

Canadian Association for Legal Ethics
Annual General Meeting
Montreal, Quebec – Le Meridian Versailles
Saturday, October 24 at 8:00am

Minutes

Attendees:

Richard Devlin (Schulich/Dalhousie), Stephen Pitel (Western), Alain Roussy (Ottawa), Mahnam Malamiry (Osgoode/York), Jula Hughes (New Brunswick), Thomas Harrison (Queen's), Malcolm Mercer (McCarthy Tetrault), Adam Dodek (Ottawa), Mariette Brennan (Lakehead), Frances Chapman (Lakehead), Tammy Moore (New Brunswick), Emanuel Tucsa (Osgoode/York)

1. Call to Order

Thomas Harrison (chairing) called the meeting to order at 8:07am.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: to adopt the agenda (Hughes; seconded Dodek). Carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting as circulated in draft (Chapman; seconded Mercer). Carried unanimously.

4. President's Report

Richard Devlin thanked Marie-Claude Rigaud for hosting the 2015 annual conference. He also thanked those present for getting up sufficiently early to attend the meeting.

Richard Devlin noted that there had been positive feedback about the CALE ethics videos posted on the website. He encouraged members to consider whether events in which they are involved might generate a useful video that could then be provided to CALE as a resource. There has been less feedback about the exam bank on the website but what there has been is positive.

On behalf of CALE, Richard Devlin congratulated all members whose accomplishments have been noted on the listserv during the year. There have been many awards and publications.

Richard Devlin outlined plans for the board of directors. Thus far it has not been very active, leaving it to the officers to handle the business of CALE. The aim going forward is to make the board more active, with specific projects and meetings by conference call during the year. He advocated expanding the size of the board, particularly in light of a proposed reduction in the

number of officers (the plan is not to appoint membership coordinators as has been done in the past). There was general agreement among the members with these proposals.

Richard Devlin proposed that incoming officers consider themselves to be taking up at least a two-year commitment, even though each appointment is just for one year at a time, in order to establish better continuity and longer-term planning. This would be an informal understanding; no change to the bylaws is proposed. There was general agreement among the members with this proposal. Julia Hughes suggested that efforts be made so that in any given year there is a reasonable balance of new officers and reappointed officers, also for continuity reasons.

5. Corporate Secretary and Treasurer's Report

Stephen Pitel explained that there had been no corporate or tax filings for CALE since its inception in 2012. He has thus made the required filings with Industry Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency for 2013, 2014 and 2015 and produced financial statements for those years. CALE's address has been changed with both the federal and provincial registry to specifically refer to Adam Dodek at the University of Ottawa, so that mail reaches a particular person.

Stephen Pitel explained how the financial statements are prepared (based on the surplus or loss of the annual conference each year) and how CALE's assets (cash) are held.

Motion: (1) that the financial year begins on May 18 and ends on the following May 17; (2) to waive any applicable statutory audit requirement; (3) to approve internal financial statements as prepared by the Corporate Secretary and Treasurer; (4) to approve corporate and tax filings by the Corporate Secretary and Treasurer; (5) to thank to Mark Blumberg (Blumberg Segal LLP) and Denise Wright-Ianni, CGA for their pro bono assistance with corporate and tax filings and to thank Stephen Pitel for his efforts as an officer (Dodek; seconded Brennan). Carried unanimously.

6. Election of Directors

Motion: to increase size of board of directors from 5 to 9 (Dodek; seconded Mercer). Carried unanimously.

The following were nominated to serve as directors until the next Annual General Meeting and agreed to stand: Brent Cotter, Richard Devlin, Adam Dodek, Jasminka Kalajdzic, Alice Woolley, Mariette Brennan, Helena Lamed, Julia Hughes and Marie-Claude Rigaud. There were no additional nominations. Those nominated were acclaimed.

7. Appointment of Officers

Motion: to appoint the following officers until the next Annual General Meeting: Richard Devlin (Chair of the Board), Alice Woolley (President), Adam Dodek (Vice President), Stephen Pitel (Corporate Secretary and Treasurer), Amy Salyzyn (Chief Information Officer) and John Law (Conference Coordinator) (Malamiry; seconded Roussy). Carried unanimously.

Richard Devlin noted that Amy Salyzyn was on a parental leave and would start her work as an officer from January 2016.

8. Future Conferences and Annual General Meetings

University of Alberta has offered to host in 2016. This was enthusiastically accepted. It has the support of the Law Society of Alberta. Volunteering for the organizing committee, working with Conference Coordinator John Law, are Julia Hughes, Stephen Pitel and Alain Roussy. Any other members willing to be on the committee should contact John Law.

The proposed dates are October 20-22, 2016. [NB it was subsequently determined that these proposed dates conflict with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada annual meeting. October 27-29, 2016 will be explored.]

Richard Devlin reminded members of the International Legal Ethics Conference (ILEC) VII in New York City (at Fordham University) on July 14-16, 2016. Many CALE members have already had presentation proposals accepted but there is still time to propose additional presentations for those wishing to do so. It is looking like there will be a strong Canadian presence.

9. New Business

None.

10. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn (Roussy; seconded Devlin). Taken as carried.