



CSLF-T-2007-08
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TECHNICAL GROUP

CSLF “Student Body” Proposal / Ideas Paper

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Background

Informal discussions between Technical Group delegates at recent CSLF workshops resulted in some new ideas for public outreach. One idea in particular, proposed by Australia’s delegation, would be to develop an information exchange structure or mechanism utilizing the CSLF Public Meeting Place (PuMP) at the CSLF website that would encourage international interaction and networking, discussion, and collaboration between students and / or professionals (academic, government, industry) on CSLF-related topics (including, for example, technical, economic, policy, legal and regulatory fields of research). This paper is an explanation of how such a structure could function, and provides some suggestions for both short term and long term activities.

Action Requested

The Technical Group is requested to review and consider the CSLF “Student Body” Proposal / Ideas Paper.

Conclusions

The Technical Group is invited to note in the Minutes of its next meeting that:
“The Technical Group reviewed and considered the CSLF “Student Body” Proposal / Ideas Paper.”

CSLF “Student Body” Proposal / Ideas Paper

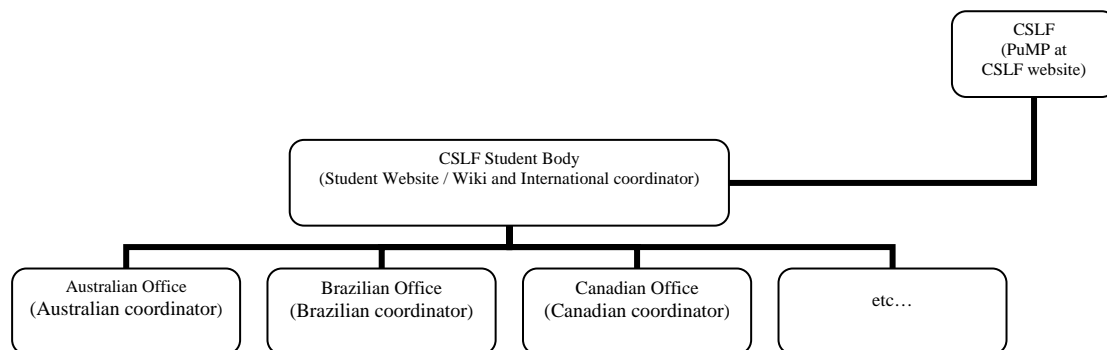
This proposal outlines several suggestions for the creation, structure, and activities of a potential student body of the CSLF. “Student body” is used here in lieu of terms such as organisation, chapter and branch which may imply a more formal structure than is intended.

Purpose

The purpose of a CSLF student body or forum would be to encourage international interaction and networking, discussion, and collaboration between students and / or professionals (academic, government, industry) on CSLF-related topics (including, for example, technical, economic, policy, legal and regulatory fields of research). Additionally, a forum of this kind would aid in the creation of a directory of international research activities of interest to the CSLF.

Structure / Organisation

There are several options for the structure and organisation of a student body, from a loose organisation with little oversight from the parent organisation to the formal chapter or branch-style structure of a professional organisation. Based on the current structure and status of the CSLF, it is suggested that, at least initially, the student body would be a loosely organised, largely self-managing forum with very little oversight required from the CSLF. The main requirements would be a student website and interactive forum (such as a wiki), where students could register themselves, their projects and develop various aspects of the forum such as discussion groups. Some initial support from the CSLF would be required to implement / host the website, and an international CSLF contact point (such as an international coordinator) established. In addition, it would be advantageous to designate a national contact officer / coordinator in each member country, hosted at an appropriate research organisation (e.g. a university) as an informal “office” of the student body. It is not anticipated that either of these roles would require much in the way of management or oversight.



Short Term - Suggestions for Initial Activities

An international student website and / or Wiki would be a good forum to initiate the student body, and would require very little maintenance. This forum would largely depend on the engagement and initiative of students. Students could register their details, their project, and their institution (e.g. university), as well as provide links to their research / research groups, thus developing a useful resource for each other as well as for the CSLF. At this point, student body activities could involve:

- *Directory.* Compilation of a directory of research activities internationally and/or in any given country and building of a mailing / contact list.
- *Student research.* Students could set up their profile, interests, current project work, presentations, posters, papers, for discussion on the international website (e.g. through a wiki mechanism), or provide links to their work elsewhere.
- *Discussion groups.* These could easily be hosted on a website, and could be thematic (e.g. capture group, storage group, economic group). Other CSLF participants could also contribute to or view these discussions.

Long Term - Potential Future Activities

Depending on the success of the early student body and potential for increased support, as well as the future status of the CSLF (e.g. professional organisation), potential future activities of the student body could include any of the following:

- *Student research website(s).* Arranged by topic, areas where students can upload their work (papers, presentations, posters, research results, etc.) for comment and discussion by other students and professionals, and to encourage collaboration with others interested in the same topic.
- *Career and study centre.* A networking and careers forum. Students could connect with potential employers or supervisors, upload their resumes, and be made aware of CCS-related job, fellowship, and further study opportunities. This would benefit potential 'employers' also, by allowing them to advertise positions, fellowships, Masters or PhD projects, and so on.
- *Scholarships, prizes, awards.* This could be a forum to develop and / or advertise scholarships, prizes and awards in CCS research. Possible activities include: a 'best paper / poster / presentation' competition, industry-sponsored or academic scholarships for further study (new or continuing), awards / recognition for outstanding work.
- *Grants.* Travel and conference registration grants (sponsored by member countries, institutions, organisations) could be made available to students (e.g. on merit or financial need basis) to enable and encourage attendance at major CCS events such as workshops, courses, and conferences, including potential attendance at CSLF meetings and workshops. This could be combined with opportunities to volunteer at various events.
- *International exchange.* Exchange or visiting opportunities, not just within academic circles, but potentially also in the form of internships with industry or government.
- *Mentor program.* This would require volunteers from participating organisations.
- *National (or international) student 'taskforces'.* An exercise to encourage communication and collaboration on various topics of interest to the CSLF.
- *Student Magazine or Newsletter.* Regular (e.g. monthly, quarterly, annual) newsletter with contributions from each country.
- *Meetings.* Organise events such as: periodic meetings, workshops, mini-conferences, courses, field trips, international student conference.
- *Sub-branches.* With enough interest and support, it may be possible to set up several local sub-branches, e.g. state-, city-, or university-based.