve this resolution was moved by Mike Zastre, and seconded by Bill Bird.

Discussion:

- Piper Jackson: Is there any concern about potential legal challenges (i.e. from the BCCEC)?

Mike Zastre: The mandate of the BCCEC is set by BCCAT. While the conference is co-located with the articulation committee meeting and this has worked very well, I don't believe there can be a legal challenge because the BCCEC has no claim to this.

- Youry Khmelevsky: do we have a quorum to decide this?

Mike Zastre: A quorum is 10 people, so we have quorum.

- Youry Khmelevsky: the Annual General Meeting should make decisions, so why is the steering committee proposing this? The executive committee should execute decisions of the Annual General Meeting.

Bill Bird: the committee serves the will of the Annual General Meetings. There are too many decisions to be made to make them all once per year at the Annual General Meeting.

Mike Zastre: we are moving to an executive committee without a board of directors (the executive committee plays the role played by the board until now).

Youry Khmelevsky: we will only have the executive committee that reports to the Annual General Meeting.

- Joseph Brown: the executive committee could also delegate decisions about a conference to a subcommittee?

Bill Bird: one reason to do this is to have as few committees as possible.

- Bryan Green: are there any potential downfalls?

Kevin O'Neill: only the paperwork.

Bill Bird: this is only reasserting the original bylaw, whereas the committee is in charge of the conference.

Sarah Carruthers: a minor downside is that it will be more work to run elections and find people to fill in roles.

The motion passed with 11 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

- (b) Consequences of ACM Publications “Open Access” policy and the new fee of 700USD per paper.

Official statement: <https://www.acm.org/publications/openaccess>

- No later than the end of the 2025 calendar year, ACM Publications will be 100% Open Access.
- As of January 1, 2024, authors publishing in ACM International Conference Proceeding Series (ICPS) who are not with an institution participating in the ACM Open program must pay 700USD (if an ACM member) or pay 1000USD (if not an ACM member).
- (No Canadian universities or colleges currently participate in the ACM Open program)
- This change has not affected WCCCE 2024 (thank-you Youry)!
- The WCCES board has advised organizers of WCCCE 2025 to investigate IEEE publication (this does not rule out our ACM in-cooperation status for the conference).

Mike Zastre: Donald Acton’s contact at the ACM will talk to Charles Hepler about this.

Piper Jackson: The think that bothers us is the price tag. Are these prices reasonable?

Mike Zastre: it sounds as this is less unjust than other alternatives.

Sarah Carruthers: if our approach is to lean in against this, is there support from other nations?

Mike Zastre: I suspect there will be some negotiations between Universities.

Bill Bird: the price may have been set high as leverage/a negotiation tool. There may be exceptions for publications outside the US.

Ben Stephenson: this policy was a huge source of discussion at the SIGCSE business meeting. It is a problem for education broadly at the ACM. Small schools in the United States may not be able to afford this either. We have no influence on this, unfortunately.

Bryan Green: I won’t be able to publish, nor will I be able to get access.

Youry Khmelevsky: I have agreement as backup plan for Springer as a special edition for free (only one issue). So we have 2 backup plans, not just 1. There are ongoing discussions with/within? the ACM.

Mike Zastre: this is just for information.

7. Election of directors

Mike Zastre: According to the bylaws of the WCCES, the Executive Committee (EC) of the Society consists of four to eight directors, including the following named positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past President.

Although the Society has elected a board of directors each year since its founding in 2016, this will be our first year in which an Executive Committee is formed.

The proposed slate is:

- President: Bill Bird (University of Victoria)
- Vice-President: Charles Hepler (Mount Royal University)
- Secretary: Sarah Carruthers (Vancouver Island University)
- Treasurer: Frank Zhang (University of the Fraser Valley)
- Director: Youry Khmelevsky (Okanagan College)
- Director: Jonatan Schroeder (York University)
- Director: Ben Stephenson (University of Calgary)

The motion to approve this slate was moved by Mike Zastre, seconded by Ben Stephenson.

Discussion

- Youry Khmelevsky: the secretary and treasurer positions are critical. Can we have a treasurer/secretary as backup?

Mike Zastre: I would be surprised if this was necessary. We would need to change the bylaws.

Bryan Breen: we could have an arbitrary number of signing officers, not only the treasurer. How many officers can we have?

Mike Zastre: we need between 4 and 8. I think having 7 is sufficient.

Piper Jackson: we should ask if anyone volunteers to be the 8th director.

Mike Zastre asked, no one volunteered.

- Youry Khmelevsky: I think a backup plan for treasurer is critical. We need an extra position.

Mike Zastre: this requires an amended bylaw with notice which it is too late to do.

Charles Hepler: I am against making on-the-fly changes to bylaws because wording is extremely important.

Youry Khmelevsky: I agree to have extra officers with signing powers.

Mike Zastre: treasurers only writes financial report and maintains list of members.

The motion passed with 14 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

Mike Zastre asked the meeting participants to please answer if they get a message asking for help or information.

8. Setting date and time of next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be on either May 1st or May 8th, whichever is the 1st day of WCCCE 2025.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:26. Mike Zastre moved, seconded by Bryan Green.