

Minutes of the Forestry SIG Annual Meeting

Convention Center, Québec City, QC, Canada

July 17th, 2017

Note that, in the meeting minutes that follow, motions can be assumed to have been carried unless otherwise stated.

1) Welcome and Meeting Objectives

Claudia Cambero, president of the Forestry Special Interest Group (FSIG), opens the meeting by welcoming all attendants. Claudia provides an overview of the meeting agenda (sent in advance to all active FSIG members by email) and asks if there are any additions. Acceptance of the agenda is moved and seconded.

2) Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Claudia opens the floor for comments or questions related to the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting that were posted on the FSIG website, and sent to all active members by email prior to the meeting. There are no comments or questions. Approval of the minutes is moved and seconded.

2) Review of FSIG Activities and Initiatives

Claudia reviews the FSIG activities since the 2016 Annual Meeting.

OR in Forestry Cluster at CORS/IFORS 2017

Two FSIG members chaired three forestry-related streams this year. Taraneh Sowlati chaired the streams *CORS SIG on Forestry* and *Biomass-based supply chains*, and Mikael Rönqvist chaired the stream *OR in Forestry*. In total, the program included nine regular sessions and one special session, the *David Martel Student Paper Prize in Forestry (DMSPPF)*. The three finalists of the 2017 DMSPPF were Gregory Paradis, Ludwig Dumetz, and Farnoush Farnia.

FSIG Communications

Claudia mentions that four communications about FSIG news appear on regular basis in CORS Bulletin (in May, August, November and February). Additionally, nine communications including the Minutes of 2016 FSIG annual meeting, announcements related to OR Forestry Cluster, DMSPPF, search for new FSIG President were shared on the *FSIG Google group*¹ and on the *FSIG website*². Claudia describes the new *FSIG website* and *FSIG LinkedIn group*³. She also invites the members to send news to be shared to all members, and to email the FSIG President to receive FSIG news.

Review of FSIG members list

Claudia describes the two procedures for renewing FSIG membership: (1) renewing CORS membership and checking the FSIG checkbox in the membership renewal form, or (2) contacting the FSIG president and requesting membership. Currently, there are 53 members in FSIG. Claudia invites the members to check if their email is accurate and is in the list. She invites the members to send an email to the new FSIG president to add or correct their contact email address.

¹ <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/cors-fsig>

² <http://www.cors.ca/SIG/Forestry/?q=content/welcome>

³ <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12036086>

3) Overview of the 2015-2017 period

Claudia summarized the FSIG work during the period 2015-2017 as follows:

- 2 editions of David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry:
 - A total of 6 finalists were selected and presented their work during CORS Conferences.
 - Jury members: David Martell, Taraneh Sowlati, Jean-Francois Audy, Claudia Cambero and Mikael Rönnkvist.
- OR in forestry cluster:
 - 30 presentations were held in 8 regular and 2 special sessions at CORS/INFORMS 2016 @ Banff. Co-chairs: Taraneh Sowlati and Claudia Cambero.
 - Members' participation in 3 tracks: 34 presentations in 9 regular and 1 special sessions at CORS/IFORS 2017 @ Quebec. Chairs: Taraneh Sowlati, Mikael Rönnqvist, Magnus Fröhling,
- Regular communication with members:
 - Regular channels: E-mail, Google Group, CORS Bulletin
 - New channels: CORS FSIG Website, and FSIG LinkedIn

Taraneh Sowlati, David Martell, Mustapha Ouhimmou and Jean-François Audy thank Claudia for her work as FSIG president during the period 2015-2017.

4) Election of a New FSIG President

Claudia introduces the election committee formed by *Jean-François Audy (UQTR)* and *Mustapha Ouhimmou (ÉTS)*. Jean-François briefly describes the FSIG new president election process. The three candidates (by alphabetic order) were: *Foroogh Abasian (Université Laval)*, *Shuva Hari Gautan (Université Laval)*, *Tasseda Boukherroub (ÉTS)*, and *Yan Feng (UQTR)*. Jean-François explains that Claudia prepared an online voting system on *SurveyMonkey* and invited all FSIG members (FSIG membership list) to participate in the voting process. The poll opening date was *May 24th 2017*, with three reminders by Claudia on *May 30th*, *June 6th* and *June 9th*. The poll closure date was *June 10th 2017*. In total, 22 members submitted their vote.

Jean-François acknowledges the high quality of the applications of the four candidates and invites Mustapha Ouhimmou (ÉTS) to announce the new FSIG president: *Tasseda Boukherroub (ÉTS)*. Tasseda thanks the FSIG members.

4) FSIG bylaws

Claudia moves a proposed change to the FSIG bylaws. The motion is seconded.

Amendment to FSIG bylaws regarding the election of the jury for the David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry (DMSPPF).

Current bylaw article 8f:

Applications are judged by a three members committee chaired by David Martell or by a delegate nominated by him or otherwise by the SIG President. The two other judges are, preferably, the Forestry SIG President and the OR in forestry program chair but delegate could be nominated by the Forestry SIG President.

Proposed bylaw article 8f (by Jean-François Audy and David Martell):

The Forestry SIG President, in consultation with David Martell, should form a PRELIMINARY jury panel of three FSIG members. If needed, the latter will make the final choice (decisional). The composition of the jury should aim for complementary expertise/experience/background among the jury members and one of the jury

members should be a junior researcher. It is desirable that jury members are rotated after serving a few years.

Phase 1 of the competition: selection of up to 3 finalists among the applications (note: eligibility of the applications has been validated by the Forestry SIG President)

If a member in the PRELIMINARY jury panel is co-author in one (or more) of the applications, this member should be substituted by a FSIG member that has no co-authorship on the applications. The selection of this substitute is discussed among the remaining member(s) of the preliminary jury panel and David Martell. If needed, the latter will make the final choice (decisional). The full list of papers submitted should not be sent by the Forestry SIG President to anyone that will be asked to withdraw from the jury panel because one of their students has submitted a paper that he or she has co-authored.

Phase 2 of the competition: selection of the winner(s) among the finalists by the jury panel in phase 1.

Gregory Paradis (UBC) requests clarification for the sentence “*The full list of papers submitted should not be sent by the Forestry SIG President to anyone that will be asked to withdraw from the jury panel because one of their students has submitted a paper that he or she has co-authored.*” David Martell explains that the intent is to pro-actively avoid providing an unfair advantage to students whose supervisors are on the jury. If a jury member has copies of all submitted papers at the time they are asked to withdraw from the jury, then they could potentially share some or all of these papers with their students. If one of these students then gets selected as a finalist, having special access to the full list of submissions could provide an unfair advantage in preparing for the contest presentations and question period. The intent of the proposed change to the bylaws is to ensure that the FSIG president withholds the full list of submitted papers from all jury members until all conflicts of interest within the jury have been dealt with. Gregory proposes a modification of the sentence for more clarity:

- *Proposed bylaw article 8f (modification proposed by Gregory Paradis):*

The FSIG President should address any conflicts of interest within the jury before distributing submitted papers to jury members.

Claudia informs that, according to CORS bylaws, in order to submit a change to the FSIG bylaw to vote, it has to be supported by at least 10 FSIG members. Jean-François asks if there are members who support the proposition. Ten members showed their support to the amendment and the modification proposed by Gregory Paradis. The names of 10 FSIG members supporting the proposal to amend FSIG bylaws are as follow:

1. Jean-François Audy (UQTR)
2. Gregory Paradis (UBC)
3. Mustapha Ouhimmou (ÉTS)
4. Foroogh Abasian (Université Laval)
5. Marc Manser (Dalhousie University)
6. Claudia Cambero (FPInnovations)
7. Tasseda Boukherroub (ÉTS)
8. Taraneh Sowlati (UBC)
9. David Martell* (UofT)
10. Azdeh Mobtaker (ÉTS)

The FSIG president will coordinate the process where the proposed bylaw change will be voted by all FSIG members as indicated in the SIG bylaws.

5) Discussion on INFOR Special Issue

Claudia recalls to the members that an INFOR Special Issue (Volume 54, 2016 - Issue 3: Forestry Applications) was published online on *July 27th 2016*. Gregory Paradis was the Guest Editor of this special issue. Claudia reminds members that a goal of the FSIG is to have a new INFOR Special Issue every two years. *Mustapha Ouhimmou* and *Jean-François Audy* express their interest to be the guest editors for this issue and to coordinate it. Claudia encourages the members to participate by contacting the guest editors.

6) Miscellaneous Items

Claudia encourages everyone to participate in the 2018 CORS Annual Conference in Halifax, NS, June 4-6, and encourages graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to get their paper ready for the 2018 David Martell Student Paper Prize in Forestry.

7) Meeting Close

Claudia Cambero moves to close the meeting (seconded).