



MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual Meeting of the Academy of Social Sciences / *Réunion annuelle de l'Académie des sciences sociales*
9.30 AM, November 26, 2022
Hyatt Regency, Calgary

Academy Council / Conseil de l'Académie	
Janine Brodie	President
Alain G. Gagnon	Past President
Linda Cardinal	Secretary / Secrétaire
Ken Coates	Division Director, Social Sciences / Directeur de la division
Sebastien Grammond	Division Director, Sciences sociales / Directrice de la division

The meeting was called to order at 9h30.

Attendees: Janine Brodie, Alain Gagnon, Barbara Neis, Diane Gérin-Lajoie, Stephen McAdams, Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger, Kelly Stajduhar, Cecilia Benoit, Jean Saint-Aubin, Ito Peng, Tania Bubela, Janet E. Halliwell, Jules Blais (co-editor and chief, Facets), Elaine Stoll (Canadian Science Publishing), Malek Batal, André Lecours, Jean-François Gaudreault-Decriens, Celia Haig-Brown, Andrea Gonzalez, William Fisher, Danika van Proosdij, Steven Hoffman, Jennifer Hyndman.

1.

Introduction:

President Janine Brodie welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional territories of the peoples of the Treaty 7 region of southern Alberta, and to Calgary, home to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

Brodie introduced the Executive of the Academy of Social Sciences, including Barbara Neis, the incoming President of Academy II and explained that she would become Past President of the Academy, replacing Alain Gagnon, an Academy II fellow, and new President of the Royal Society of Canada.

The President also extended best wishes to Academy II Secretary, Linda Cardinal, for a speedy recovery.

President Brodie then congratulated and welcomed the 26 new Academy II fellows elected in 2022 and gave a brief overview of the Governance structure of the Royal Society of Canada and Academy II.

2.

Motion to amend agenda to include brief presentation by Jules Blais (co-editor-and-chief) of FACETS: Motion to approve the amended agenda by Jennifer Hyndman; seconded by Cecilia Benoit. Motion adopted.

3.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Social Sciences, by Alain Gagnon; seconded by Ito Peng. Motion adopted.

4.

Brief presentation about publications possibilities for social scientists in FACETS

Jules Blais (co-editor-and-chief) of FACETS discussed the idea that FACETS, the official journal of the Royal Society, enter into further conversations with Academy II concerning the inclusion of social science publications in this journal. It was agreed that this proposal be further pursued at a meeting in early 2023 between the Academy II executive, the executive director of the RSC, and FACET representatives.

5.

President's Report:

The President addressed three key areas in her remarks:

- The 2022 Selection Process
- The RSC's 2022 Milestones

The 2021 Selection Process

The President explained that one of the major responsibilities of each RSC academy is to work with the Walter House staff on the nomination processes and to conduct the adjudication of files for the selection of new fellows. This is an annual responsibility that requires the good will and hard work of many members of our Academy.

The President reported that 95 files submitted to Academy II this year – 87 to Division 1, 8 to Division 2. This volume of files is consistent with overall trends in the Academy in recent years and larger than 2021 when, presumably due to COVID disruptions, only 75 files were received.

In 2022, Academy II welcomed 26 new fellows, who were among the 102 new fellows and 54 new college members celebrated at the 2022 COEE. There are currently approximately 2500 members of the RSC nationally.

The overall success rate for nomination files for Academy II in 2022 was 23%, a marginally smaller percentage than in 2021 (28%). The successful nominations were widely representative of the diversity of disciplines in the Academy. This selection process also advanced the RSC's broader goals of inclusive excellence – for example, 15 of the 26 or 57% of 2022 new fellows in this academy are women. We still have not developed an instrument to track representation of other federally designated groups, although this is in progress.

The President also thanked Christopher Dragon of Walter House for all of his assistance in making the selection process a success.



The President congratulated other social scientists who received RSC awards in 2022.

Jane Jenson was awarded the Innis-Gerin Medal for her abundant and influential empirical and conceptual contributions to political science and policy studies.

Kimberley Brownlee, who was elected to the RSC College this year, was awarded the Kitty Newman Memorial Award for her work in social and political philosophy.

Valerie Oosterveld won the Ursula Franklin Award in Gender Studies, recognizing her work in international criminal law and war crimes.

Christopher Alcantra was awarded the Yvan Allaire Medal for his research on indigenous governance and federalism.

B. RSC Milestones in 2022

Leadership

The President noted that transition was a key term to describe the activities of the RSC in 2022. This year's annual meeting will see an almost complete renewal of the RSC Board of Directors, with a new President and Academy Presidents.

RSC Pres. (2022-2025) Alain Gagnon (UQAM)

RSC Secretary (2021-2024) Gary Libben (Brock)

Pres. Academy of Arts and Humanities (2022-2025) Sheila Embleton (York)

Pres. Academy of Social Science (2022-2025) Barbara Neis (MUN)

Pres. Academy of Science (2022-2025) Michel Tremblay (McGill)

Institutional Representative – Cecilia Benoit (UVic)

Covid Task Force

The President noted that the Covid pandemic presented many challenges for the RSC, especially for the Walter House staff who kept the organization afloat and pulled together two virtual annual meetings while largely working from home. But the pandemic also provided opportunities for the RSC to generate and mobilize independent research during a period of profound uncertainty. Under the exceptional leadership of president, Jeremy McNeil, the Walter House staff, and the Covid Task Force, the RSC made a significant transition from largely honorific functions to a leading and ongoing venue for independent expertise and research.

This year, however, also marks a transition in the RSC's mobilization of independent expertise. The new RSC Task Force on One Health is beginning its work, grounded in the foundation provided by the RSC policy briefing on [***Strengthening a One Health Approach to Emerging Zoonoses***](#). First steps for the task force will include consulting with the RSC membership through a survey, asking each of you to identify the three most pressing challenges we are facing when it comes to the health of our planet and



all of its species. The President noted that the social sciences will have to be attentive to advancing social science research in this transition to the One Health Initiative.

New Strategic Plan

This COEE also marks a transition to a new RSC strategic plan, “Next Steps, Together” 2023-2025 which will be presented to fellows at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 26. The new strategic plan has 3 components:

1. *Inclusive Excellence* which involves, among other things, implementing many of the recommendations of the 2021 Membership Report as well as pursuing a programme in support of **At-Risk and Displaced Artists and Academics**, designed and led by the RSC College and its outgoing President, Karly Kehoe.
2. *Independent Expertise*, beginning with the One Health Initiative, previewed at the University of Calgary Research Symposium on Wednesday.
3. *International Engagement*, which builds on ongoing work, for example, with the G7 and G20, and Australian and New Zealand academies on reconciliation as well as new collaborative opportunities with the EU and India.

Other RSC Initiatives in 2023

The RSC council will take steps to reinvigorate its Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization Committee. One of its primary roles will be to recommend concrete mechanisms to operationalize the many recommendations of the 2021 Membership Committee Report.

As a final presidential intervention, the President introduced two motions that were listed on the agenda.

6) Proposed Motions

The Academy of Social Science applauds outgoing President Jeremy McNeil for his transformative leadership of the RSC in the past three years.

Motion by Alain Gagnon; Seconded by Cecelia Benoit

The Academy of Social Science expresses their deep appreciation to the Walter House staff for their extraordinary administrative support during the many challenges of the Covid pandemic.

Motion by Ito Peng; Seconded by Jennifer Hyndman

Alain Gagnon introduced a motion of congratulation to Janine Brodie for the incredible work she has done for the RSC and as President of Academy II. Moved by Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger; Seconded by Cecilia Benoit.



7) Remarks from the Incoming Academy President

Incoming President, Barbara Neis, offer her congratulations to the new Fellows and welcomed them to the Royal Society and to the Academy of Social Sciences. She also congratulated the 2022 social science award winners including Jane Jenson, Kimberley Brownlee, Valerie Oosterveld, and Christopher Alcantra. She took the opportunity to personally thank Janine Brodie for her leadership and active engagement with the RSC and with Academy II since 2019, and for the personal support shown to her over the past year as she has begun to take up her responsibilities and orient herself to the policies and processes that guide the work of the RSC and Academy II. Fortunately, Janine will be available in her role as past-President to advise and support us over the next year.

To the members of Academy 2, Barbara indicated she was humbled and a little intimidated by the trust invested in her through the role of President. In addition to helping organize and oversee the fellow and awards selection process, she will also be a member of the RSC Council and will sit on the Board of the RSC. Barbara noted she agreed to accept the position of President in part because she was excited by the work being done through the RSC in response to COVID-19. She was impressed by the rapid mobilization of expertise from across many disciplines in response to the pandemic and felt it showed the real potential of the RSC and its members to not only assess and celebrate excellence, but also, consistent with its mandate, to mobilize the excellence and related expertise within and beyond its own membership in response to a major Canadian and global challenge.

Barbara noted that, based on the new strategic plan, the RSC is now using the same model as it used for COVID to initiate a program of work on One Health. This starts with establishing a Task Force, canvassing the membership and encouraging the formation of working groups to address issues that fall under this very broad umbrella. She encouraged Academy II social scientists with expertise they considered relevant to One Health to complete the survey being circulated by the One Health Task Force

Barbara indicated she was currently reading *Royally Wronged: the Royal Society of Canada and Indigenous Peoples*. She encouraged those who have not read this ground-breaking collection to do so. She noted that as a privileged white, anglophone settler woman, from the point of view of truth and reconciliation, she believes it is important for all of us to understand in some depth the organization we have pledged to support, including its relationship to colonialism, racism and the persecution of Indigenous peoples in Canada. She noted that a contemporary challenge for the RSC is to look for ways to move beyond the truths laid out in this collection and in so much social science research in Canada, towards contributing to reconciliation. As indicated in the strategic plan, this and acting on the recommendations in an RSC committee report on equity, diversity and inclusion will be a priority for the RSC Council and board over the next year.

Barbara concluded by saying she looked forward to working with the membership of Academy II and on their behalf. She also looks forward to the opportunity to learn more about excellence in the social sciences in Canada across many fields and disciplines, as she oversees the fellow and social science awards selection process over the next three years.



Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

