

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ATLANTIC CANADA ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES

Meeting of October 20, 2013, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
Held in Conjunction with ACEA's 41st Annual Conference
October 18-20, 2013

(Notes: Msc = moved, seconded, carried; Director = member of the Executive Committee)

1. Call to Order

J. Sawler, outgoing President, called the meeting to order at 11:58. M. Cross agreed to keep minutes. Approximately 35 members attended. Names of attendees were not recorded.

2. Approval of Agenda

J. Sawler presented an agenda for the meeting. Members in attendance approved the agenda.
Msc: G. Jia, P. de Lamirande

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of October 2012 were not available.

4. Report on the 40th Annual Conference, October 19-20, 2012, Saint Mary's University

A report on the ACEA's 40th Annual Conference was not available.

5a. Preliminary Report on the 41st Annual Conference, October 18-20, 2013, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

W. Locke, Memorial University, provided a preliminary report, including a preliminary financial statement. Eighty-seven people registered for the conference, 33 of whom paid registration fees. The Conference Program shows a Welcome from Dr. Gary Kachanoski, President, Memorial University and Dr. Roberto Martinez-Espineira, ACEA 2013 Conference Chair; an Opening Address by Jim Keating, VP Oil and Gas, Nalcor; a Special Lecture in Honour of Dr. Peter Townley by Robin Boadway, Queen's University; a plenary Panel on Sustainability (Terry Paddon, Auditor General, Newfoundland and Labrador; Rob Greenwood, Memorial University; Alison Coffin, Memorial University); a Banquet and Keynote Speech by Abigail Payne, McMaster University; a John Graham Memorial Lecture by Stan Winer, Carleton University; a Special Luncheon Panel (Elizabeth Beale, Atlantic Provinces Economics Council; Wade Locke, Memorial University; Noel Roy, Memorial University) plus 36 papers presented in 12 conference sessions. More information is available in the Conference Program. The Preliminary Financial Report is provided as a separate document.

J. Sawler thanked the conference organizers on behalf of the ACEA.

5b. Discussion: Canadian Economists and the Analysis of Canadian Economic Issues

The Preliminary Conference Report led to a discussion of the extent to which Canadian economists provide analyses of Canadian economic problems. Several members referred to an article in the *Globe and Mail*, which insinuated that Canadian economists are disinterested in

Canadian economic issues. Members discussed the difficulties of obtaining Canadian data, the imperative for academics to publish in academic journals in order to build a case for tenure and promotion, and the likelihood that disinterest in Canadian issues will jeopardize the financing of academic and research programs in economics.

6. Conference for 2017

M. Cross reported that the Canadian Economics Association has requested the ACEA to hold its conference in 2017 at Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS at the same time the CEA holds its conference there. The Executive Committee recommended to the AGM that the ACEA accept the CEA's proposal in principle subject to satisfactory agreement about details and timing of the two conferences. Discussion followed. As a result, the recommendation was modified to read as follows: The ACEA accepts in principle the CEA's proposal to hold the ACEA's conference in 2017 at Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS at the same time the CEA holds its conference there, subject to satisfactory agreement about details and timing of the two conferences. The ACEA also wants to express concern to the CEA about the logistics of transporting conference attendees 170 km from Halifax-Stanfield Airport to Antigonish, about accommodations for a large conference in Antigonish, and about coordination of the two conferences.

Attendees approved the modified recommendation.

Msc: M. Cross, P. de Lamirande

Attendees also agreed with a proposal that the Executive Committee appoint an organizing committee to work with the CEA in planning the 2017 conference, and that the ACEA propose to the CEA that registration fees for both conferences be discounted by 50 percent for participants who register for both conferences.

B. Kayahan will contact Greg Tkacz, Saint Francis Xavier University about planning the two conferences.

7. Report on ACEA's Website

B. Kayahan, incoming President and Webmaster, reported that ACEA's Website has moved to Acadia University. Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee, October 19, 2013 provide information about features that the Webmaster has added. He reported these same features to the AGM.

8. Treasurer's Report

R. Moir, University of New Brunswick, provided a preliminary report on behalf of J. Childs, Secretary-Treasurer. He reported a balance in the ACEA's bank account of \$6,183.15 in October 2012 and \$6,436.49 in October 2013. J. Childs has moved from the University of New Brunswick to the University of Regina and was not able to attend the ACEA's 41st conference. However, R. Moir reported that J. Childs is willing to continue as Secretary-Treasurer. Members approved the preliminary report and confirmed J. Childs as continuing Secretary-Treasurer.

Msc: R. Moir, M. Cross.

9. Online Journal Sponsored by the ACEA

P. de Lamirande proposed that the ACEA launch an online journal that includes a section dedicated to economic issues in Atlantic Canada. He provided a preliminary report about costs, possible sources of revenue, and operational matters for such a journal. Discussion followed. Attendees approved the following statement: The ACEA commissions P. de Lamirande to explore the costs, funding, organization, and logistics of launching and maintaining an online journal sponsored by the ACEA.

Msc: M. Cross, R. Moir

10. Officers of the ACEA

The slate of new officers and the plan for confirming that officers who have not completed their terms wish to continue that is outlined in the minutes for meeting of the Executive Committee, October 19, 2013 was reported to the AGM. Attendees approved the slate and plan.

Msc: M. Cross, R. Moir

11. Adjournment

J. Sawler requested a motion for adjournment. The meeting ceased by acclamation at 12:57.

Melvin L. Cross
Secretary *Pro Tem*