



Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering | *For Our Future*
Société canadienne de génie chimique | *Pour notre avenir*

59th CSChE Annual General Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2024
12:30-1:15PM ET
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto

MINUTES

1. Call to order

- Pascale Champagne, FCIC, CSChE President, read a land acknowledgment.
- Champagne conducted a prize draw with assistance from Rose Katagiri, CIC Staff. Todd Hoare, McMaster University, won.
- Champagne reviewed the protocols for facilitating discussion and voting both in person and online during an AGM.
- 52 persons present (excluding CIC Staff) with an additional 7 online. Jessica Corra, CIC Executive Assistant acting as secretary, indicated that a quorum was present.

Champagne called the meeting to order at 12:39 local time.

Champagne introduced the individuals at the head table:

- Pascale Champagne, President, National Research Council
- Alexander Rousina-Webb, Treasurer, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
- Josephine Tsang, CIC Executive Director
- Michael Cunningham, CSChE Past President, Queen's University

She also indicated the Board members who were present (Nader Mahinpey, João Soares, Jennifer Littlejohns).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved: Pascale Champagne

Seconded: João B. P. Soares

No discussion

CARRIED

29 members voted: 27 in person and 2 online.

3. Adoption of the of 58th AGM Minutes

MOTION:

THAT the minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting held in Calgary on October 31, 2023, be adopted as presented.

Moved: Pascale Champagne

Seconded: João B. P. Soares

No discussion

CARRIED

4. Reports

Executive Director Report, Josephine Tsang



Tsang provided a summary of the CIC ED report. The CIC Strategic Plan 2030 should be completed and ready to share in 2025. Preparation for CSChE 2025 Montreal is underway. Tsang thanked the Board members and Champagne for their hard work and dedication.

CSChE President's Report, Pascale Champagne

Champagne provided a summary of the CSChE President report. She stressed the Society's need for accessibility, transparency, and engagement, and modernizing procedures, and that much was happening behind the scenes.

Directors' Reports

PowerPoint slides containing brief updates for each of the Directors' activities were shown for the membership to read:

Director of Awards, Jennifer Littlejohns

Director of Industrial Liaison, Jyoti Patel

Director of Subject Divisions and Local Sections, Nader Mahinpey

Publications and Continuing Education and Editor-in-Chief, Can J Chem Eng, João Soares

Director of Student Affairs, Simant Upreti, MCIC

Mahinpey and Soares spoke briefly about theirs. All Directors invited "offline" engagement on their portfolios.

Treasurer's Report, Alexander Rousina-Webb

Rousina-Webb presented and summarized the Treasurer's report using the circulated Auditor's statement as the basis for his report. Fiscal Year 2023 outperformed FY2022, including initiatives outlined in the previous year's Treasurer's Report and surplus from the journal. He also highlighted enhanced financial management from the CIC National Team.

Questions

Rousina-Webb opened the floor for questions.

- D. Grant Allen, University of Toronto, asked for an explanation of the increase in revenue. Rousina-Webb responded that this is due to a mix of factors including a larger investment mix, some intentional initiatives as outlined in the 2023 Report, coming out of Covid recovery allowing delegates to plan to commit to attending, location of the 2024 conference being more appealing and accessible, and strong sponsorship.
- Nicolas Abatzoglou, University of Sherbrooke, asked how increasing travel expenses may impact future conferences. Rousina-Webb responded that this problem is not unique to the CSChE but that the Society is aware of the difficulty and working on strategies to deal with it.

MOTION:

THAT the Treasurer's report and the Auditor's statement of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, be adopted as presented.

Moved: Alex Rousina-Webb

Seconded: Nicolas Abatzoglou, University of Sherbrooke

No discussion

CARRIED

Appointment of Auditors for 2025

MOTION:

THAT Parker Prins Lebano be appointed as CSChE auditor for Fiscal Year 2024.

Moved: Alex Rousina-Webb

Seconded: Michael Cunningham

No discussion

CARRIED

5. Election of Directors

Cunningham, as the CSChE Nominations Committee Chair, introduced the process taken for 2024. Every year the nominations committee is comprised of previous CSChE Presidents. This year an open call went out at Champagne's behest, then the committee reviewed all applicants and recommended a slate to the Board. Acknowledging it was unusual, this year the committee unanimously agreed not to recommend the Vice President to the Presidency, leaving a vacancy. The committee discussed a number of options and ultimately approached Champagne to ask her to stay on for one more year, creating a vacancy in the Past Presidency role. Cunningham recused himself from that discussion, and the committee ultimately asked him to stay on in that role for one more year as well. Both agreed.

Cunningham introduced the proposed slate of Directors and Officers, effective after the CSChE AGM.

Persons who have agreed to stand in the following roles for the terms as presented:

• President	Pascale Champagne, FCIC	2024-2025
• Vice President	Ying Zheng, FCIC	2024-2025
• Past President	Michael Cunningham, FCIC	2024-2025
• Director-at-Large: Young Professionals	Arash Alizadeh, MCIC	2024-2027
• Director-at-Large	Zhibin Ye, MCIC	2024-2027

Cunningham acknowledged that an open nominations period had taken place for candidate submissions.

MOTION

THAT the proposed slate of Directors be approved as presented.

Moved: Michael Cunningham

Seconded: João Soares

No discussion

CARRIED (unanimous – 27 in person, 2 online)

For information: Ongoing Directors

• Jennifer Littlejohns, National Research Council Canada	Director of Awards	2022–2025
• Simant Upreti, MCIC, Toronto Metropolitan University	Director of Student Affairs	2022–2025
• Nader Mahinpey, MCIC, University of Calgary	Director of Divisions and Local Sections	2024–2027
• Jyoti Patel, MCIC, Resolute Risk Management Services	Director of Industry Liaison – West	2024–2027
• João Soares, FCIC, University of Alberta	Publications and Continuing Education and Editor-in-Chief, Can J Chem Eng.	2024–2027

Cunningham thanked the Board for their service and shared that there will be an open call for the following positions which will become vacant:

- Vice President
- Director of Student Affairs
- Director of Awards

6. Looking forward into 2025: Remarks

Champagne announced pilot concurrent CSC and CSChE conferences May 24-28, 2026:

- Originally Joao Soares' idea. Everyone is excited and there has been great feedback so far. Each Society will maintain its distinct identity, but the format will allow for cross-disciplinary programming and enrichment.
- Jennifer Love of the CSC and Cunningham of CSChE are championing the conference for each Society. Please see them or Tsang with any questions.
- Participation is encouraged! See the call for organizing committee members and volunteer.

7. Other business

- Gregory Patience, Polytechnique Montréal, shared that there was a joint conference around 1989 and asked if the financials can be anticipated and if they were a motivator? Cunningham answered that motivators included resolving programming inconsistencies, removing the burden on a host university, that it's been

unfair to smaller institutions who can't host, and that this format will reduce barriers to participation overall. It does offer some small financial efficiencies but that wasn't the driver; the financial model ebbs and flows financially so there is hope for a cushion.

- D. Grant Allen, University of Toronto, commented that this is exciting and could be a good opportunity to channel university department sponsorship without the confines of a host model.

8. Next AGM

SCGCh/CSCChE 2025 will still be an independent event scheduled for October 5-8 in Montreal, QC. A strong team is already in place (Nicolas Abatzoglou, University of Sherbrooke) and Champagne anticipates a good conference.

- There will be a lot of advanced planning around abstracts and awards ahead of 2025 in order to facilitate the tighter timeline before the 2026 conference in May; please keep 2026 in mind as you prepare materials for 2025. This will be a one-time issue as the conference transitions to the Spring. Comments and feedback are welcome. Please see the website for more information.

9. Adjournment

Champagne adjourned the meeting at 1:24PM ET.