



Draft Minutes
139th Annual General Meeting of the RSC
Held Virtually Via Zoom
November 28, 2020, 15h00 – 16h00

1. Opening

As President, J. McNeil called the meeting to order at 15h45 and welcomed members. He invited S. Embleton to give a land acknowledgement.

J. McNeil noted that this has been a challenging year for all RSC members as well as for our families, friends, and colleagues around the world. Due to our continued focus on governance and management, the Board was well-positioned to respond to the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, as noted in the annual report, the RSC either postponed or took all activities online as of March 13, and the Walter House Team worked remotely beginning on March 16.

This has also, however, been a year in which the mission of the RSC has been manifest in an organizational response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the Board of Directors and Council, through the Walter House Team, the RSC Task Force on COVID-19, and the over 300 individuals (so far) engaged to date, the RSC has demonstrated the ways in which it continues a 138 year-long tradition of being purpose-driven.

This year's achievements, both nationally and internationally, have been grounded in objectives outlined in 2018-2022 strategic plan. At the national level J. McNeil highlighted the ongoing work of the Membership Committee and the RSC Task Force on COVID 19, chaired respectively by Marie D'Iorio and Tom Marrie. On the international scene the RSC, and under the leadership of RSC International Secretary Paul Young, the RSC has continued to emphasize engagement with the G7 and G20 Science academies, as well as with umbrella organisations such as IAP and IANAS. The annual report, on the RSC website under Resources, contains a full report on all activities.

The Board met on several occasions to oversee business continuity planning in light of COVID-19, and also met exceptionally to finalize two statements that are available on the RSC website. The first statement, published on June 9, addressed systemic racism, while the second, published on June 15, affirmed the RSC's commitment to inclusive excellence—recognizing that there is no excellence without meaningful inclusion.



The Board approved a six-month budget that runs from July 1 through the end of the calendar year, and will meet in December to consider a budget for the period of January 1 to June 30, 2021, once the results of fall activities and their financial impact have been fully assessed.

During the course of the year, the Governance and Ethics committee advanced a series of recommendations to institutionalize the responsibility for nominating members of the Board, members of Board committees, and overseeing the processes leading to the election of Academy Presidents and the President of the RSC College. The Board adopted these recommendations in late summer. J. McNeil noted that the Governance and Ethics Committee has begun planning for the upcoming presidential elections as well as for the position of RSC Secretary, and encouraged members to begin considering possible candidates.

Several years ago, a task force chaired by Ken Davey updated the RSC by-laws. A new series of updates, to enhance clarity and to remain in keeping with best practices, is now timely. However, due to the exceptional nature of this virtual annual meeting, the Board decided to defer proposed by-law changes until November 2021. In the coming year, the Board and management will continue to work with our legal counsel, auditing firm and Board Committees with a view to proposing a series of by-law amendments in November 2021. J. McNeil also invited members to send any suggestions re by-law changes to the Walter House Team.

J. McNeil noted that, once again this year, the agenda for the business meeting was reviewed by Deloitte to ensure consistency with best practices.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION (collectively by the Board)

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 Annual Business Meeting

MOTION (collectively by the Board)

That the minutes of the 2019 Annual Business Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Election of the Board of Directors



S. Embleton reviewed the context and process toward presenting a slate of Board Directors for the coming year. Of the 11 members of the Board, nine are continuing for the year ahead, and there are two new proposed members.

The first is Dr. Karly Kehoe, who was elected by the members of the RSC College as their next President. Dr. Kehoe therefore begins her term as a member of the RSC Board for a period co-terminous with her presidency of the College.

In October, due to health reasons, Jean-Marie Toulouse stepped down as Chair of the Finance Committee and member of the Board. At the request of the President, RSC Past-President Chad Gaffield agreed to serve as chair of the Finance Committee for its meeting of October 19th.

In keeping with Board policy, the Governance and Ethics Committee oversaw the process of identifying the successor to J.-M. Toulouse. Nominations for Chair of the Finance Committee were sought from the Board and from Council, with an emphasis on a current understanding of the RSC and a willingness to engage in this leadership role.

At the meeting of the Board on November 2, the Board ratified the recommended list of Board members for the coming year to be presented to the membership, including Vijaya Raghavan, immediate past-President of the Academy of Science, as Chair of the Finance Committee.

The Board therefore recommends ratification of this list of Board members to the membership for the coming year.

MOTION (collectively by the Board)

That the Board of Directors be ratified as presented.

CARRIED

5. Appointment of the Auditors

S. Embleton noted that, in keeping with best practices, since Deloitte has been the auditing firm for a number of years, there will be a request for proposals for the RSC auditors beginning in the year 2022. For the coming year, the Board recommends that Deloitte be confirmed as the auditors.



MOTION (collectively by the Board)

That Deloitte serve as the auditing firm for the coming year.

CARRIED

6. Minute of Silence for Deceased

S. Embleton noted the publication “Lives Lived”, bilingually and publicly available on the RSC website. S. Embleton then read the names of members who have died since last year’s annual meeting. As always, it is possible the list is incomplete, and she asked members to send any missing names to the Walter House Team.

Academy of Arts and Humanities

John Francis Bosher, Elected 1976, Division of Humanities

John Bumsted, Elected 2003, Division of Humanities

Mario Bunge, Elected 1992, Division of Humanities

Ernie Ingles, Elected 2001, Division of Humanities

Benoît Lacroix, Elected 1971, Division des lettres et sciences humaines (Died 2016)

Roland Le Huenen, Elected 2003, Division des lettres et sciences humaines

Daniel David Moses, Elected 2016, Division of Arts

Fernande Saint-Martin, Elected 1982, Division des lettres et sciences humaines (Died 2019)

Curt Wittlin, Elected 1988, Division of Humanities (Died 2019)

Academy of Social Sciences

Jean-Charles Chébat, Elected 1996, Division des sciences sociales (Died 2019)

Jean-Claude Cosset, Elected 2006, Division des sciences sociales (Died 2016)

Louis-Edmond Hamelin, Élu 1962, Division des sciences sociales (Died 2019)

Peter Hogg, Elected 1988, Division of Social Sciences

John Loxley, Elected 2005, Division of Social Sciences

Desmond Morton, Elected 1985, Division of Social Sciences (Died 2019)

Marnie Rice, Elected 2003, Division of Social Sciences



Denis Szabo, Elected 1973, Division des sciences sociales (Died 2018)
Paul Yvon Villeneuve, Elected 1996, Division des sciences sociales (Died 2019)
Ellen Wood, Elected 1996, Division of Social Sciences (Died 2016)

Academy of Science

David Lawrence Atherton, Elected 1995, Division of Applied Sciences and Engineering
Thomas Brzustowski, Elected 2001, Division of Applied Sciences and Engineering
William R. Cullen, Elected 1993, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (Died 2019)
Tony Frederick Wallace Embleton, Elected 1978, Division of Applied Sciences and Engineering (Died 2020), Treasurer 1982-85.
Gilles Fontaine, Elected 1992, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (Died 2019)
Lorne Gold, Elected 1979, Division of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences (Died 2019)
Ralph Haas, Elected 2001, Division of Applied Sciences and Engineering
Stanley John Hughes, Elected 1974, Division of Life Sciences (Died 2019)
Kenneth Andrew Kershaw, Elected 1980, Division of Life Sciences (Died 2019)
Paul H. LeBlond, Elected 1982, Division of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
David MacLennan, Elected 1985, Division of Life Sciences
Gordon Murray MacNabb, Elected 2000, Division of Applied Sciences and Engineering
Larry Milligan, Elected 1989, Division of Life Sciences
Anthony Naldrett, Elected 1980, Division of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Marian Packham, Elected 1991, Division of Life Sciences
Frank Plummer, Elected 2006, Division of Life Sciences
John Simpson, Elected 1987, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (Died 2016)
Ross Stewart, Elected 1971, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Suning Wang, Elected 2015, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Gerard R. Wyatt, Elected 1981, Division of Life Sciences (Died 2019)

College of New Scholars

Cynthia Ross Friedman, Elected 2014 (Died 2018)



7. Other Business

No other business was noted.

8. Recognition of outgoing Council Members

MOTION (collectively by the Board)

That the members acknowledge and thank Jean-Marie Toulouse, Joanna Quinn and Gary Slater for their service and dedication to the RSC.

CARRIED

Following this recognition, J. McNeil offered thanks to organizational partners, including the University of Toronto, for their steadfast support throughout the year. He also thanked Tom Marrie and the RSC Task Force on COVID-19, as well as members of the Walter House team. He invited all members to join us in Montreal in the fall of 2021, circumstances permitting.

9. Adjournment

MOTION (J. McNeil / S. Embleton)

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED