

RSC College meetings Montreal, Feb. 20-21, 2017

In attendance: Cynthia Milton, Sylvie Lamoureux, Alexandre Prat, Sean McGrath, Nathalie Tufenkji, Roberta Barker, Fuyuki Kurasawa, Catherine Gidney, Kim Lavoie, Stuart Murray, Ashlee Cunsolo, Damon Matthews, Laura Loewen, Patrice Potvin, Muthu Packirisamy, Stéphanie Bélanger (by teleconference), and Pascal Fournier.

Monday Feb 20 (late morning-evening)

Cynthia started the meeting with a short history of the College and information on how we differ from other international young academies. Our term lasts 7 years, while the other academies tend to have terms of only 2-3 years. RSC Canada is completely independent from the Federal Government, while many other academies are connected to their federal governments and are funded by them.

Cynthia spoke about College meetings to be held twice a year between the Annual General Meeting (renamed "Celebration of Excellence" COE) - this is the first of our 2017 meetings. They give us a chance 1) to catch up on what has happened in terms of College development and plans, and an opportunity to keep working on building the College, as well as 2) to engage with local communities (one meeting per year to address the latter). We discussed our individual visions for the College. Many people spoke about the College's networking opportunities and the opportunity for interdisciplinary work with academics they would not know otherwise. We spoke about the need to make sure that we maintain and increase diversity in the group. We have made great strides in the development of the college over the last year. Based on this conversation (and those that took place at our earlier meetings, Cynthia summarized the College as a network and gathering of prominent early-to-mid-career scholars tasked with reflecting upon immediate and long-term questions and pressing issues facing Canadians.

Voices of the College – this is a new initiative on our website. College members are encouraged to submit 300-1000 word pieces/op-eds on their research, their reactions to national and world events, and their personal/academic achievements. Russel will post these pieces on a regular basis – hopefully one/week. Members are encouraged to submit pieces to ***Voices of the College*** whether or not they are published elsewhere. Russel will work to publicize these pieces and will make sure that media is aware of our work. Stephanie suggested that we could publicize all of our conferences/events on the website.

The Conversation – this is a new opportunity for the College members to disseminate their work. It is a website that pairs professional journalists with academics. Academics submit op-Eds/articles, and the journalists edit them to make sure that they will reach the largest audience possible. The original writer gets final approval of the piece. This website was started in Australia, and 30,000 academics now participate in the website. It is open-access and free to

use. We discussed how they would monetize the website – we assume that the website receives a percentage if larger sites pick up the pieces.

A-Canadian based Website of **The Conversation** will start in March, and the RSC College will be one of the founding groups for this initiative by supplying writers. College members have the option to submit pieces. We will not be speaking on behalf of the College, but we expect that members will highlight their College membership in the by-line. Everyone at the meeting was in agreement that we should proceed with our involvement with The Conversation. We see how this works well with our Voices of the College project.

We spoke about how media is now part of the way that universities are accessing our work/engagement, so participation in this website would be useful in terms of outreach.

This led us to a discussion on the use of metrics in University assessment. Alexandre and Stephanie agreed to start a working group on this topic.

Yellowknife Meeting – Our next College meeting will take place in Yellowknife, tentative dates around May 18th. It is a chance for us to meet up with the people from Indspire, with whom we are working to mentor young Indigenous scholars. We have been invited to Dechinta University, a bush university that works from indigenous knowledge systems. We will spend a day or two there, learning from them and participating in their Graduation ceremony. Ashlee knows of the work of this university and strongly supports this connection – she says that they are an amazing university with much to teach us, and much wisdom for us to bring back to our home universities. She suggested that we also contact the Institute of Circumpolar Health Research in Yellowknife, and agreed to act as a liaison to both of these institutions for us.

Russel will provide us with formal invitations from the institutions in Yellowknife, which will help us with funding from our universities. We need 5-7 people to go on this trip to make it possible. We will be responsible for our own flights, with financial support from the college for hotels and meals.

Journal – We discussed the pros and cons of starting our own journal. Pros – if we have a journal, we can write off our membership fees. Con – we don't have enough institutional support to run a journal. Cynthia suggested that we could use **Voices of the College** as our College journal, so that we can receive the membership fee relief – this could eventually turn into a stand-alone journal at a later date if the College members saw a need.

We plan to have poster presentations at the Celebration of Excellence (CEO) in Winnipeg (November 2017). This will help us to access university funding for member attendance and to disseminate our research. The RSC Academies are following suit, and they will feature poster presentations from fellows.

Canada Wave 150 –

Cynthia described this initiative (a detailed description of the event and list of the regional leaders is included as an attachment) for Oct 28th, 2017. Fuyuki pointed out that the conversation around the constitution in Quebec will differ from the rest of Canada. Many people around the table agreed to take on part of the organizational role in their regions. Cynthia urged us to speak to the Communications Departments at our universities to get their support and ideas.

We spoke about the need for a College logo and banners to use at this and all future College events.

We will arrange a meeting of all regional leaders at the end of March, where we will finalize the section of the constitution that each region wants to take on.

College event at the Winnipeg Art Gallery –

Laura spoke about an initiative for the College to host an event in association with the WAG's Insurgence/Resurgence exhibition and the Peter Wall Institute. This event will take place on Nov. 22, one day before the RSC Celebration of Excellence begins. Our event will feature indigenous scholars, story-tellers, and musicians to create context and dialogue around the exhibition. Laura and Philippe will be meeting with the artistic directors of this exhibition on Feb. 22 to discuss this event – more information soon.

Website/Social Media –

Fuyuki reported on the current state of affairs on our website and social media feeds.

Russel has set up a basic chatroom for us. Fuyuki suggested that there might be better platforms for this purpose (Slack or Asana).

We discussed ways that we can use a Facebook page for internal discussions and publicity. Slack or Asana will make longer conversations easier, while Facebook is good for immediate conversations. Facebook is the easiest way to reach many people across a wide spectrum. Twitter is best for having an impact on public policy, and Instagram is best for outreach to a younger audience. We need to use social media to push our content, which will then bring people to our website. All agreed that we need a Facebook page set up as soon as possible.

There was discussion of getting a Twitter account, but the RSC decided it would be better to channel the already existing RSC. The RSC has office does not have the capacity to Tweet meaningfully from multiple accounts at the moment.

We are encouraged to follow/engage with the RSC account (@RSCTheAcademies).

Congress in May

We have been asked to prepare a panel for Congress in May in Guelph, Ontario. We are presently considering this possibility. It should be a bilingual panel.

Presentation from the Leadership Council for Digital Infrastructure

By Robbin Tourangeau

An information session on questions of data management, archiving and sharing of primary resources/data within a Canadian network.

Media Engagement and Training Session

Many thanks to Cl a Desjardins and Fiona Downey from Concordia University for the very useful media workshop.

Tuesday Feb 21, 2017 (morning)

Discussion about new possible topics for working group themes and those already formed (the Future of Universities, Metrics, Empathy and Social Justice, Healthy Society, and Interdisciplinarity). We repeated the importance of the networking potential of the College across the disciplines not only for our own research but to address immediate and long-term questions and concerns for Canadians

Strategic Planning Session with Executive Director Darren Gilmour