

President's Report
CAPPA/ACPAP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
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Dr. Robert Shepherd
President
CAPPA/ACPAP

INTRODUCTION

This meeting marks the end of my first year of a two year term as President of CAPPA/ACPAP. To say that this year has been eventful would be to understate the experience. When our Past-President, Kathy Brock, explained the job, I fear she may have under-stated just how busy this position can be. That said, I have been well-supported by a great executive committee, who have worked hard making sure that I look good over the past year. I could not have asked for better colleagues in Isabelle Fortier, Luc Juillet, Jonathan Craft and Kathy Brock. I also wish to extend thanks to each of you on behalf of your executive committee and board for your continued support of both CAPPA and this conference. Let me extend a very special thank you to Andrea Rounce and Karine Levasseur, who have done a superb job of organizing this year's conference. We could not have been better served!

2016-2017 ACTIVITIES

Membership

Luc Juillet will be giving a report on membership this year in CAPPA. Although we experienced an increase in paid memberships this year, we are by no means capturing all member schools. CAPPA is an institutionally based association of schools of public policy and public administration, which means a significant portion of its revenues comes from membership fees, and registrations for this conference. The association cannot operate its programs, which are becoming increasingly more sophisticated without the fees paid by your home units. On behalf of your association, please encourage your Directors or Chairs to either join CAPPA, or keep its membership fees up to date. My report today will show that there is ample reason to support the association and its work, demonstrating high value for money.

Accreditation

CAPPA continues to work very hard on bringing our accreditation processes up to date, and actively support efforts to engage member schools in this process. Building on the work of Kathy and the previous executive, a new accreditation self-study template was created, which has been approved by the board, and posted to our website. Michael Atkinson continues in his role as Chair of the Accreditation Committee, joined by Ken Rasmussen, Ian Clark, Les Pal and Nancy

Oleweiler. At present, there are three confirmed schools that have requested that their accreditation processes commence beginning with Dalhousie University this spring. Marguerite Cassin will be part of that process, and she join us here today, and has agreed to join the board should everyone approve. In addition, the University of British Columbia and Carleton University have committed to a formal request to be made for accreditation in the coming months. Three other schools have also requested consideration for accreditation, but have not yet submitted formal requests.

The work of this committee is vitally important work, and its efforts serve to benefit all schools and departments. We are very fortunate to have such a strong Chair in Michael Atkinson and three very capable committee members. I would encourage each of you representing your respective schools to consider having your programs accredited by CAPPa. Our process is meant to complement your existing internal processes of review, and your provincial processes of external review.

Website

I am pleased to report that the redesign of the CAPPa website is well underway that also builds on the work of the last executive under Kathy. The new site is up and running, and is much easier to navigate and maintain. I encourage you to take a look at the site at cappa.ca for a glimpse at its new look and feel. Special thanks go to Jonathan Craft and Ian Bron who have both worked tirelessly these past number of months migrating material and writing new content for the site.

Communications Committee

At our board meeting this week, approval was given to constitute a Communications Committee of the Board, chaired by Naomi Couto. The role of this committee will be to maintain content on the website, and to support external messaging of CAPPa on the website and social media including our Twitter feed. Many thanks to Naomi for assuming this important responsibility.

Case Competition

The Case Competition was again successful. As you know, the case competition is jointly orchestrated by CAPPa and IPAC with CAPPa increasingly taking the primary role as it did again this year. There will be a report later but I would like to acknowledge that Ryerson's School of Politics and Public Administration did a fantastic job organizing this year's event. The competition was held on February 17 and 18. Special thanks to Bryan Evans and Vanessa Wachuku for their great work. I also wish to acknowledge the great support of Kathy Brock, and Andy Graham as members of the organizing committee and overseeing the event. As of this point forward, the Past-President will have formal responsibility for overseeing the competition.

The next competition will take place at Simon Fraser University under the leadership of Nancy Oleweiler.

Annual Conference

I think we can all agree that so far this has been a brilliant conference. Andrea and Karine will provide their detailed report momentarily.

Next year's conference will be announced shortly!

Recognition of Innovative Paper Presentation (Isabelle Fortier, Paul Wilson, Carey Doberstein)
Three special recognitions. Methodological contribution, theoretical contribution, compelling normative contribution.

National Student Thought Leadership Awards

This jointly sponsored IPAC and CAPPa award was developed to recognize the best of graduate student writing at our member institutions. Each year students who have been nominated by their professors for excellence and selected by a national jury are presented an award at the IPAC national conference. There is still time to nominate your students. The call was sent out last month, and I encourage each of you to submit your nominations.

National Student Paper Competition

The paper competition is organized by the Canada School of Public Service, in association with CAPPa and the Canadian Association of Business School Deans. This year, CAPPa participated in a reframing of the competition to extend beyond the Blueprint 2020 theme, to expand to papers that support the work of the federal public service in service of Canadians. The organizing committee at the Canada School is represented by Isabelle Fortier and myself, with additional people from CAPPa members who are interested.

This year's winner of the competition is Hope Caldi of Simon Fraser University for her paper: "Offering a Warmer, Wiser Welcome: Recommendations for Reforming Canada's Immigration Loan Program." Hope was presented with a certificate by the Clerk of the Privy Council last Wednesday evening at the Manion Lecture. The Public Choice Award went to Sarah Evershed and Sadie Harrison of Carleton University for their paper: "Access Denied: Leveraging Existing Federal Frameworks to Improve ATIP Performance."

Noteworthy for this year's competition, the top winner is entitled to a term placement in the federal public service. In fact, four of the top five winning papers were approached by the Canada School and offered term positions in the federal public service this year. Next year, the top three papers will receive medals, and a commitment to a position in the federal public service. This is a commitment that comes from the Deputy Minister's Committee on Renewal. I

encourage each of you to participate in this contest, as its benefits are tangible for your students. The CSPS President is deeply committed to supporting the evolution of this contest, and engaging CAPP in its continued success. To cement this association, Wilma Vreeswijk has agreed to sit on our board in an ex officio position. We welcome this partnership.

Relationships

IPAC – CAPP and IPAC are independent organizations but our efforts to work together grew even stronger this year. In terms of governance, the President sits on the IPAC Board, and Andrea Migone Research Director for IPAC sits on our Board. This year, IPAC's Research Committee was reconstituted under the chairmanship of Guy Levasseur from the University of Ottawa, and we look forward to continued good work with him in the coming year. As the committee has just begun its work, there are a few projects underway, which may be of interest to our member schools, but may be too early to report on at this time.

In addition, IPAC was instrumental in supporting the student case competition, helping us to raise funds to support student travel to the event in Toronto. It helped to raise \$1,500 in raffle ticket sales, and IPAC also contributed funds in association with Ernst&Young to our event. We owe IPAC much for their continued support of our events.

This year's IPAC conference will be held in Charlottetown, PEI, in which CAPP will continue to play a role. We are planning a few events for the conference, including a discussion on Indigenous issues, and we have proposed an event that mirrors that of the University Seminar previously organized by the Canada School of Public Service. I encourage each of you to consider joining the conference this year.

In addition, CAPP and IPAC support the DeCelles Award each year, and we contribute \$2,000 toward it annually. This year's deadline for submissions is June 15th. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for our members to continue to support this award. I recently sent out a call to all school directors to submit nominations for this award. If each school were to submit just one nomination annually, we would have a working bank of nominations upon which to maintain this award. Andrea Migone will be speaking to this award shortly.

Case Program - CAPP with IPAC initiated this program and jointly appointed Andy Graham as Director of the program. Andy continues in this role this year. Again, I encourage each of you to support this program, and submit new ideas for consideration.

IPAC-CBIE – African Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarships in honour of Nelson Mandela to sponsor public servants in Africa to attend Canadian public administration and management/policy schools. The CAPP President sits on the steering committee for this important program, and assists the adjudication committee. The program experienced a major increase in applications this year, and many of our member schools of benefitted from this program. A more fulsome report will follow shortly.

CPSA – CAPP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CPSA agreeing to assist CPSA with its Public Administration section at its 2016 annual conference. This year's conference will occur at Ryerson University at the end of this month, led by Carolyn Johns and Greg Inwood. A series of panels has been organized this year, and includes a session at the Ontario legislature. I encourage all of you to attend if you are able, especially if you plan to attend the Learned's.

IASIA - International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration. Blue Wooldridge is here again this year to discuss ways we can collaborate in future.

CES – Canadian Evaluation Society: This year, I met twice with the President of the Canadian Evaluation Society, Dr. Harry Cummings (Guelph) to explore ways in which our associations might collaborate on this sub-field of public administration. We are currently in discussion about ways to maximize participation in our respective case competitions, and to support each other's annual conferences. Although the CES conference is significantly larger than ours, experiencing a whopping 850 registrations this year (mind you, it was in Vancouver this year), there is a deep commitment to student learning and events, which I think we can capitalize on.

Conclusion

Thank you for listening. We have a very busy year ahead with a ramping up of our accreditation program, and continued building of our several relationships with IPAC, CSPA, IASIA, IRSPM, CPSA and now the CES. The Case Competition will be in very good hands this year at SFU, and I am sure that you will be pleased with our plans for next year's research conference.

I would encourage anyone who wishes to join the Board to let me know, or if you wish to join the Communications Committee, there is plenty to keep us busy. Likewise, we are always looking for volunteers to support the case competition, next year's conference, and the student essay contest.

Thanks for all your support this year, and I look forward to even more productive second year!