

Minutes of the 2001 Business Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science

The meeting was held during the Annual Meeting of the Society in Quebec City, June 23-25.

The meeting convened at 4:15 PM with Lorraine Allan (President) in the Chair. Alan Kingstone was initially recording secretary, then was replaced by Michael Masson.

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2000 Business Meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was passed.

2. Report on NSERC.

Linda Parker, incoming Chair of the NSERC Psychology Grant Selection Committee (GSC) for 2001-2002, provided a summary of the most recent research grant competition results. She also reported on the allocation of "earmarked" funds for animal care, molecular techniques, and neuroimaging studies that were generated as a result of the previous reallocation exercise at NSERC.

In this year's research grants competition there was a large increase in the number of new applications relative to last year. NSERC had made available additional funds to GSCs to help accommodate such increases.

3. Report on this year's conference.

Simon Grondin thanked Melanie Thompson of the CSBBCS office at Carleton University for her help in organizing the conference. Estimated attendance was close to 300. Dr. Grondin reported that there was some concern about the logistics of selecting student paper/poster award winners (see item 8 below).

Lorraine Allan, on behalf of CSBBCS, expressed thanks to all the conference organizers and student volunteers for their efforts.

4. CPA board meetings.

Lorraine Allan reported on proposals from CPA for sites of future annual meetings. The current plan is for a joint (simultaneous) meeting of CPA and CSBBCS in 2002 at the University of British Columbia. CPA will meet in Hamilton in 2003, St. John's in 2004, and Montreal in 2005.

5. Financial report.

Lorraine Allan reported that the annual budget was running a deficit of about \$5,000, mainly due to slow membership renewal. Despite the deficit in the current year's budget, the Society has a healthy bank balance of over \$40,000.

Thanks were expressed to Chris Herdman and Melanie Thompson of Carleton University for running the CSBBCS office. The office is now moving to McMaster University and Lorraine Allan will supervise its operation.

6. Report on the Conference on Organizing Psychology in Canada.

Murray Singer, as the CSBBCS representative to the Conference, reported that the goal of the attendees was to find a means of coordinating the actions of various psychology organizations in Canada. A proposed model was developed at the Conference in which there would be a general assembly and a governing board. Attendees were seriously interested in promoting three primary fields of psychological endeavor: education, practice, and science. Murray Singer suggested that the sentiments expressed by CPA in this regard might be a sign of a renewed attitude on the part of CPA.

There was some discussion regarding the proposed organizational structure. The advisability of a differential fee structure for scientists and practitioners was discussed. It was pointed out that some CSBBCS members do not wish to be affiliated with CPA and that there appeared to be no clear benefit of such an affiliation. In response, it was pointed out that one benefit was that lobbying to funding agencies would be more effective if a larger organization were involved. The concern was then expressed that there seemed to be no evidence that such lobbying was effective.

7. Quebec funding councils.

Pierre Jolicoeur reported that Quebec member of CSBBCS were concerned about a plan by provincial funding councils to place psychology in the domains of health and social sciences, but to exclude it from natural sciences and engineering. The CSBBCS executive sent a letter to the presidents of the provincial funding councils explaining why psychology should be included in all three domains.

Thanks were expressed to Pierre Jolicoeur, Isabelle Peretz, Maryse Lassonde, and Peter Shizgal for their efforts in drafting the letter.

8. Student award committee.

Doug Mewhort reported that a better method needs to be developed to select student paper/poster award winners. Various suggestions were considered, including student self-nominations or faculty nomination of student presentations prior to the conference. Another suggestion was that perhaps all conference attendees could vote for their preferred candidate presentations, rather than having the decision made by a small committee. The question of how best to select award winners will be an issue for the CSBBCS executive to resolve in time for next year's conference.

9. Report on CJEP.

The new CJEP editor, Peter Dixon, emphasized that CSBBCS is an important organization for the journal and encouraged members to submit manuscripts for publication in the journal. He announced two new policies: (1) short reports will be

submitted to a rapid review process with shortened publication lag, and (2) electronic submission of manuscripts will be encouraged.

A suggestion that the journal's name be changed to the Canadian Journal of Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science was not received with enthusiasm.

10. CSBBCS office moving to McMaster University.

Lorraine Allan reported that with the move to the new location, the CSBBCS office e-mail address will be bbcs@mcmaster.ca and the web site will be <http://psych.mcmaster.ca/>.

David Shore reported that it would be advisable to register a domain name for CSBBCS. Options for the executive to consider were reviewed.

11. Approval of funds to support the office at McMaster University.

Motion to approve expenditure of approximately \$3,900 to provide for one course release to Lorraine Allan to oversee operations of the office at McMaster University (A. Kingstone - D. Mewhort) - passed.

12. NSERC reallocation exercise.

Richard Brown reported on the activity of the current Psychology reallocation committee. The committee is assembling data to describe discipline dynamics. He also reviewed themes that will be emphasized in the reallocation report that the committee will submit this fall.

Lorraine Allan thanked Richard Brown and members of the reallocation committee for their efforts.

13. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.