

# Minutes from November 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

## Meeting of CACSAIC Outreach Committee

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Committee Members (A=attending, R=regrets, ?=uncertain):

STAT	NAME	EMAIL	SKYPE	INSTITUTION/REGION
A	Danny Silver	<a href="mailto:danny.silver@acadiu.ca">danny.silver@acadiu.ca</a>	danny.silver	Acadia University
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Materials for meeting at website

<http://socrates.acadiu.ca/courses/comp/dsilver/Share/CACSAIC/>

### 1. Approval of Agenda

### 2. New Secretary

### 3. Review of last meeting – Oct 25, 2012 (see agenda at website)

→ Danny reviewed the agenda. No additional comments to add.

### 4. Business arising from last meeting

#### a. Canadian Canada Month (Feb), and Day (Feb 22) (Danny)

→ Based on Computer Science Education Week (which is timed badly and could be more effective, but has good websites in the American version of the event)

→ Peter: Teachers need resources to support computer science programs in the schools. He appealed for help.

→ Danny: [http://cacsaic.org/outreach/events/computerscience\\_educationweek](http://cacsaic.org/outreach/events/computerscience_educationweek)

→ Aimed more at middle school, to increase awareness of career opportunities and provide chances to integrate with older high school classes.

→ Peter asked about teacher associations in other provinces, to see what other teacher groups are doing. Expressed concern about starting CSTA chapter in Ontario, and how that might smother existing groups. All agreed that the main thing is that each province have a CSTA-like group.

→ Peter suggested Heather Payne, from Ladies Learning Code (<http://ladieslearningcode.com/about/>) as an example of someone who has established a network that reaches out to youth.

→ Steve saw the new dates fitting well with UofT. Steve talked about a CS field trip day that UofT has planned for Reading Week (Feb 18-Feb 22) where schools send their high school classes to UofT to attend large talks followed by breakout sessions on CS topics, hosted by grad students and faculty

members. Activities such as this could be marketed under the banner of CS Education Day.

- Ryan: Women in Technology group in Alberta (in association with CIPS) organizes an event on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at PEI. This conference has been happening for several years for junior high students, with twice as many applicants as spots in the program.
  - Links: <http://www.wisest.ualberta.ca/>  
<http://www.cips.ca/>  
<http://robots.acadiau.ca/>  
<http://launch.cs.ualberta.ca/>
- Would be nice to collect “best practices” for events such as this. Danny shared robotics competition site (see above) and discussed the volume of high school and industry uptake on the event.
- Ryan shared “Launch CS” (see above), highlighting the “Women in Technology” program in particular.
- Daryl asked about NSERC (PromoScience) funding element, to be followed up by Ryan.
- Discussed better, more enticing names for CS Education Day (suggestions - Steve’s: “Tech Savvy”?, Danny’s: “CanComp”). **Name needs to be decided soon, so development on CS Education Day and Month can progress (Danny).**

#### **b. Group meeting in winter or spring (Danny)**

- Want people working on committees or conferences to meet and pass on information about what’s happening in the CS education space, to motivate cohesion within the group.
- Referred to upcoming ACSE conference (<http://www.acse.net/conferences/13th-conference-2012>) and how the timing is too tight to organize around that event.
- Danny brought up Western Canadian Conference on Computing Education (<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/wccce/>)
- Steve & Peter brought up ECOO (<http://ecoo.org/>), and Daryl noted the Google Apps Ontario Conference on April 20<sup>th</sup>, see <http://on.gafesummit.com/>
- **Danny will look at the various conferences to find one that’s a good fit for a group meeting, or symposium/workshop opportunities.**

#### **c. Outreach Website updates <http://cacsaic.org/> (Danny)**

- **Ryan and Danny (and a third person) will work on putting together the resources for CS Education Month (website, e.g.) Danny will contact Debbie to pursue this further.**
- Danny shared <http://compsciteacher.educ.queensu.ca/> as an example of how content can be organized and shared.

#### **d. Committee to investigate CS scholarships – what shall we do here (Danny)**

- There is need for national awards in computer science (instead of just institution-based scholarships).
- Example: US-based scholarships:
  - <http://ww2.ncwit.org/award/award.index.php>
  - <http://www.cra.org/>
- No comprehensive site of national scholarships for computer science students graduating from high school. Scholarships might need to be proposed to promote computer science and encourage interest from prospective students.
- **Danny to take back to CS Chairs at spring meeting.**

### **5. CACSAIC support for adding P-12 CS education as an objective for CCICT, ICTC, ITAC, and CIPS organizations**

- Skipped in the interest of time.

## 6. Formation of CSTA-like org in every province (Danny)

- Danny explained that it only requires 5 people (preferably teachers) to start a CSTA Chapter.
- Danny shared Daryl's CSTA chapter application with the group on the CACSAIC resource website.
- Daryl will contact Scratch @ MIT to see if they'll support a Canadian Scratch day that isn't on the Victoria Day long weekend.
- Peter mentioned the ACSE conference in late November and the Summer Institute event in late August.
- Cezar explained that efforts have been made in PEI with the Dept of Education. He will investigate the possibility with them once again.
- Peter asked whether Daryl can request MIT's permission to modify their promotional material for potential Canadian events. Peter insists that he is not volunteering for anything, however.

## 7. Round table – CSTA updates, other events that have happened or are planned (All)

- Didn't get to this point.

Skype call adjourned at 7:00pm AST.