

# CINP Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Prepared by G. Gwinner

Present: Garth Huber, Jean Barrette, Ritu Kanungo, Adam Garnsworthy, Jeff Martin, Gerald Gwinner, Jens Dilling

Participated via Skype: Iris Dillmann, Juliette Mammei

Location: Holiday Inn, Sudbury, Ontario

Meeting started late, around 20:20

## Approval of Agenda

- Agenda approved unanimously

## Approval of minutes of May 21, 2014 board meeting

- Minutes were not available at this point, to be voted on by email in coming days

## Introduction of new members

- Board
  - Jeff Martin, Univ. of Winnipeg
  - Gerald Gwinner, Univ. of Manitoba
- New scientific working group chairs
  - Iris Dillmann, Nuclear Astrophysics
  - Adam Garnsworthy, Nuclear Structure
  - Juliette Mammei, Education

## Appointment of officers for 2014-15

- Jens Dilling agrees to continue to be president
- Vice-president: J. Barrette willing to continue unless someone else steps up. G. Gwinner indicates willingness to do so.
- Secretary: R. Kanungo indicates willingness to serve.
- All three elected by acclamation
- Treasurer: Paul Garrett, the current treasurer was not present. Need to establish at next meeting if he is willing to continue.

## Report from the executive director

- Now conform with new Non-Profit Corporations Act (some more details in the AGM presentation). Yay!

- Trip to Ottawa
  - Jointly with Michael Roney from IPP
  - NSERC, new VP Pierre Charest
  - CFI, president Gilles Patry
  - Industry Canada, Robert Dunlop
  - Garth Huber will write up the details from this visit separately. [see appendix]
  - But upshot is that he was very pleased with what they heard.
    - NSERC: hope that envelope might finally grow again
    - CFI: do consider LRP in their decisions
    - Indications of coordination between NSERC and CFI for project support
    - Was told that 'researchers should focus on scholarly excellence', not trying to do industry's job
    - Subatomic physics should be in a good position, as collaborative structures at the national level are already in place

#### Other business

- Review of the executive director's presentation at the upcoming Annual General Meeting
  - Largely focused on the issue of research scientist positions along the lines of what IPP has. Very long discussion ensued.
    - Everyone agrees that in principle this is a lopsided situation
    - Suspect: Hypothetical new CINP research scientist would not be grant-eligible; this would be awkward.
    - Check with Samir Boughaba at NSERC: In the future, will IPP be forced to wait for the Evaluation Group's permission to replace a retiring IPP research scientist with a new one? [Update: According to Samir, the answer is "yes"]
    - This subject will require more, careful discussion in the future.
- Upcoming CINP grant submission to NSERC
  - Will all CINP board members be co-applicants?
    - Get all Common CVs lined up in time
    - When is the deadline for MRS? [Answer seems to be Oct 1]
- CINP-IPP NSERC CREATE application
  - Was briefly discussed

#### Schedule next meeting

- Prior to filing F181, probably mid-July

Meeting adjourned around 22:00 (?)

## **Appendix: Meeting notes from trip to Ottawa with Mike Roney (IPP), June 13, 2014, by Garth Huber**

9AM: NSERC

In attendance: Pierre Charest (VP-Grants & Scholarships) and Samir Boughaba

Short meeting to brief us the likely CFI and Industry Canada perspective.

- brief discussion on the upcoming National S&T strategy that the government is working on, seems to be some optimism in Ottawa that S&T funding will increase in next budget now that federal budget is balanced.
  - \$15M increment to Discovery Grant funding is a positive step, recognize that it is only a start, hopeful for future increments.
  - we are also informed that the next Large Projects Day will be March 8.
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10AM: CFI

In attendance:

Gilles Patry, President & CEO

- former President of U.Ottawa, Engineering background.

Guy Levesque, Director of Programs

Very engaged conversation, with Patry and Levesque taking nearly equal roles.

Importance of MSI program to facilities such as SNOLab:

- MSI first phase ending in 2017
- CFI is asking for funding in 2015 for phase 2, using TRIUMF model of getting funding commitment one year early, since the issues raised regarding staff salaries, etc., are nearly the same.
- operational funding only, CFI not in the business of providing research funding.
- CFI asking the government for flexibility re. 60% matching for operations since don't want lab to shut down just because matching percentage might be lower for one or two years.
- MSI program might be part of a refreshed National S&T strategy.

Use of Subatomic Physics LRP in CFI deliberations:

- Patry & Levesque confirm that SAP LRP document is given to assessors!
- "want to make sure what is funded is reflected in the long range plan".
- **we invited CFI to next year's CAP presentation. Levesque sounds very interested.**

- regarding next LRP, Patry states that it would be better if CFI is not directly involved in the making of the plan. CFI "wouldn't want to take any ownership of OUR plan", feels that their presence in the room during LRP deliberations would alter the discussions.
- however, CFI is willing to attend a specific meeting, such as the LRP Town Hall, or to meet with the LRPC to answer specific questions, such as the role of CFI in funding international projects.

#### National S&T Policy:

- CFI is asking the government to formulate a "Big Science Policy".
- very long term commitments are a challenge for CFI given its funding profile.
- CFI is asking the government for more predictable funding, \$2B over 5 years. This would be the same as they receive now, just in regular installments.
- CFI understands the issue that a non-predictible grant cycle has on researchers, who panic to put in not fully developed proposals when the call is made, since they can't know if there will be another competition in the future. We were prepared to make this point, but they beat us to it!
- **it would be very useful for the LRPC to develop a roadmap of which international projects are expected to come online in various years. A strong argument to marry strategic planning with grant cycle.**
- the 3 big players in forming National S&T policy are Industry Canada, Finance & PMO.
- government's perspective appears to be that Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) funding is related to an innovative economy, future industry.
- "research funding is part of the solution, not the problem"
- **scientific excellence & global leadership resonate with the gvt. e.g. Helmholtz and Max Planck institutes have recently set up offices at Canadian universities, while a decade ago no international institutes were working in Canada. Demonstrates Canadian leadership in certain scientific disciplines, and that Canada is a valued international partner.**

#### Suggest we contact:

Gary Toft  
 Chief of Staff for MINISTER OF STATE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
 Industry Canada  
 235 Queen Street  
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5, Telephone : 613-943-6177

- Minister Holder knows universities very well, engaged.
- suggest we invite him to a lab.

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1:30PM Industry Canada

#### In attendance:

Robert Dunlop, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science & Innovation Sector  
 Matthew Lucas, Ph.D., Senior Policy Advisor, Science & Innovation Sector

- physics Ph.D., Chalk River (was there when Maple reactor debacle was going on)
- Sandra Noel, Ph.D., Senior Policy Advisor, Science & Innovation Sector
- physics Ph.D., SNOlab, recent hire business cards not ready yet.
- Dunlop did most of the talking, with Lucas & Noel adding clarifications from time to time and Lucas taking a few notes.

#### Inter-Agency Coordination (NSERC, CFI):

- Industry Canada sees great value in having CFI independent of NSERC. Does not see top-down decision making (e.g. US-DOE??) as favorable in long run. Useful to have a separate agency responsible for capital investments, rather than one big agency doing everything.
- the logic for making CFI permanent is a lot stronger now than when it was first formed, clearly in favor of CFI's push for more steady funding, Industry Canada receptive also of the distortions caused by ad-hoc funding.
- **Recognizes that CFI capital decisions have impact upon research fund demands to NSERC. "Industry Canada looks at the funding of CFI & NSERC together, and try to keep them to rise at same rate." This was probably a key factor in the \$15M increment funding to NSERC in last budget.**
- other issues regarding inter-agency coordination might be touchy. They were attentive when issue was raised to more directly link funding in SAP envelope to SAP success at CFI, but did not comment.

Dunlop definitely recommends inviting Minister Holder to a lab.

- we should also work through univ VP-R's and Presidents, who talk regularly to the government. AUCC meets regularly with govt.

#### Government's view of Science & Innovative Economy:

- very concerned about the "Canadian disease" (Dunlop's term), that Canadian industry spends substantially less on R&D than peer countries, slow to innovate, poor productivity.
- Dunlop gave example of recent discussions with German S&T colleagues:
  - asked Germans how to encourage businesses to spend more on R&D; they responded quizzically, don't do anything at all, it just happens naturally.
  - the Germans then asked the Canadians how to build a good university system, since Canada ranks much better per-capita in international univ rankings than Germany; the Canadians responded with equal puzzlement, we don't do anything at all, it just happens naturally.
- NRC's new mandate is to be like Fraunhofer Institute:
  - when NRC was created about 100 years ago, there were only two research intensive universities in Canada (McGill & Toronto). NRC had a fundamental research mandate to fill in this gap.
  - Canadian universities now do research well, NRC should concentrate on applied research to encourage innovation in Canadian economy.

- **Most important thing is that we (as subatomic physics community) can do is excellent scholarly work, we should be challenging business to innovate, not directly fulfilling their needs. e.g. data transfer needs for square kilometer array (note astronomers met with Dunlop about 1 week earlier), and how this will need Cisco and other companies to develop faster routers, etc. TRIUMF spin-offs also viewed very favorably.**
- government would like to release national S&T strategy later this year.
  - "will be some strategic areas, but not exclusively"
  - "don't want to exclude unforeseen opportunities"
  - some delays caused by two changes in minister in one year.
  - Minister Holder "wants to own it"

#### Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)

- loosely patterned on excellence initiatives in France & Germany.
- intent for program parameters to be set by fall. Call for proposals by end of year and 1st competition in 2015-16, consistent with first money to flow in program in FY15 budget. Might look for a better name, as CFREF is an awkward acronym.
- institutional applications, as with CFI. Large institutional transformation initiatives. A university can focus on just 1,2 priorities.
- the transformational impact on the institution is one of the criteria.
- can either be a new excellent initiative, or build upon an existing strength (become more excellent)
- **Collaboration will be encouraged, expecting it to be favored in the evaluation of proposals. The collaborative aspect is one notable difference between Canadian program and French, German programs.**
- approved proposals must be of long-term economic interest to Canada (with emphasis on long-term, don't want to focus too much on immediate payoffs). Criteria are still in progress. TRIUMF is a good example, as are number of graduates produced.
- **Noel says we should look at the economic spinoffs of subatomic physics as part of making the business case for proposal.**
- "Industry Canada will need to look at the fiscal impacts of this program on CIHR, NSERC".
- initially a 10 year program, but if successful then anticipate it would become permanent "a real legacy of Minister Flaherty".
- still working out the proportion of capital/positions, etc.
- it was logical for SSHRC to administer CFREF since they handle other Tri-Council programs such as Indirect Costs of Research.

#### Associate Membership @ CERN:

- looks interesting, but not cheap. "maybe timing will be right in the future".

#### Early announcement of 5 year funding for TRIUMF:

- Dunlop was hired just before last 5YP decision. Didn't find "the cliff" pleasant last time, glad he could find a solution to avoid it.

- the government is receptive of international collaboration , leveraging Canadian brainpower for international impact.