



**OTN Canada Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Teleconference  
Monday, 10 February, 2014 Halifax (4:00 pm – 5:00 pm AST)**

Location: Room 3-29, Dalhousie Ocean Sciences Building, and via teleconference

Present: Chris Barnes, Nikki Beauchamp, Steve Cooke (*Chair*), Aaron Fisk, Sara Iverson, Alison Janidlo, Kyle McKenzie, Kes Morton, Tracy Rounds, Dale Webber, Fred Whoriskey

Regrets: Katja Fennel, Michelle Heupel, Scott Hinch, Ian Fleming, Svein Vagle, Alain Vezina,

**Minutes**

**Accepted Meeting Agenda**

1. Review and approval of revised 2013 annual project reports
2. Bruce Hatcher situation
3. Continuation of social sciences work
4. HQP Travel Approval
5. Symposium update
6. Action items from December 2013 meeting
7. Future meetings
8. Other Business

**2013 Annual Project Reports**

Steve Cooke referred SAC committee members to the document titled 'Changes to Draft OTN Annual Project Reports 2013', which is a table that summarizes changes required by the SAC for acceptance, as well as the PI response and a page reference.

Sara Iverson reviewed the cover letter submitted by John Cullen, Dave Hebert, Chris Taggart, and Tetjana Ross concerning the productivity of project I.1.1. They indicated that there are a couple of papers in the works and that some students were slower in making progress than expected. Several incorrect statements were made, concerning lack of students working with the glider group (when there are indeed students in this project), that OTN funding was strictly for the operation of the gliders or for research as well (the latter is true), that NSERC does not provide funding to adjuncts (when indeed it does for student stipend and student travel), and lack of CFI funding for tags. Steve Cooke noted that the comments were made solely in the letter, not in the report.

Sara Iverson, Fred Whoriskey, and Kes Morton addressed these points to the satisfaction of the committee and Sara agreed to respond in writing to the authors of the letter to clarify the misconceptions. Kyle McKenzie noted that some of these concerns were addressed in the Phase II

letters already sent to them.

The remaining reports were reviewed, focusing on the ones that required substantive changes. Sara Iverson verbally reported on those responses that arrived late, for those who did not receive the final amendments in time to review before the meeting.

The SAC approved all revised project reports as presented.

**ACTION 1:** The Secretariat will reply to John Cullen, Dave Hebert, Chris Taggart, and Tetjana Ross informally via email to clarify the incorrect statements in their letter. **(S. Iverson)**

**ACTION 2:** The Secretariat will reply to all Phase I PIs about the acceptance of their annual reports. **(K. McKenzie, S. Iverson)**

### **Bruce Hatcher Situation**

Sara Iverson explained that she corresponded with Bruce Hatcher explaining that there would not be automatic funding for his work in Phase II, and that prior approval would be necessary before transferring any money to Cape Breton University. He responded that he could not work under the situation proposed for a number of reasons, some of which were misinterpreted from Sara's letter. Sara responded, correcting some of his assumptions and assuring him that OTN appreciates all the work he has done to build the array. Sara requested the contact information for CBU's financial people responsible for Bruce's grant in order to work out the issues and find a way forward. OTN has not heard anything back since. Alison Janidlo suggested that Lynn Burgess of Dalhousie talk to the Financial Services people at CBU. Quarterly financial reporting from CBU to Dalhousie on Bruce Hatcher's work was suggested.

Sara Iverson noted that Bruce Hatcher is accomplishing things, including building linkages in the local community, so we do not wish to exclude him from OTN.

**ACTION 3:** The Secretariat will continue to communicate with Cape Breton University in order to resolve the Bruce Hatcher situation. **(S. Iverson, Dalhousie Administration)**

### **Social Sciences Update**

Scott Hinch and Steve Cooke met with Nathan Young at UBC last Thursday, and he is putting together a small proposal to OTN Canada with a reasonable budget to support the work that he already started and wants to continue in Phase II. He will have it ready in the next week or so. The OTN Secretariat met with Richard Apostle and David VanderZwaag, and they now understand that the SAC hasn't approved new work for Phase II. They still want to be involved in OTN, even without a commitment of money and are still interested in attending the symposium in June. They may approach individual PIs on a one-on-one basis.

Steve Cooke noted that funding travel to the symposium for former social scientists with the NSERC funds would be problematic. Kyle noted that the SAC had discussed the possibility of engaging Lucia Fanning, and though she is out of the country until March, Kyle had communicated with her about the possibility of attending an NSERC partnership grant workshop as well as the symposium, and she is available on those dates and will discuss them when she gets back in March.

Alison Janidlo added that if OTN Canada is looking at dissemination, expansion, and impact, paying for Lucia Fanning's attendance at the symposium is not an unreasonable expense.

**ACTION 4:** The Secretariat will continue to engage Lucia Fanning about potentially being involved with bringing in some relevant social science activities to OTN. **(K. McKenzie)**

### **HQP Travel Approvals**

The SAC approved the creation of a subcommittee for approval of HQP travel grants from the common funding pool. Steve Cooke stated that members should look at the proposals not just for the benefit to the applicant, but consider value to OTN as a whole. Chris Barnes suggested that flexibility in summer months would be required, such that substitutions of other SAC members for the committee should be allowed as necessary.

Kyle McKenzie noted that in terms of balancing objectivity, representatives from each arena should be included. Sara Iverson noted that if arenas are represented then disciplines (biology and oceanography) should also be represented. Sara also stated that those not having received OTN travel support already should be given preference. It was agreed that Post Docs could not stand on the committee, as it would present a conflict of interest given that they may wish travel funding as well. Recommended members of the committee were Scott Hinch, Svein Vagle, Matt Litvak, and Glenn Crossin.

Kyle McKenzie informed the SAC that CHONE puts a limit of \$1500 on their student travel approvals, with a suggested target of 25% matching funds from other organizations to make applications more desirable. It was agreed that an approximate limit of \$1500 be applied to each approval, and to leverage support with the recommendation to obtain matching funds.

**ACTION 5:** The Secretariat will invite Scott Hinch, Svein Vagle, Matt Litvak, and Glenn Crossin to sit on the HQP Travel Subcommittee. **(K. McKenzie)**.

### **Symposium update**

The OTN Symposium will be held June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa, with the first two days being symposium days, and the third day being the Council, ISAC, and Data workshop meetings. Accommodations and venue are at the University of Ottawa, which is centrally located and an easy walk to Parliament Hill. The Council meeting details are not fixed at the moment, as they may hinge on the availability of a room in Parliament near the Commons where the Secretariat and Council wish to host a reception for MPs.

Kyle asked for a local Ottawa student to join the formal organizing committee, and Steve Cooke nominated Graham Raby.

### **Action items from December 2013 meeting**

The SAC reviewed the action items from the previous meeting in December. SAC members appreciated the Plone site as being superior to using Filedrop for distributing documents.

The most recent Arctic Strategy has been distributed to the SAC via Plone. Fred Whoriskey noted that

the document may change from time to time to reflect changes, such as CNNRO, which may be invited to make an application to the new MSI program.

The Brazilian collaborators are attending the Biologging conference in France in September 2014. The copy of the DFO new science data policy is on Plone and was distributed to the SAC. Bob Branton visited DFO and discussed the data release policy. DFO was generally happy with the policy, and as a result the OTN Data Centre will be sending out a letter to taggers shortly. Sara noted that the official response letters to the Phase II PIs has been sent, and OTN is waiting for Dalhousie Financial Services to set up additional accounts for OTN Canada projects at Dal.

Steve Cooke provided information on his workshop partnership fund grants, and Kes Morton and Nikki Beauchamp are drafting the OTN workshop partnership grant, which Sara Iverson and Fred Whoriskey will review, after which the SAC will review.

Tetjana Ross agreed to replace John Cullen on the reprofiling committee.

### **Future meetings**

The SAC will not meet via teleconference in the foreseeable future, but will be kept up to date by email. A formal meeting at the symposium will not be necessary as there are now no pressing SAC issues at that time of year. The Fall SAC meeting will be held in the first week of December, and will be held in Halifax unless there is a strategic reason to hold it elsewhere.

### **Other Business**

Without any further business, the SAC meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.