

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia



DRAFT MINUTES
of a
Meeting of the British Columbia Assayers Foundation Advisory Council
BCIT, Building Sw9, Room 118

April 29, 2011

Member	Role	Affiliation	Address
Jim McLeod	Member, Advisory Council	Global Discovery (Ret.)	Vancouver, BC.
Dave Lefebure	Government Representative	BC Gov.	Victoria, BC.
Alice Pang	Member, Advisory Council	ALS	N. Vancouver, BC.
Scott Daniels	Chair-Advisory Council	Teck Metals	Trail, BC.
Paul Morrison	Member, Advisory Council	BCIT	Burnaby, BC.
Lawrence Ng	Member, Advisory Council	SGS	Vancouver, BC
Mac Chaudhry	Examiners Board Chair	BC Gov. (Ret.)	Victoria, BC.
Gerald Chik	Member, Advisory Council	ALS	N. Vancouver, BC.
Raymond Chan	Member, Advisory Council	ACME	Vancouver, BC.
David Chiu	Member, Advisory Council		Vancouver, BC.
Elaine Woo	Member, Advisory Council	BCIT	Burnaby, BC.

Regrets: Bill Clifford, Keith Rogers, Ray Lett, Sa'a Traxler & Timothy Elliott

The Foundation & Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Alice Pang at 1 pm.

Advisory Council & Foundation Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of past meeting minutes
[25-Feb-2011](#) –conference call
[26-Nov-2011](#) –fall advisory council/foundation meeting
2. Board of examiners report -Mac
-successful candidates
-update regarding succession planning
-other
3. Industry funding update –Bill
4. Scholarships report –Elaine & Ray
5. BCIT Assayers Training Program progress report -Elaine
6. Progress on model for financial sustainability –Scott
7. Need for a “special” meeting with Karina Brino? –Scott
8. New password for 2011 for members-only section of website
9. Next meeting & adjournment

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1. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

25-Feb-2011 minutes (Motion for approval by Scott, seconded by Dave)

26-Nov-2011 minutes (Motion for approval by Scott, seconded by Mac)

2. Board of Examiners Report (Mac)

With a maximum of 10 spaces for writing the provincial certification examinations on 11-June, six individuals have submitted fees. The deadline for applying to write this examination is 29-Apr-2011. The next practical examination is tentatively scheduled for the 2nd week of December-2011. The maximum number of spaces is estimated to be 6-8. There continues to be safety challenges and issues related to the administration of this practical examination. In 2010, six individuals participated in the written examination; four passed. Also in 2010, eight individuals participated in the practical examination; five passed.

Keith Rogers continues to be groomed to take over as the chair for the board of examiners. It was recommended that \$3,500 should be set aside for Board of Examiner supplies. D. Lefebure recommended that costs should be covered for the Chair of the Board of Examiners for flights to Vancouver.

3. Industry Funding Update (Bill Clifford)

Absent from meeting

4. Scholarships Report (Elaine & Ray)

It is proposed that....

A \$500 foundation scholarship will be provided for a BCIT scholarship.

Three \$1,000 Assayer trainee awards will be offered based on anticipated funding from the CMA.

5. BCIT Assayer Training Program Progress Report (Elaine)

Elaine commented that some students have completed the Assayer Training Program in 12 months. Over the period Jan-2011 to April-2011, 45 students in total have been admitted to the training program. In total there are more than 150 students in the program at module levels 1-5. Enrolment includes students from Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Canada (including eastern provinces).

The question was asked, why so few graduates of the program seek certification. Suggestion was made that workplace bonuses could help encourage employees to seek certification. Further, the continuing promotion of Assayer Certification, by promotional presentations to the BCIT students, may help encourage more assayers seeking certification.

The question, "would examiner(s) travel as far as Thunder Bay," was asked. "Yes," was the reply, "as long as the requesting industry covers the examiner(s) costs and they have appropriate equipment, time and space for the administration of practical examinations."

It is estimated that 80% of students in the BCIT Assayer Training Program are sponsored by their employer.

The suggestion was made that it would be desirable to have national-level standards for assaying so as to achieve equivalence of standards for assayers between provinces. It was further suggested that improvements to the BC Securities Commission's 43-101F1 Technical Report could be improved to address this issue. To help recognize the need for qualified personnel, beyond ISO17025 accreditation for laboratory methods, it was recommended that mining engineers need to be educated. To achieve this, it was suggested that, pending a suitable

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financial position for the Foundation, that a representative from the Foundation should give presentations at mining & exploration conferences: RoundUp, PAC,...

Discussion ensued regarding the advantages for a discussion forum at the www.bcassayer.com website, for certified assayers only.

6. Progress on Model for Sustainability (Scott)

A proposed change to The Act might read,

“...an offence for any laboratory in BC to be performing the work of Assaying without being a member-in-good standing with the Assayers Foundation of British Columbia.”

D. Lefebure advised that changes to legislation could take 6-24 months.

7. Government Update. Need for a “Special” Meeting with Karina Brino? (Scott)

D. Lefebure advised that the Geological Survey should be posting a position to fill the vacancy left by Ray Lett’s retirement. On 25-Oct-2010, the MEMPR split into five newly named ministries, including the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations. As of 14-Mar-2011, and after a number of changes and a cabinet shuffle, the MEMPR has been restored and Dave is our contact for the Geological Survey branch.

8. New Password for 2001 for Advisory Council Members Only Access to Website Executive Portal (Scott)

A new password was shared with members at the time of the meeting.

9. Other Business.

G. Chik. There should be member dues for Certified Assayers. ASTTBC charges approximately \$300 for individual member dues.

D. Lefebure. Recommends that this group do something first before considering individual member dues.

A. Pang. Letters of welcome should be sent to new, Certified Assayers, from the Foundation chair.

G. Chik. This group should consider an Assayers Workshop at BCIT.

G. Chik. A newsletter would be a beneficial tool for communication to certified assayers.

L. Ng. Laboratory instrument vendors should be added to the list of laboratories being solicited for financial support: Perkin-Elmer, Agilent, Varian, thermo, VWR, LECO, Mettler-Toledo.

Action Items

1. (Alice) The Chair will follow up with all members of BoE & Treasurer to ensure stipends were paid out for 2010.
2. (Elaine) There needs to be resolution regarding the scholarship amounts: \$500, \$1000 or perhaps 2x \$500 from the Foundation treasury.