

Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science

The Meeting was held on June 24 during the Annual Meeting of the Society at The University of Saskatoon. Jamie Campbell (President) chaired the meeting and Lorraine Allan (Secretary/Treasurer) was the recording secretary.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting

Jamie noted that the minutes of the 2005 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 Doug Mewhort and Ron Borowsky.

2. Report from the Executive

a) Financial

i. Financial Report and Membership Statistics

The Financial Report was presented by Lorraine Allan. Lorraine noted that both the Memorial and Montreal meetings had a surplus which was sent to the BBCS account. BBCS continues to be in excellent financial health. Later in the agenda, there will be a report summarizing the Executive's decisions regarding the expenditure of some of our large surplus. Lorraine also provided membership statistics. As of June 22, there were 389 paid members (220 full and 169 associate). [Additional memberships at and since the conference bring the total to 400 (226 full and 174 associate)].

Click [here](#) for MemberStats Report

Click [here](#) for Financial Report

ii. Other Financial Announcements

1) Student Hebb Award value increased to \$500.

The Executive decided to increase the amount of the student Hebb Awards from \$100 to \$500. This will increase the prestige-value of the award and it should motivate more students to enter the competition. This year there were only 28 submissions.

2) CSBBBCS Past President's Symposium (\$2500).

In the future, the Past President will have \$2500 to coordinate a symposium on a topic of general interest to BBCS. One goal of this plenary symposium is to attract faculty and students who normally do not attend the BBCS conference (e.g., researchers in neuroscience).

3) Conference funding

Conference organizers are under much pressure give the uncertainties of raising sufficient funds to host the conference. Conference organizers may request a \$5,000 advance from CSBBBCS. CSBBBCS will contribute additional matching funds upon application to the executive.

b) Interactions with other Organizations

i) CPA

Jamie reminded the membership that BBCS has not appointed a BBCS member to the CPA Board for a number of years. CPA suggested that the BBCS

position be removed from the CPA Board. The Executive did not object to this proposal. The two organizations will continue to cooperate on issues of mutual interest.

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

CCDP holds its annual meeting during the CPA Convention. Many department chairs do not attend CPA, but do attend BBCS. At the 2005 AGM, it was suggested that BBCS invite CCDP to hold its annual meeting at the BBCS meeting. CCDP is considering alternating between the CPA and the BBCS meetings.

iii) Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE)

BBCS has joined PAGSE which is a cooperative association of more than 20 national organizations in Science and Engineering representing approximately 50,000 members. PAGSE organizes a monthly Bacon and Eggheads meeting (when Parliament is in session) which brings together Parliamentarians with experts across science and engineering, showcasing outstanding Canadian research accomplishments. The purpose of these breakfast meetings is to provide unbiased insight into topical scientific issues, within a non-partisan forum in which lobbying is not permitted. This prestigious forum represents a unique opportunity for scientists to communicate important findings to a distinguished and influential audience, which includes key decision-makers.

Chris Fennell (University of Ottawa) is the BBCS representative. Chris was unable to attend the conference and will be sending his report to the Executive. His reports will be available to the BBCS membership at <http://psych.mcmaster.ca/bbcs/reports.html>. More information about PAGSE is available at <http://www.pagse.org/>

c) *BBCS Conference Guide*

Jamie reported that he undertook the production of a conference guide for future conference organizers. While past conference organizers have often produced a report for the AGM, there is little specific information available to the new organizer. The Executive has seen a draft version which will be updated based on the 2006 conference and will be available for the 2007 organizer.

3. Committees and Committee Reports

a) *Hebb Scientific Award*

Lorraine Allan, Chair of the 2006 Hebb Award committee, presented the report. There were 11 nominations, 4 new and 7 from previous years. Shep Siegel (McMaster University) was selected.

(<http://psych.mcmaster.ca/bbcs/hebbrec06.html>).

b) *Hebb Student Awards*

Lisa Kalynchuk, Chair of the Hebb Student Awards Committee, reported that the procedure used this year was similar to that instituted last year. There were only 28 submissions this year. The awards will be presented at the banquet.

c) *Tees Leadership Award.*

Jamie reminded the meeting that the Executive acts as the Selection Committee for the Tees Distinguished Leadership Award. There were two

nominations this year. Lorraine Allan (McMaster University) was selected (<http://psych.mcmaster.ca/bbcs/leadership06.html>). The award will be presented to Lorraine at the banquet.

d) Ad Hoc Committees

At the 2005 AGM, Murray Singer reported that the Executive had struck two ad hoc Committees: a Research Ethics Committee and a Journal Committee. The Research Ethics Committee has not yet submitted its report to the Executive. The report of the ad hoc Journal Committee was circulated recently to the membership. The members of the committee were Peter Dixon (chair), Michael Masson, Murray Singer, and Richard Brown. Jamie, on behalf of the membership, thanked the committee for their informative report.

Jamie provided the following summary of the report.

- 1) A new, broad-spectrum flagship CSBBCS journal might be viable, but there is no clear need for it at this time.
- 2) Could enhance utility of CJEP for the membership (CSBBCS on masthead; publish Hebb Lecture; top Student papers; conference proceedings).
- 3) Niche electronic journals organized by committed individuals and with an existing infrastructure are potentially useful and of relatively low cost to the Society.

There was considerable discussion. Many who spoke were supportive of maintaining CJEP but with greater visibility of BBCS. It was noted that Simon Grondin, the current CJEP Editor, is on the CPA Board and that he should be involved in future deliberations. It was suggested that in our approach to CPA we emphasize the advantages for them. It was noted that CJEP has a historical importance and that BBCS should not take any action that might result in CPA not being able to maintain the journal.

Some journals (e.g., QJEP) now publish an electronic version before the paper version is available and that the publication date of an article is the date that the electronic version is posted. It was suggested that BBCS propose to CPA that they consider outsourcing the publication of CJEP to a professional publisher such as Erlbaum. This would allow the QJEP model to be pursued.

It was suggested that BBCS consider an increase in dues so that electronic access to CJEP could be available to BBCS members.

There was also support for greater use of niche electronic communication. It was suggested that BBCS consider publishing Proceedings of the conference. While Proceedings are often ignored by Psychology Review Committees because they are not refereed, broader based committees do not ignore such publications. It was noted that our students might be at a disadvantage in scholarship competitions. One possibility that was suggested is to use the Society for Computers in Psychology (SCiP) as a model where the publication involves a review process.

It was moved by Ray Klein and seconded by Chris Herdman that the membership thank the ad hoc committee for an excellent report and that the Executive actively explore option 2 and provide an email report to the membership in 6 months. The motion was carried without dissenting vote.

4. CIHR and NSERC Reports

Jamie noted that this year there were NSERC and CIHR workshops in the program. The leaders of these workshops were also at the AGM.

a) NSERC

Barbara Conway (Acting Director, Research Grants and Scholarships Directorate) presented the NSERC report as a powerpoint presentation. [Click [here](#) for a “pdf” version.] Highlights from her report are:

- 1) The reallocation procedure has been terminated.
- 2) A review of the NSERC Committee structure has begun.
- 3) Psychology students performed well during the scholarship/fellowship allocation.

The review of the committee structure generated discussion. It appears that the process being used does not invite community input. This is the case because the Allocation process did and it is being abandoned. Members were concerned that without community input the usual (but erroneous) conception of psychology as an “inexpensive” science would persist.

b) CIHR

Nathalie Gendron (CIHR Deputy Director, Program Delivery, KCP Branch) presented the CIHR report. [Click [here](#) for a “pdf” version, Click [here](#) for “news”.] Highlights from her report are:

- 1) CIHR is considering a restructuring of their peer-review committees.
- 2) The results of “Year 5 - International Review Panel Report, 2000-2005” should be available June 30. [<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/24487.html>]
- 3) In comparison to NSERC, the success rate is low (25%) and the grant size is large (mean = \$108,000)

5. Executive Committee Election Results and New Executive Committee

In an email call for nominations, Doug Mewhort and Rob Sutherland were nominated for President-Elect, and Peter Graf and Lisa Kalenchuk were nominated for Member-at-Large. An electronic ballot was conducted. Doug was elected as President-Elect, Lisa was elected for a 3-year term, and Peter for a 2-year term. After the election, Isabelle Peretz informed the Executive that she was resigning due to other commitments. Bruce Milliken, who was just ending a 3-year term, agreed to continue for an additional year.

2005 - 2006 Executive

President: Carolyn Harley, Memorial University

Past President: Jamie Campbell, University of Saskatchewan

President-Elect: Doug Mewhort, Queen’s University

Secretary-Treasurer: Lorraine Allan, McMaster University

Members-at-Large:

Bruce Milliken, McMaster University (2003 – 2007)

Peter Graf, University of British Columbia (2006-2008)

Lisa Kalenchuk, University of Saskatchewan (2006-2009)

6. Report on the Conference

Jamie commented that his report will be available as part of the minutes.
[Click [here](#) for a “pdf” version.]

7. Future Annual Meetings

2007 (June 15-17) – University of Victoria

2008 – University of Western Ontario

These venues are 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.

8. Other business

Carolyn Harley thanked Jamie Campbell and all the others who helped organize the conference. She expressed thanks on behalf of BBCS to Jamie as outgoing President for all his efforts and contributions to BBCS.