

Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science

The Meeting was held on July 17 during the Annual Meeting of the Society at the University of Montreal. Murray Singer (President) chaired the meeting and Lorraine Allan (Secretary/Treasurer) was the recording secretary.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting

Murray noted that the minutes of the 2004 AGM were available on the BBCS Web site. He asked if there were any corrections. There were none and the minutes were approved as moved and seconded by Jamie Campbell and Colin MacLeod.

2. Hebb Student Awards

Mike Masson, Chair of the Hebb Student Awards Committee, announced the 2005 recipients.

For the paper presentations, the outstanding presentation was by **Douglas Caruana** of Concordia University, and honorable mention went to **Randall Jamieson** of Queen's University. For the poster presentations, the outstanding presentation was by **Louis De Beaumont** of the University of Montreal, and honorable mention went to **Lori-Ann Christie** of the University of Toronto. This year's prize for best paper or poster is \$100, an engraved plaque, a certificate, and a 1-year membership in BBCS. The prize for honorable mention is a 1-year membership in BBCS. Letters will be sent by the BBCS President to the students, the Chair of their Departments, and other appropriate administrators.

3. Report from the Executive

a) Financial

i. Financial Report and Membership Statistics

The Financial Report was presented by Lorraine Allan. BBCS continues to be in excellent financial health. Lorraine also provided membership statistics. As of July 12, there were 566 paid members (302 full and 264 associate). [Additional memberships at and since the conference bring the total to 579 (311 full and 268 associate)]. Membership is higher than it has ever been, due partially to a large increase in the numbers from Quebec.

Click [here](#) for MemberStats Report

Click [here](#) for Financial Report

ii. Membership Dues

According to the BBCS Charter, the annual dues for Full Members and Associate Members shall be determined each year by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting. It was moved by Richard Brown and seconded by Carolyn Harley that the dues be maintained at \$50 for Full Members and \$20 for Associate Members. The motion carried without dissenting vote.

b) Interactions with other Organizations

i) CPA.

Murray reported that BBCS has had little interaction with CPA. He reminded the membership that it was agreed last year that the two organizations would cooperate on issues of mutual interest.

ii) Chairs of Canadian Departments of Psychology (CCDP).

BBCS has on occasion asked CCDP to email information to their members on its behalf. For example, this year CCDP sent an email from Murray directed at new faculty to make them aware of BBCS. The Executive suggested that the two groups might have representatives at each others meetings. Currently, CCDP holds their annual meeting at the CPA meeting. Richard Brown suggested that BBCS invite CCDP to hold its meeting at the BBCS meeting.

iii) CIHR

Over the years, BBCS has developed an excellent relationship with NSERC, and in recent years an NSERC representative has attended and spoken at the AGM. Given the changes in CIHR, the Executive decided that it was imperative for BBCS to establish a similar relationship with CIHR. Carolyn Harley undertook this responsibility.

c) Proposed Changes to the Charter

Murray explained that in preparation for the AGM, he had reread the Charter. Under Purpose, there are three aims mentioned. However, the two most important aims of BBCS are not mentioned. The Executive recommends that these two aims be added at the beginning of the list. Specifically,

2a. To advance research concerning brain, behaviour, and cognitive science in Canada, according to the highest standards of scientific inquiry.

2b. To promote and foster the education and training of students in these scientific disciplines in Canada.

Murray moved and Doug Mewhort seconded this amendment to the Charter. Murray reminded the meeting that passage of an amendment to the Charter requires the agreement of 2/3rds of the members voting at the Meeting. There was a general discussion about whether the wording of the amendment was too general. A consensus was reached that the Charter should be general, and that the implementation should be specific. The question was called and the motion carried without dissenting vote.

Previous amendments to the Charter have been inserted with the notation AMENDMENT and the original wording has also been retained. This procedure results in a Charter that is not reader-friendly. The Executive decided that amendments be incorporated into the Charter text. Dates for amendments would be listed at the end of the Charter text. Members could refer to the minutes to trace past amendments.

4. Committees and Committee Reports

Murray reminded the meeting that it was reported at the 2004 AGM that the Executive decided to establish two new committees: a Research Ethics Committee and a Journal Committee. The terms for both Committee chairs terminate at the time of the 2006 conference.

a) Hebb Scientific Award

Pierre Jolicoeur, Chair of the 2005 Hebb Award committee, presented the report. [Click [here](#) for his powerpoint presentation. Click [here](#) for a "pdf" version.]

b) Executive

Murray reminded the meeting that the Executive acts as the Selection Committee for the Tees Distinguished Leadership Award. The Executive Committee has developed explicit criteria for the award which are available at <http://psych.mcmaster.ca/bbcs/leadership05.html>

Murray urged the membership to be proactive when they receive the call for nominations for the 2006 award.

c) Hebb Student Awards

Mike Masson, Chair of the Hebb Student Awards Committee, reported a new selection procedure was instituted this year. Students who were interested in having their presentation considered for an award submitted an extended abstract (maximum of 500 words). There were 45 submissions. Three committee members were assigned to evaluate each abstract. Each committee member independently recommended four or five abstracts from among those they initially reviewed for selection as finalists. Abstracts for all posters and papers recommended by at least one committee member were then circulated to all members. Committee members then independently ranked their top four abstracts in each category (oral and poster). Based on these rankings, the four papers and four posters receiving the highest rankings were to be selected as finalists. There was a tie for fourth place among the paper presentations, so five were selected as finalists. The list of nine finalists (five papers and four posters) was then circulated to the committee members and to the conference organizers so that they could be scheduled relatively early in the program. All but one committee member attended the conference and each member attended all or nearly all presentations made by the nine finalists. Just before the Saturday poster session, the committee met to select the outstanding presentation and an honorable mention in each category.

On behalf of BBCS, Mike thanked the 2005 panel of judges for their careful adjudication of the awards. The members of the 2005 Hebb Student Awards Committee were:

Alain Desrochers, Univ. of Ottawa
Lisa Kalynchuk, Univ. of Saskatchewan
Michael Masson, Chair, Univ. of Victoria
Douglas Mewhort, Queen's Univ.
David Mumby, Concordia Univ.
David Shore, McMaster Univ.
Christopher Sturdy, Univ. of Alberta
Valerie Thompson, Univ. of Saskatchewan

The Committee will submit a report to the BBCS Executive on their evaluation of the new selection procedure and will make suggestions for

refinements for next year.

d) Journal

Peter Dixon, Chair of the Journal Committee, made a brief report. His Committee will focus on three issues

- should BBCS have a journal?
- if BBCS has a journal, what should be the format (paper or electronic)?
- what would be the impact on CJEP?

It was suggested that the Committee examine the journals produced by other small societies. Richard Brown will forward material he has that he thought would be useful to the Committee.

e) Research Ethics Committee

Murray reminded the meeting that the effect of government regulations on research ethics is of concern to many of our members, and the Executive needs to be better informed. The membership of the Ethics Committee is

Valerie Thompson (Chair)
Daphne Maurer
Fran Wilkinson

5. Reports of Other Organizations

a) NSERC

Paule Boulanger (Program Officer, Life Sciences Division, Discovery Grants) presented the NSERC report as a powerpoint presentation. [Click [here](#) for the powerpoint presentation. Click [here](#) for a "pdf" version.] Highlights from her report are:

- The selection to replace Tom Brzustowski as President of NSERC is still on-going
- the reallocation procedure is being completely overhauled
- electronic submission, while working quite well, needs to be improved performance-wise
- budget forecasts continue to be gloomy

A few questions regarding NSERC graduate fellowships were raised. Scholarships are not part of Paule's portfolio and she did not have the answers. The answers are provided in Appendix A and was sent to the BBCS email list on July 21.

b) GSC 12

Allison Sekuler, outgoing Chair of GSC 12, presented the report. She emphasized the tight budget and the difficulties facing the committee, especially the tradeoff between funding new applicants and maintaining funding for renewals. She urged BBCS to be more proactive in lobbying NSERC for more funding for Life Sciences. She suggested that the Life Sciences must have a united effort in the next reallocation. In the discussion that followed, Allison and Vince indicated that they would write a letter on behalf of BBCS/GSC12 to the new NSERC president. It was suggested that the BBCS website provide

information about the enormous national and international impact of BBCS researchers' scientific work. The main purpose would be to promote BBCS research in the eyes of funding organizations, university administrators, etc.

6. Annual Meetings

a) Future Meetings

2006 (June 22-24) – University of Saskatchewan

2007 (June 15-17) – University of Victoria

Murray noted that the Society has usually followed a location formula of East-Central-West-Central for the annual conference. The Quebec-Atlantic boundaries and the Ontario-Manitoba border define the three regions. Murray proposed that this arrangement continue to be a guideline for the conference. In this regard, the Society encourages proposals from Ontario or Quebec to host the 2008 Conference.

b) Presentations at Meetings

Murray reported that this year all presenters at the conference were required to be paid members of BBCS. About 20 presenters (mostly students) had not paid their membership before the meeting began. The Executive recommends that this membership-requirement policy be continued and that a more efficient process be implemented so that the membership information be integrated into the abstract submission and registration on-line procedure. In this way, a submission/registration would not be accepted until membership dues had been received. It was suggested that the Executive consider a proposal that nonmembers who attend the conference pay a higher registration fee.

7. Report on the Conference

Pierre Jolicoeur presented the report. [Click [here](#) for his powerpoint presentation. Click [here](#) for a "pdf" version.]

8. Executive Committee Election Results and New Executive Committee

In an email call for nominations, Carolyn Harley was nominated for President-Elect, and Doug Mewhort and Glenn Legault were nominated for Member-at-Large. An electronic ballot was conducted for Member-at-Large.

2005 - 2006 Executive

President: Jamie Campbell, University of Saskatchewan

President-Elect: Carolyn Harley, Memorial University

Past President: Murray Singer, University of Manitoba

Secretary-Treasurer: Lorraine Allan, McMaster University

Members-at-Large:

Bruce Milliken, McMaster University (2003 – 2006)

Isabelle Peretz, Université de Montréal (2004 – 2007)

Doug Mewhort, Queens University (2005 – 2008)

9. Other business

Murray thanked Pierre Jolicoeur and all the others who helped organize the Montreal conference, and Ben Bauer for his gracious service as Conference photographer. He also thanked outgoing Executive Committee members Fran Wilkinson and Janet Werker for their years of service to the Society. Jamie Campbell expressed thanks on behalf of BBCS to outgoing President Murray Singer for all his efforts and contributions to BBCS as President.

The meeting adjourned about 1:40 pm

Appendix A

A few questions regarding NSERC graduate fellowships came up at the recent BBCS meeting. Specifically, the question of whether someone who has just received an NSERC PGS-M or CGS-M award really needs to reapply again right away (these are one year awards, so normally winners of these awards would be applying for the 3 year PGS-D or CGS-D awards in the October after they receive the award -- sometimes only a few months after starting graduate school).

As we mentioned at the meeting, there are some circumstances in which a student may request a one-year EXTENSION to the PGS-M or CGS-M award. Namely, when the student started graduate studies with that award. The details are found in the Student Award Holder's Guide.

Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension

- PGS M and CGS M: Award holders should note that scholarship support will not extend beyond the 28th month of their master's program.

Possible extension of PGS M or CGS M: Award holders who applied for the award before starting their graduate studies and held it during the first 12 months of their graduate studies, or who began their graduate studies in the January academic session immediately following the application deadline and held the award within the first 16 months of their graduate studies, may request a Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension (\$17,300) for a maximum of 12 months. To request the extension, submit a completed Form 5 – Request for a Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension (previously Form 10) between March 1 and March 30 of the year your PGS M or CGS M will end. The extension must be requested while the PGS M or CGS M is active. If you hold the extension, you will be eligible for a maximum of two years PGS D or CGS D funding.

Note that a student who first received an M level award after already enrolling in graduate school isn't eligible for the extension (with the exception of January enrollments, as described above). Those students should apply in the Fall for the D level award.

In addition, it sometimes is possible to increase the level of award funding if a student has a M level award, but is promoted into a PhD program. This holds for M Extensions as well as original awards. Again, from the Award Holder's Guide:

Stipend Increase

- Request for a stipend increase to the PGS D level: PGS A, PGS M, CGS M and Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension holders who transfer from a master's degree into a doctoral program, who complete their master's degree in less than the maximum duration of their award and proceed into a doctoral program, or who enrol directly in a doctoral program following completion of their bachelor's degree may be eligible to have their stipend increased to the PGS D level for the balance of the PGS A, PGS M, CGS M or Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension. You must have completed a minimum of 12 months of graduate studies and have been admitted unconditionally and be registered in the doctoral program. This increase in stipend is not automatic; you must request it while your PGS A, PGS M, CGS M or Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension is active. You must inform the Graduate Studies Office at your university that you wish to receive the balance of your award and/or the increased stipend if you are pursuing your doctoral program at the same university where you held your PGS A, PGS M, CGS M or Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension.

If you plan to undertake your doctoral program at a university other than the one where you hold your PGS A, PGS M, CGS M or Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension, see Change of University.

Students who receive the increase must still apply successfully for a PGS D if they wish to receive continued support beyond the term of the PGS A, PGS M, CGS M or Postgraduate Scholarship M Extension.

Hopefully this answers the question from the business meeting.

Best,

Allison Sekuler