

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science

The AGM was held on June 7 2015 during the Annual Meeting of the Society at Carleton University, Ottawa, ON. Jean Saint-Aubin (President) chaired the meeting and Peter Graf (Secretary/Treasurer) was the recording secretary.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

The President noted that a draft of the minutes of the 2014 AGM have been available on the BBBCS Web site & asked for corrections. No corrections were identified and the minutes were approved.

3. President's Report

ADJUDICATION OF HEBB AWARD: The President explained that a change is required in the method for adjudicating the winner of the Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution award. The committee that currently adjudicates nominations for the Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award consists of the 5 most recent past presidents of the Society and is chaired by the least recent of those past presidents. Because we changed the term of our president from 1 to 2 years, a committee consisting of the 5 most recent past presidents now requires a commitment of 14 years (4 years as presidential officer; 10 years in the role of past president), and the chair of this committee would have to serve for 2 years. To prevent such a lengthy time commitment, the President proposed that henceforth, *the Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award shall be adjudicated by a committee consisting of the three most recent past presidents of the Society, plus the three most recent recipients of the CSBBCS Vincent Di Lollo Early Career Award, and the committee shall be chaired by the least recent of the past presidents.*

Motion 1: Be it resolved that the Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award shall be adjudicated by a committee consisting of the three most recent past presidents of the Society, plus the three most recent recipients of the CSBBCS Vincent Di Lollo Early Career Award, and the committee shall be chaired by the least recent of the past presidents. Carried!

CONVENER OF THE PAST-PRESIDENT'S SYMPOSIUM: The President explained that as a result of changing the terms of the presidential officers, the Society will be without a Past-President every 2nd year. As a consequence, there will be no Past-President to organize the conference-featured plenary Past-President's symposium. The President proposed that in the years without a Past President serving on the executive committee of the Society, the conference-featured plenary symposium shall be convened by the Members-At-Large serving on the executive committee. Consistent with this proposal, the 2016 committee shall consist of Glen Bodner, Debra Titone and Chrissy Chubala, and shall be chaired by Glen Bodner.

Motion 2: Be it resolved that in the years without a Past President serving on the executive committee of the Society, the conference-featured plenary symposium shall be convened by the Members-At-Large serving on the executive committee. Carried!

TRAVEL AWARD: The President noted that the option to be considered for the Travel Award for Associate Members had not been selected by even one associate member, and that for this reason, no such travel awards were made in connection with the 2015 conference. He explained that the award will be advertised more broadly and more frequently in future years. He also speculated that one reason for the 2015 status quo might reflect a misreading of the eligibility for the award, and that for this reason, the CSBBCS Associate Member Travel Award shall be known as the CSBBCS Student Travel Grant.

Motion 3: Be it resolved that CSBBCS Associate Member Travel Award henceforth shall be known as the CSBBCS Student Travel Grant. Carried!

FELLOW MEMBER STATUS: The President noted that many scholarly organizations have in place a method for recognizing members -- by conferring them Fellow Status -- with a record of distinguished, sustained and exceptional contributions to the organization, to the scientific/research community, and/or to the advancement of the field. He explained that the procedure for nominating members for fellow status and/or the criteria for conferring fellow status have not yet been identified. Consistent with other organizations, the selection criteria might include being 10-years post-PhD, and the selection committee might consist of the executive committee, plus 2 full members & might be chaired by the most recent past president. Current members of the executive committee would not be eligible for Fellow Status.

Motion 4: Be it resolved that the CSBBCS in the future plans to award fellow status to members who have made exceptional contributions, that the executive committee develop a procedure for nominating fellows as well as criteria for awarding fellow status, and that the latter shall be submitted for approval at the 2016 AGM. Carried!

PRIORITY FOR SPOKEN PRESENTATION: The President noted that from time to time, a conference organizer receives too many requests for spoken presentations, thus requiring a 'rationing' of the available slots. He proposed that when there is a need for rationing, it shall be done in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Slots for spoken presentations shall be allocated only to submission where the first author is also the presenting author.
2. Each full or associate member shall receive only one spoken presentation slot.
3. In connection with Point 2, symposium presentation shall count in the same way as non-symposium presentations.
4. All slots remaining after the application of the rationing guidelines shall be allocated at the discretion of the conference organizer.

Motion 5: Be it resolved that the guidelines for the allocation of the limited conference time slots for spoken presentations be approved as proposed. Carried!

WEBMASTER CHANGE: The President explained that we have embarked on the search for a new webmaster, have received several cost proposals, and will soon make a decision on a new service provider. He explained that the plan is to have a new service provider in place in the fall of 2015, in time for launching the website for the 2016 conference.

4. CJEP Report

The Associate Editor, Randy Jamieson, reminded the assembled that the Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology (the Journal) is a joint venture between the Society and the Canadian

Association of Psychology (CPA), and is published by the American Psychological Association Press (through an agreement between the APA and the CPA). The editorial team consists of Penny Pexman, plus Randy Jamieson and Isabelle Blanchette. The Journal publishes 4 issues per year, with articles appearing in either English or French, and permits both unmasked and masked reviews of submissions. The Journal publishes the Hebb lecture given at the at the annual conference of the Society as well as all conference abstracts.

Randy explained that the Journal received 115 manuscripts in 2013, followed by 142 in 2014 (4 ms in French) and in 2014 had a rejection rate of about 66%. Randy also explained that the Journal had plans to allocate a section of an upcoming issue to Numerical Cognition (based on papers presented at BASICS 2014), with Guest Editor J. Campbell. The Journal also will have a special issue on the Production Effect in Memory (submissions to close on June 30 2015), with Guest Editors G. Bodner & C. MacLeod, and a section of one issue allocated to the Embodied Cognition Debate held in connection with the 2014 conference, with guest editor S. Lupker.

5. Awards

A: *Donald O. Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award*

Daphne Maurer received the 2015 Donald O. Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award.

B: *CSBBCS Vincent Di Lollo Early Career Award*

Evan F. Risko received the 2015 CSBBCS Vincent Di Lollo Early Career Award.

C: *CSBBCS/CPA CJEP Best Article Award*

Ian Neath received the 2015 CSBBCS/CPA CJEP Best Article Award

D: *Donald O. Hebb Student Award*

Spoken Presentation Award - **Winner:** David De Vito, University of Guelph. **Honorable mention:** Jordynne Ropat, Western University.

Poster Presentation Award - **Winner:** Jeffrey Wammes, University of Waterloo. **Honorable mention:** Paul Seli, University of Waterloo.

Decisions about the 2015 Hebb Graduate Student Awards were based on the assessment by a panel of judges. Students who were interested in having their presentation considered for an award submitted an extended abstract (maximum of 750 words). All abstracts were rated by the panel on a 1-5 scale. Each of the nominees was then evaluated at the conference by a subset of members of the panel on the basis of scientific impact and presentation quality. The combination of the abstract and presentation ratings was used to determine a winner and an honorable mention in each category. The complete assessment criteria are included in the CSBBCS 2015 conference report.

The prize for best paper or poster is an award of \$500.00, an engraved plaque and a 1-year membership in the CSBBCS. The prize for honorable mention is an award of \$100 and a 1-year membership in the CSBBCS.

6. Reports from the Executive

A: *Financial Report*

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Financial Report, noting that CSBBCS continues to be in excellent financial health.

The Secretary/Treasurer reminded the meeting that the financial statement provided at the meeting is always an interim report of the Society's financial health, a statement which includes neither a full accounting of the convention costs nor of the Society's memberships. He noted that the organization of the annual meeting, including the collection of convention registration fees, is

different from year to year and this difference is reflected in the Society's fluctuating annual financial reports.

The Secretary/Treasurer reminded the assembly that the Society purchased two GICs in 2013 (one for \$50K and the other for 30K) from our bank, TD Canada Trust, and that the Society continues to hold these GICs. The Secretary/Treasurer also reminded the assembly that Alan Kingstone has signing authority on our bank account.

The Financial Report appears in Appendix A

B: Membership Report

The President reported that as of the end of June 2015 (immediately prior to start of the annual convention), CSBBCS had 354 members (140 full members, 206 associate members; 8 emeritus members). He also observed that these membership numbers are fluctuating in a manner that reflects the location of the annual convention.

The membership stats appears in Appendix B (status as of June 30 2015)

7. Report on the Convention

Guy Lacroix reported on the 2015 convention. For his full report [click here](#).

In his summary, Guy noted that 356 people registered for the 2015 conference, and that a total of 106 papers and 203 posters were presented at the conference. His preliminary estimate is that the conference generated an income of about \$50K, including \$14.5K in sponsorships, and that the direct costs associated with the conference were about \$35K.

8. Thanks to the Meeting Organizers

On behalf of CSBBCS, the President thanked Guy Lacroix, the conference organizer, the members of the organizing/program committee -- all listed in the conference report, the many conference volunteers -- also listed in the conference report, and the conference sponsors (Carleton's Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Department of Neuroscience, Department of Psychology, and Institute of Cognitive Science, plus Pearson Canada and Nelson Canada).

A complete listing of all contributors to the success of the 2015 meeting is available in the [2015 Conference Report](#).

9. Thanks to Outgoing Executive Committee Members

On behalf of the Society, the President acknowledged the valuable and extensive contributions of two members whose term on the executive committee is ending. Dr. Penny Pexman, who served on the executive committee from 2012 to 2015 and as President from 2013-2014, and Dr. Chris Oriet, who was an executive committee member-at-large from 2012 to 2015. Each received a plaque to recognize their service to the Society.

10. Election Results & New Executive Committee

In a call for nominations, one person was nominated for the position of President Elect (Randy Jamieson), and three people were nominated for the Member-At-Large position. An election was held, open to all active members (Full and Associate members), and Debra Titone was elected for the Member-At-Large position.

On behalf of CSBBCS, the President thanked those who made nominations for the position on the Executive of CSBBCS as well as the nominees for agreeing to their nomination.

2015 - 2016 Executive

President: Jean Saint-Aubin, University of Moncton
President-Elect: Randy Jamieson, University of Manitoba
Secretary-Treasurer: Peter Graf, University of British Columbia
Members-at-Large: Glen Bodner, University of Calgary (2014-2017)
Debra Titone, McGill University (2015-2018)
Member-at-Large/Associate: Chrissy Chubala, University of Manitoba (2014-2016)

11. Future Meetings

The President reminded the assembly about the location of future meetings:

June 2-4, 2017, University of Regina/ Regina, Chris Oriet

July 5-7, 2018, joint with EPS, Memorial/St John's, Aimee Surprenant

These venues are (with exceptions) in accord with the location formula of East-Central-West-Central for the annual conference. The Quebec-Atlantic boundaries and the Ontario-Manitoba border define the three regions. The decision to stay in Ottawa for 2016 was made to enable the CSBBCS participation at the 75th anniversary celebration of the University of Ottawa's School of Psychology.

12. Other Business

The President thanked the Secretary/Treasurer for his continued service to the Society.

13. Adjournment

The President once again thanked the conference organizers on behalf of CSBBCS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.