NSERC Computer Science Liaison Committee

Comité de liaison du CRSNG en informatique

Mario Nascimento

(Incoming) Chair

mario.nascimento@ualberta.ca
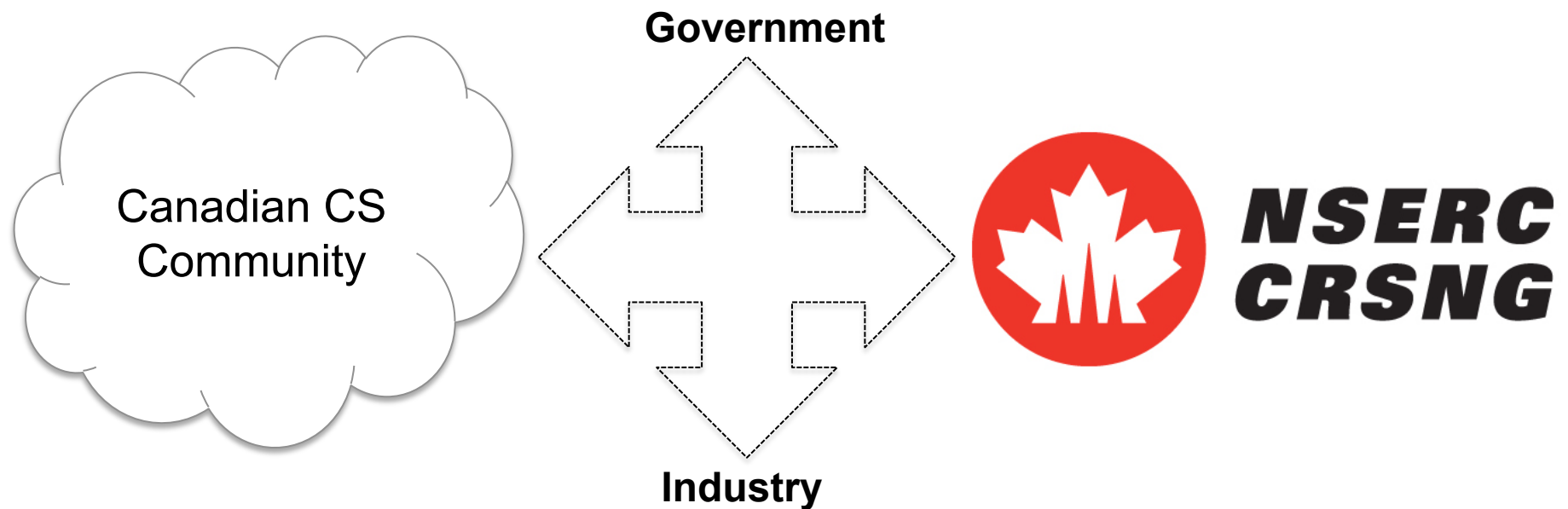
2016 AI/GI/CRV Conference
June, 2016

http://cs-nserc.ca
http://crsng-inf.ca

CACS / AIC

- Canadian Association of Computer Science / Association d'Informatique Canadienne.
  - Since, at least, 1991
  - `http://cacsaic.org/`

- In 2010 NSERC announced the intent to establish a "liaison committee" to better interact with the CS community at large

NSERC CS Liaison Committee

Government

Canadian CS
Community

NSERC
CRSNG

Industry

http://cs-nserc.ca
http://crsng-inf.ca

NSERC'S CS-LC Mandate

- Discussion and identification of opportunities CS community could seize/ build upon and challenges if may face to be at the forefront of research at international level

- Discussion and identification of emerging trends/needs for capacity building, innovative R&D thrusts, and current and potential scientific initiatives within the community

- Provision and discussion of suggestions regarding NSERC's programs

- Inform CS Group Chair and thus COGS (Committee on Grants and Scholarships)

- Interact with and inform the community

NSERC'S CS-LC Membership

- Jörg-Rüdiger Sack, Carleton (*Chair*) [2016]
- Mario Nascimento, Alberta (*incoming Chair*) [2017]
- Parvin Mousavi, Queen's [2017]
- Mark Giesbrecht, Waterloo [2018]
- Mourad Debbabi, Concordia [2018]
- Paola Flocchini, Ottawa [2019]

- NSERC representatives: Sarah Overington, Elizabeth Boston and Andrea Benoit (observer)
- Ex-officio: Doina Precup, McGill (NSERC's CS Group Chair) [2016], Atefeh Farzindar, NLP Tech. Inc [2017] and Stephen Perelgut, IBM Canada [2018]
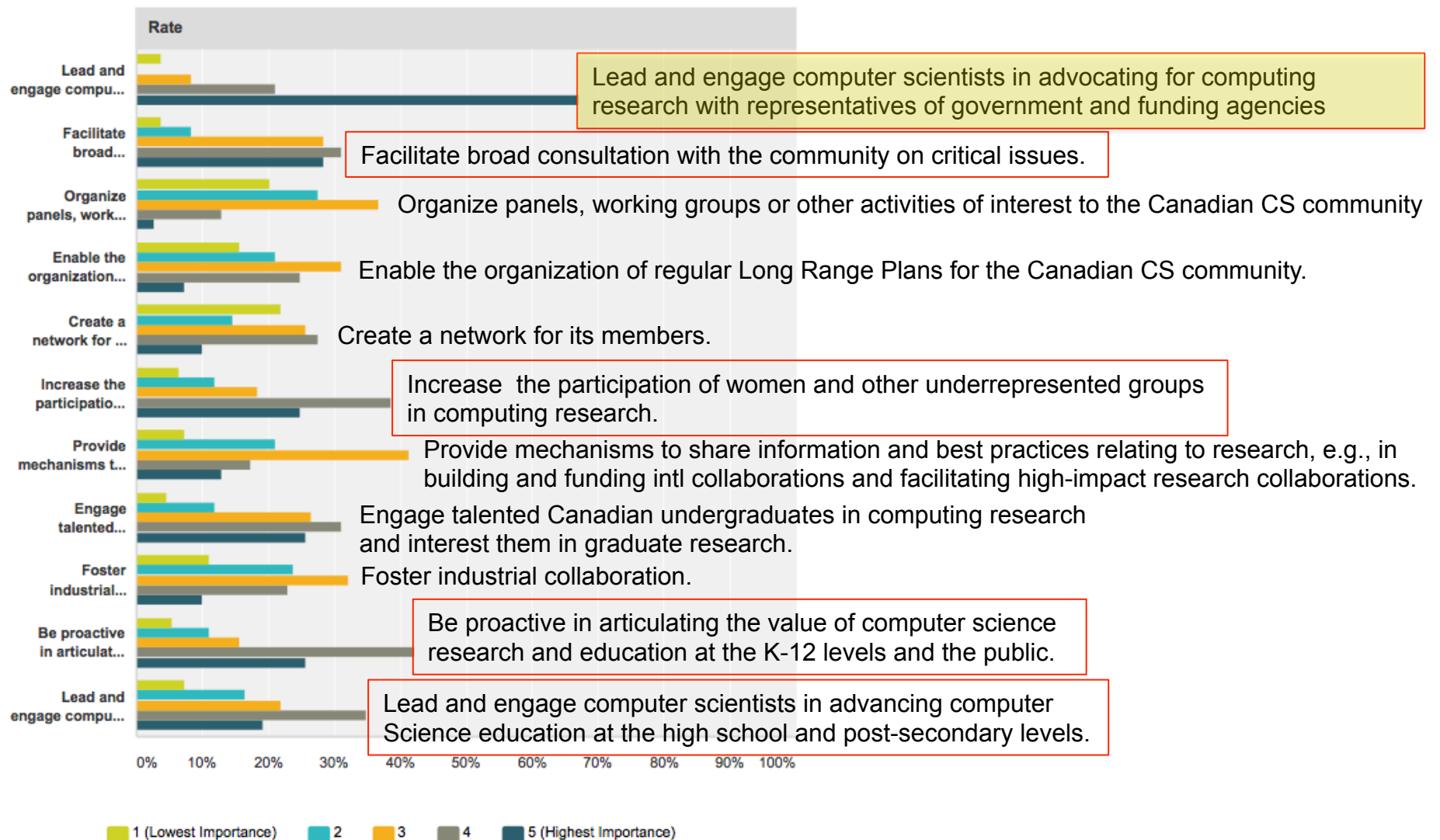
CS-Can / Info-Can

- After a Town Hall meeting at UBC and surveys[1] a joint committee (NSERC LC – CACS/AIC) was formed to work towards the creation of a national CS association (CS-Can / Info-Can)

- Feedback was gathered through further email consultations and another Town Hall meeting at Waterloo
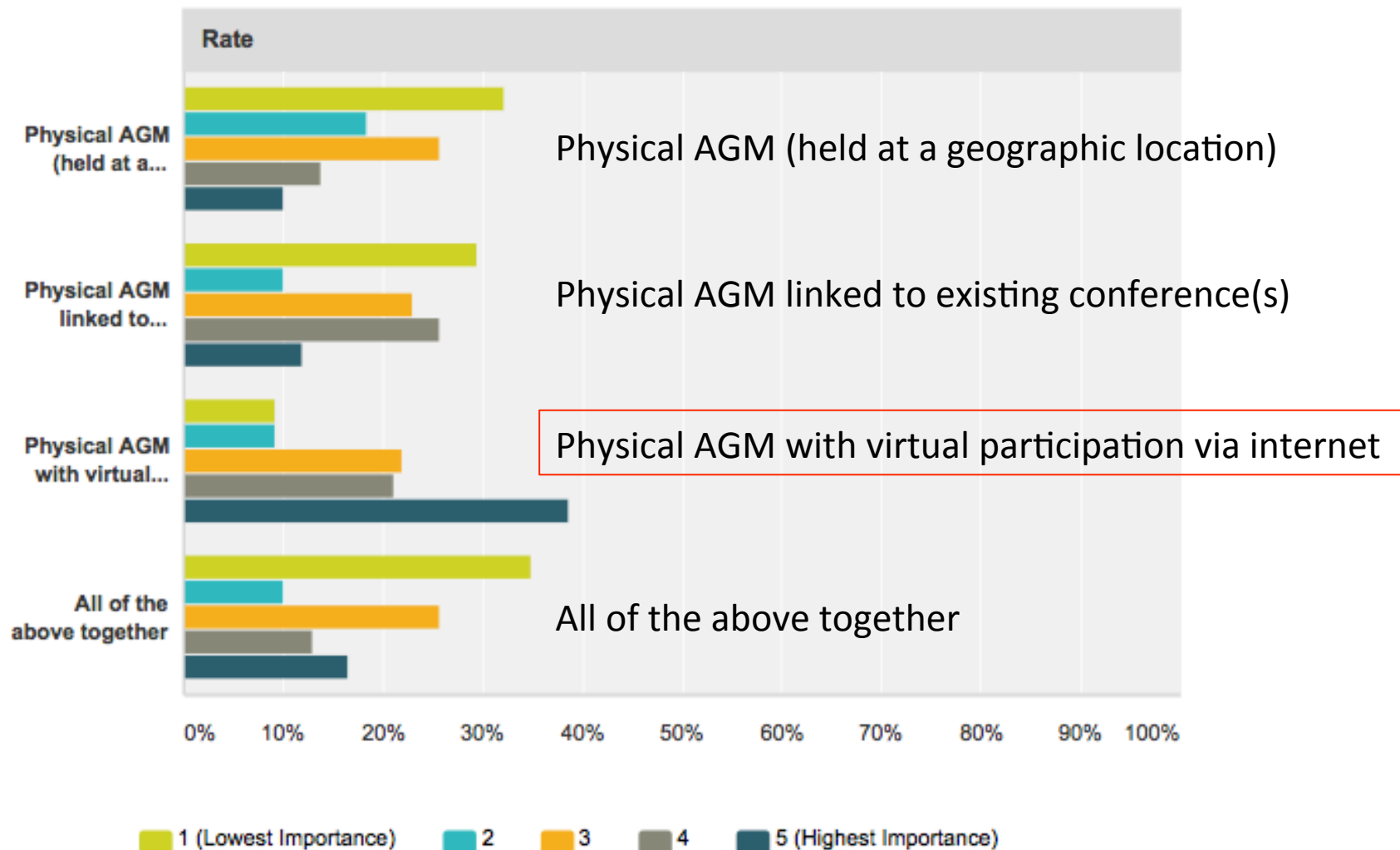
[1]Main results in the next slides

Main Recommendations from Community Consultation

- The rate of discovery-driven, curiosity-driven CS research must be accelerated. There must be a stable means of funding this research, and it is essential to sustain and expand support of HQP training at all levels.

- It is critical to have funding for CS hardware and software infrastructure and for the technical staff needed to support it.

- More effective ways of supporting academic CS-industry partnerships are needed.

- Increased support for international collaborations can help to advance CS research in Canada and attract CS HQP to this country.

- More tri-Council and Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) funding for interdisciplinary research is critical for this highly interdisciplinary field.

- **With the support of its stakeholders and partners, including NSERC, the Computer Science community must become better organized.**

Objectives/tasks CS-Can should address

Lead and engage computer scientists in advocating for computing research with representatives of government and funding agencies

Facilitate broad consultation with the community on critical issues.

Organize panels, working groups or other activities of interest to the Canadian CS community

Enable the organization of regular Long Range Plans for the Canadian CS community.

Create a network for its members.

Increase the participation of women and other underrepresented groups in computing research.

Provide mechanisms to share information and best practices relating to research, e.g., in building and funding intl collaborations and facilitating high-impact research collaborations.

Engage talented Canadian undergraduates in computing research and interest them in graduate research.

Foster industrial collaboration.

Be proactive in articulating the value of computer science research and education at the K-12 levels and the public.

Lead and engage computer scientists in advancing computer Science education at the high school and post-secondary levels.

1 (Lowest Importance)   2   3   4   5 (Highest Importance)
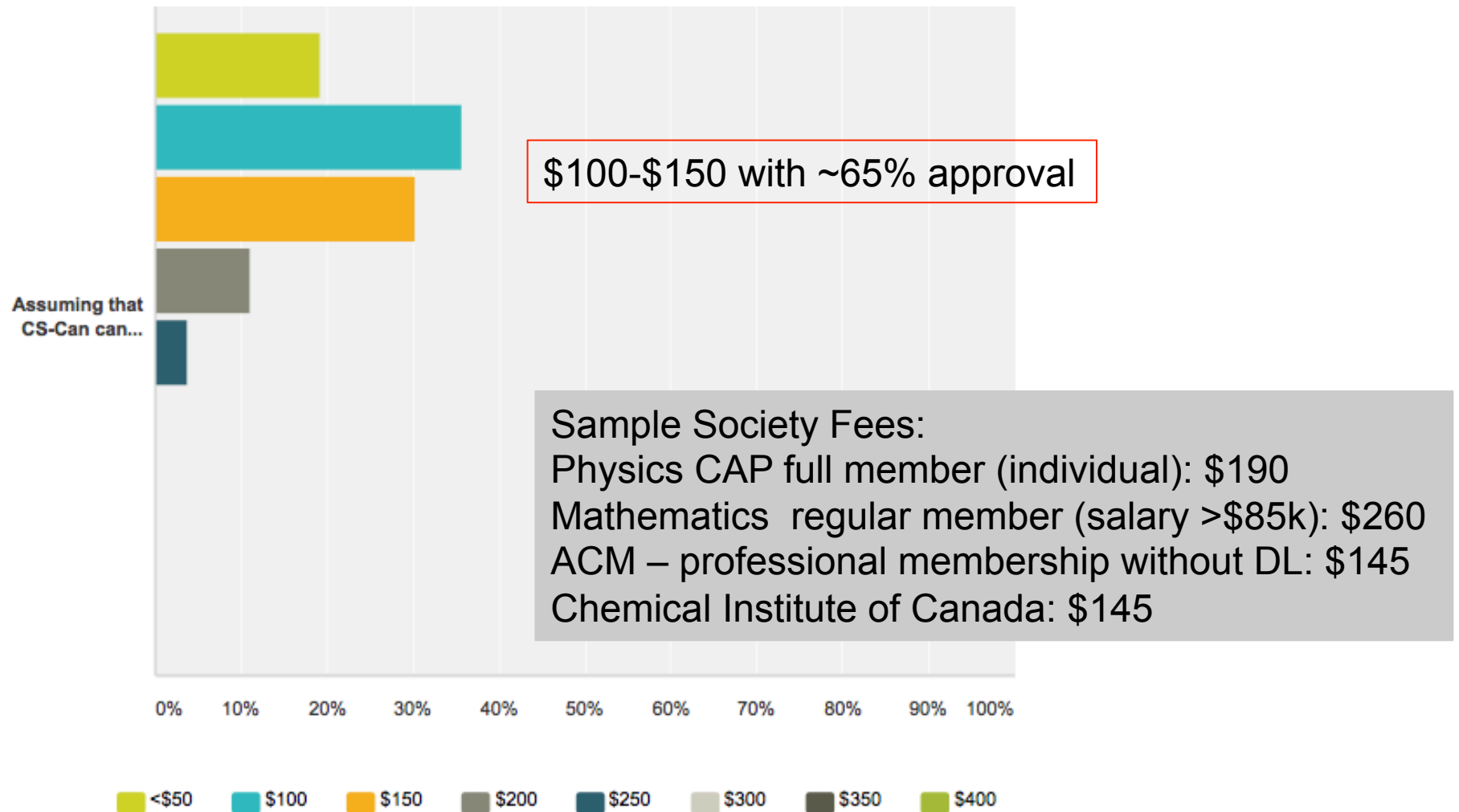
CS-Can requires an annual general meeting (AGM) which we would like as many community members as possible to attend and participate.

Rate

Physical AGM (held at a...) — Physical AGM (held at a geographic location)

Physical AGM linked to... — Physical AGM linked to existing conference(s)

Physical AGM with virtual... — Physical AGM with virtual participation via internet

All of the above together — All of the above together

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

1 (Lowest Importance)   2   3   4   5 (Highest Importance)

Assuming that CS-Can can demonstrate added value, how much, would you think, could individuals from CS departments or CS researchers from other departments contribute for individual memberships?

$100-$150 with ~65% approval

Assuming that CS-Can can...

Sample Society Fees:
Physics CAP full member (individual): $190
Mathematics regular member (salary >$85k): $260
ACM – professional membership without DL: $145
Chemical Institute of Canada: $145

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%   70%   80%   90% 100%

■ <$50   ■ $100   ■ $150   ■ $200   ■ $250   ■ $300   ■ $350   ■ $400

Membership Model
(supported by ~90% of respondents)

- The currently proposed membership model consists of four membership categories:
  - Individual
  - Department
  - Student
  - Industry
- Both individuals and departments have a vote in electing representatives to the board providing a balance between the objectives of small and large-sized CS departments.

CS-Can / Info-Can

- Last week, during its AGM, members of CACS/AIC unanimously supported that it be "morphed" into CS-Can / Info-Can
  - There will be an Executive Board and Standing Committees, e.g., for diversity (CRA model).
  - Official launch to happen this Fall

- The current CACS/AIC board will serve as transitional board for CS-Can/Info-Can
  - Goal is to set/hold elections within 6 months

Future of NSERC's CS Liaison Committee

- The exact model for the NSERC LC inside CS-Can / Info-Can will need to be discussed and determined jointly with the new board (input by CS community is more than welcome)

- Continued participation of NSERC is critical

- Continue addressing recommendations from previous surveys

- Work with NSERC toward goals of NSERC 2020

CS-Can / Info-Can

- You will all hear (much) more about CS-Can / Info-Can in the near future

- It is a NSERC supported but community driven endeavour. Feedback and support (and service) will be key to its success.

- Please feel free to contact any of the NSERC CS LC members with ideas and suggestions

Spread the word and thank you for your time