



Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Oct. 1, 2010, Queen's University Club Conference Room

Chair: David Thomas, QCIC Chair

In attendance: Jack Bikker (Pfizer), Walter Chan (WCH Associates), Louis Lamontagne (Coris Group of Companies), Steve Leach (Ridout & Maybee LLP), Heinz Plaumann (BASF), Will Rogers (Imperial Oil), Wayne Schnarr (Thunder Bay Regional Research Institution), Walter Szarek (Queen's University), David Thomas (AXYS Group Limited), Adi Treasurywala (ArrowCan Partners), Bob Lemieux (Queen's Chemistry), Patty McHenry (Queen's Advancement), Lisa Sykes (Queen's Advancement), Natalie Cann (Queen's Chemistry), John Carran (Queen's Chemistry), Philip Jessop (Queen's Chemistry), Cynthia Fekken (Queen's Faculty of Arts and Science), Michael Wells (PARTEQ), Mike Adams (Queen's Pharmacology and Toxicology), Darrell Dean (Queen's Chemistry Graduate student)

Regrets: Lorenzo Ferrari (Lanxess Inc.), Rick Friesen (Merck Research Labs), Cory Johnson (Fisher Scientific), Peter Kazmaier, Din Lal (Gamble Technologies), John Molloy (Parateq Innovations), Jan Oudenes (Alphora Research), Dave Robins (Davos Chemicals Inc), Dinesh Vyas (Bristol Meyers Squibb Co.), Danial Wayner (National Research Council)

Minutes: Barb Armstrong (Queen's Chemistry)

MORNING SESSION

Welcome

David Thomas welcomed Council members and guests and highlighted that the main focus for the day would be a discussion of the present state and future prospects of the Council, and whether there is a need for the Council to shift gears and/or change directions. He was pleased to have Darrell Dean from the Queen's Graduate Chemistry Society present at the meeting to provide a student's perspective.

State of the Department

Bob Lemieux reviewed the activities and state of the Chemistry Department, including the renewal of the Bader Chair in Organic Chemistry, and a budget update (see State of Department presentation). Following the presentation, concerns were raised by Council members about the budget situation, including the impact of a possible salary freeze on faculty retention. Are departmental resources (e.g., research equipment, office space) being fully utilized? Would a summer science camp generate new revenues during the summer session? Another alternative to generate new revenues would be to expand on-line course offerings with a broader appeal than organic chemistry while maintaining the uniqueness of Queen's. The Council felt that a Green Chemistry professional degree program or short courses in Green Chemistry could be a potential source of new revenues. A concern was raised regarding the ability of the department to renew/upgrade research and teaching technical infrastructure.

Academic Plan

Mike Adams reported on the working team established to draft an academic planning document based on submissions by faculties and other Queen's stakeholders, which was submitted to the Principal and forwarded to Senate in September as part of the academic planning exercise initiated by the Principal in January 2010 (See Academic Working Team presentation). Council members commented that alumni and advisory groups like the QCIC should be included in ongoing discussions of the academic plan, and that QCIC could help facilitate those discussions through the creation of a social networking instrument. **ACTION:** Adi will set up an easy to use social networking instrument for Council members to communicate with each other. Council members also remarked that there must be transparency regarding the University budget as the academic planning exercise unfolds.

On-line course development

John Carran presented a progress report on the successful roll-out of the on-line CHEM 281/282 course (see On-line Course presentation). The forum offered through this course allowed excellent communication between instructor, teaching assistants and students with regular office hours and a 24 hour turnaround for questions. Little marketing for the on-line course was done this year and it is anticipated that the course enrollment will continue to increase with more external marketing. Council members inquired about international competition for delivery of this type of course. The general feeling was that the University should take on-line course delivery seriously and expand those efforts strategically based on appropriate metrics. Since the on-line forum was a huge success in this offering, it should also be used as a communication resource, i.e., a help desk, in regular in-class courses.

Snieckus Innovations update

Mike Wells presented a progress report on the first year of operation of Snieckus Innovations (see SI presentation). SI provided 70 quotes to potential clients and delivered 13 compounds with sales of \$51K. By securing additional funding for postdoctoral fellows and with aggressive marketing, the SI group plans to increase their business. Council members suggested that SI seeks advice from the Queen's School of Business to further develop its business plan moving forward.

Professional degree program in drug discovery

Tom Massey reported that industry was surveyed to determine the level of interest in a university-based drug discovery training program, the preferred form of delivery for such a program, and the level of scholastic training deemed appropriate. The results of the survey indicated that a drug discovery program would be useful in a format combining web-based and on-campus delivery, resulting in a diploma or Master's degree upon completion.

GreenCentre Canada

Philip Jessop presented a GreenCentre update to the Council (see GCC presentation).

QCIC Review- Past, Present and Future

David Thomas began the session by reporting on his recent consultation with Chemistry faculty and students, which strongly suggested that the 10-year old QCIC terms of reference and goals needed to be revised. After some discussion, it became evident that Council members feel they are under-utilized by the Department.

After further discussion, it was agreed that the current name “Queen’s Chemistry Innovation Council” should be retained as it is a recognized entity at Queen’s, and that it would be more appropriate at this juncture to review the terms of reference. It was agreed that the QCIC could have a greater impact on the Department if it was given specific goals and deliverables by the Head each year.

ACTION: the QCIC Chair will solicit volunteers among Council members to form a small Executive Committee who would be available to meet periodically with the Head (i.e., more than once a year). Membership would be on a rotating basis, and sub-committees would be established for larger projects.

At future annual meetings, Council members would like to have one presentation given that outlines a problem or situation that requires assistance from the Council and elicits strategic thinking, e.g., the Academic Plan presentation by Mike Adams this year.

ACTION: David Thomas will revise the QCIC terms of reference based on comments and suggestions made during the meeting and will send out a revised version to Council members for comment. In consultation with Council members, he will draft a letter to the Principal offering feedback on the current Academic Planning exercise.