



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION AT 1867 WEST BROADWAY, VANCOUVER, BC, ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2005.

Present: Jo-Ann Johnston, CGA (Chair), Kevin Liang, Emmanuel Paul, Geoff Devereux, Eric Poersch, Sandra Morford, Tracey Childerhose (by teleconference) and Gordon Gray, CGA (Recording Secretary)

Guests: Bill Johnson, FCGA, Dan Relihan, CGA, Wendy Bond, and Keri Sherman

Regrets: Shirley Whalen, Fareen Wallani, Lourdes Elardo and Kerin MacLachlan

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. **Amendments to the Agenda**

A question from SAG member Shirley Whalen concerning the ability to change CGA-Online student passwords was added as agenda item 10.

3. **Introductions**

The Chair welcomed Dan Relihan, CGA, Manager, Recruitment & Marketing, who reported on the activities of a work group, which was formed in the summer to review CGA-BC's current Employment Referral Service (ERS), and make recommendations for improvements. As a result of the work group activities, Dan stated that a number of improvements and enhancements had been suggested, including enhanced search capability. A Request for Proposal was issued to prospective external service providers, and a recommendation from among those proposals is currently before the Association. Dan hopes that students will be able to access the new enhanced ERS early in 2006. Lastly, he specifically thanked SAG members Emmanuel Paul, Geoff Devereux and Eric Poersch who were members of the work group.

The Chair also welcomed Wendy Bond, Operations Planner, Curriculum and Professional Services from CGA-Canada, and Bill Johnson, FCGA, Director, Education & Student Services and Keri Sherman, Student Advisor from CGA-BC.

4. **CGA-Canada Discussion**

Wendy Bond guided a discussion to receive SAG feedback on the future use of three CGA-Canada course development tools: discussion groups, collaborative assignments, and integrative assignments.

None of the SAG members were taking, or had taken, courses in which any of these three tools are currently being used. Therefore, no direct personal student experience was forthcoming. However, SAG members had a variety of opinions on two of the three.

Discussion Groups

SAG members felt that, in general, discussion groups are a good idea, but opinions varied on how they should be used in CGA courses, or even if they should be a required part of the course. Those taking the former view felt that discussion groups allowed students the chance to interact, and that many students might not otherwise do so. Those on the other

side felt that students who wish discussion groups had ample options, including the national CGA chat group. Those that supported discussion groups could not agree on whether they should be optional or mandatory in terms of exam qualification.

Integrative Assignments

There was some support for integrative assignments, but there was disagreement on whether such assignments are appropriate at all levels of the CGA program. One PACE-Level member said that he felt that an integrative assignment for part marks was simply a “second examination”, and that he preferred the current model.

Collaborative assignments

In response to a question from the group, Wendy Bond confirmed that such assignments are currently only used in the LU degree partnerships, and that she didn't foresee future use of collaborative assignments in CGA courses, certainly not in the near future. Since none of the SAG members are currently enrolled in an LU degree program, they had no opinion about collaborative assignments.

5. Exam Qualification Standards

The SAG member who placed this item on the agenda was unable to attend the meeting. Gordon Gray said that he would follow up with the member privately and forward her comments to appropriate CGA-Canada staff. It was suggested that the issue be re-visited at a future SAG meeting.

6. Graduation Banquet and Ball

The Chair noted that, having attended the Convocation Banquet and Ball, she and just a few of her colleagues were the only people still in attendance at 10:30 p.m. She wondered if the Association should be planning future such functions to start and end earlier, given that the graduates and guests attending seem to be leaving so much earlier than planned. Her comments will be forwarded to the Association's Communications Division for consideration, and a further report will be made at the next SAG meeting in 2006.

7. CGA-BC Website Log-in

A SAG member raised the concern about the security of the login to CGA-Online, noting that the protocol used – student number and home postal code – is well known to all students. Further, he noted that student mailings often include student number and postal code, making it easy to obtain these two vital pieces of information. Lastly, he noted that the login screen specifically demonstrates how to enter the postal code password. He asked when CGA-BC would have a system that allows students to enter their own passwords.

Bill Johnson and Gordon Gray explained that CGA-Online currently authenticates student identification from CGA-Direct and that, unlike the CGA-Direct system for members, the student system does not yet allow self-population of personal data. This will be available when the system is ready for self-service, and this is expected sometime in 2006.

8. Netscape/Firefox Support for edNET

A SAG member presented the view that it was inappropriate for CGA-Canada's edNET system to be limited to support for only one browser, Internet Explorer (IE). He stated his opinion that, as a Microsoft product, IE is far more likely to be affected by viruses. He also noted that he is currently enrolled in the Canadian Securities Course (CSC), and the CSC online student services support all major market browsers, including Netscape, Firefox and IE. Gordon will forward his comments to CGA-Canada edNET developers for response.

9. **Student Survey**

Gordon distributed a copy of the last major CGA-BC student survey (2003) that was done for the Association by the survey firm Synovate. This survey is done every three years, with the next one scheduled for February 2006. Gordon asked that any SAG member feedback about the survey – namely, new questions that should be added – be forwarded to him by January 15th for possible inclusion.

In response to a question, Bill Johnson explained that the survey results are considered very valuable to the Association, not only for the purpose of measuring general satisfaction with the program on an ongoing basis, but also for getting direct student feedback about potential new program features, such as the new PACE elective, Public Sector Finance (PF1). Gordon Gray added that the general demographic information is useful in developing program delivery enhancements. It was also noted that this survey is considered quite reliable because the students are chosen to reflect a statistically sound sample of the general student population.

Some SAG members did express some concerns about the use of telephone surveys, indicating that they did not respond to any telephone surveys at home. Other survey methods were discussed, and the possibility of the use of these alternate survey methods will be investigated, and a report made at a SAG meeting in 2006.

10. **Adjournment**

The Chair thanked all the SAG members for their contributions in 2005, and noted that the first meeting of the 2006 SAG was set for Tuesday, February 28, 2006. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.