

**Minutes of the APICS Science Education Committee Meeting
held at 10am, Saturday, June 8, 2002,
at the Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am. The meeting was attended by Jacques Allard (U. de Moncton), Nancy Crowe (Nova Scotia College of Agriculture), Leo MacDonald (St. Francis Xavier), Aaron MacKnight (APICS, YEC web developer), Doug Ralston ([Chair], Nova Scotia Association of Science Teachers), Dennis Tokaryk (UNB Fredericton), Stacey Wetmore (Mount Allison), Mary Anne White (Dalhousie U.), and Lois Whitehead (Executive Director, APICS). Merzik Kamel (UNB Saint John), Paul Munro (UNB Fredericton), and Frederick Smith ([Secretary], Memorial U.) passed along regrets.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Nancy Crowe and Stacey Wetmore were welcomed as new members on the committee, and Aaron MacKnight was introduced as the APICS YEC web developer.

2. Changes to Agenda and Adoption

No changes were requested; the agenda was adopted as distributed.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2001

The minutes were adopted as distributed.

4. Announcements

No announcements were put forward.

5. Old Business (Business Arising)

(a) APICS Council report

The APICS council report (from April 12th meeting) included discussion from the Math committee, which provided a report on the new high school curriculum; the ensuing discussion revealed a strongly negative opinion of the curriculum. The Math committee recommended that diagnostic tests be given to those students intending to take first-year calculus. Those who fail would be directed to remediation before attempting calculus. A suggestion that all universities gather statistics to get the failure rate, the % of A's given out, and the difference between average A and B by high school. The APICS council decisions will be directed to the Departments of Education. The work of this committee, and of the upcoming Science Education conference, was mentioned.

(b) Science Fair Status

There has been no Science Fair in the Halifax Regional Municipality for the last two years. Mary Anne White, after discussion with the Dean of Science, has suggested that Dalhousie host a yearly Science Fair for the region. Leo MacDonald asked if local schools could still host their own fairs; Mary Anne White thought that should be fine; the internal fairs could be followed by the larger one at Dalhousie.

(c) YEC Update

Aaron MacKnight presented a report on the web aspect of the project. One highlight was the Science Library, a website with sections such as Ask The Expert and teacher resources, with easier access than standard search engines. Mary Anne White suggested that one should look at existing web sites (such as ikonboard.com) for ideas and models. Jacques Allard wondered if Aliant might host the site for free as a promotion, since Dalhousie is reluctant to host chatroom-style sites. Lois Whitehead is looking for funding from partners to expand the scope of the project. Doug Ralston suggested that the Atlantic Federation of Teachers may be of some help. Leo MacDonald suggested that an online virtual science fair could be set up; Mary Anne White mentioned that a national version exists; we would be making a regional site. Lois

Whitehead said that she had funding at this time for a part-time web developer/intern until March 2004. Jacques Allard suggested that the proposed logo for the YEC project should have an obvious math presence, which is absent in the current proposition. Dennis Tokaryk asked for news on the YEC internship program; Lois Whitehead responded that they were currently looking for money to get staff from sources like a human resources development grant for a part-time position, however an ongoing position would be far preferable; \$4000-\$5000 would be needed to get started for now. The program would split the cost for a two-month position for a high-school student 50/50 between a professor and APICS. Lois Whitehead hoped that next summer some of the positions would be available. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island has some form of high-school internship programs already. Nancy Crowe asked about the level of remuneration; Lois Whitehead replied that a student internship would run for ten weeks and would pay \$7/hour. A question was raised regarding whether students were covered by an institution's insurance, and whether a certificate should be presented for completion of an internship (and corresponding criteria set out.)

(d) Promotion of APICS Communication Award on Web
Fred deals with this item, and stated that it was up to date.

6. New Business

(a) Election of Officers - Fred Smith was nominated for Chair of this committee (Leo MacDonald/Dennis Tokaryk); the nomination was accepted and a motion that Fred become Chair was carried. Jacques Allard moved a formal motion of thanks for Doug Ralston, the outgoing chair. Dennis Tokaryk was nominated for Secretary (Mary Anne White/Leo MacDonald); the nomination was accepted and a motion that Dennis become Secretary was carried. The committee decided that the position of Vice Chair should float among committee members when required.

(b) Student Survey report - Zoe Hayes is currently analyzing the data from the survey on the high school/university transition given to second-year university students last year. She has agreed to speak at the Science Education meeting, and will present results at the Association of Atlantic Universities as well.

(c) 6th Education Conference 2002 - planning

I. Location and Date: The conference will be held Nov. 1-3, 2002, at the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton).

II. Theme: "Math and Science Education from High School to University: Dealing with Realities and Expectations."

III. Content:

Fri: - opening plenary

Sat: - discussions of the current paradigm in high school/university education
- breakouts: discuss aspects of the transition problem
- reconvene to share results from the breakout discussion
- poster session on teaching techniques
- banquet

Sun: - techniques: integrated approaches to teaching
- wrapup

IV. Division of duties:

Promotion:	Mary Anne White, Marilyn Webster, Shannon Fitzpatrick
Program:	Leo MacDonald, Jacques Allard, Nancy Crowe, Fred Smith
On-site, budget:	Dennis Tokaryk, Paul Munro, Merzik Kamel
Sponsorship:	Stacey Wetmore, Doug Ralston

We hope to finalize the program by the end of July, and the budget by the end of August. Support from the host institution should be sought. We also hope to attract some sponsors for

the event, and will provide them with space for a display table.

7. Other business:

Mary Anne pointed out that a conference for journalism/p.r. students on science communication will be held Nov. 7/8.

8. Adjournment at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Tokaryk, Secretary of the APICS Science Education Committee, July 15, 2002.