

Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science

The AGM was held on July 10 2009 at the Hospitium, in York, UK, toward the close of the joint meeting between the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science and UK Experimental Psychology Society. Rob Sutherland (President) chaired the meeting and Peter Graf (Secretary/Treasurer) was the recording secretary.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated prior to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting

Rob noted that a draft of the minutes of the 2008 AGM are available on the BBBCS Web site. He asked if there were any corrections. There were none and the minutes were approved.

3. Thanks to the Meeting Organizers

On behalf of CSBBBCS, Rob acknowledged the efforts of the conference organizers, especially singling out Tom Hartley, University of York, United Kingdom and Aimee Surprenant, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

4. Amendments to the CSBBBCS Charter

The executive has reviewed the membership types described in the CSBBBCS charter, and proposes a revision of the membership types.

The charter currently includes the following membership types & descriptions:

- 1a. Full membership is open to any individual with a PhD or equivalent degree who is working in a behavioural research setting in Canada. Canadian scientists working abroad in similar settings are also eligible for membership.
- 1b. Student membership is available to graduate students working in behavioral research settings in any accredited university or college in Canada. Canadian graduate students studying abroad in similar settings are also eligible for membership.

The executive proposes replacing Items 1a and 1b with the following text, and to amend the subscripts in the charter as required:

- 1a. Full members normally hold a PhD and are actively engaged in research.**

- 1b. Associate members normally are students working in a behavioural research setting in an accredited university or college.
- 1c. Emeritus membership is open to an individual who was a full member of the CSBBCS at the time of retirement and whose research is no longer supported by grant funding.

MOTION: That the charter of the Society be amended so as to list the foregoing three types of memberships. Motion duly made and seconded; approved unanimously.

MOTION: That in recognition of their enduring contributions to the Society, the annual membership fee for emeritus members shall be set to \$0. Motion duly made and seconded; approved unanimously.

5. Report from the Executive

A: *Financial Report & Membership Statistics*

Peter Graf presented the Financial Report, noting that CSBBCS continues to be in excellent financial health.

Peter reminded the meeting that the financial statement provided at the meeting is an interim report of the society's financial health, a statement which includes neither a full accounting of the conference costs nor of the society's membership. With this reminder in mind, he noted that the current financial statement includes a charge of \$26'541.36 that was incurred in connection with the 2008 annual meeting. It also includes a surplus of \$8'048.86 from the 2008 conference.

Peter also reported that at its meeting on June 18 2008, the executive decided to make a one-time contribution of \$10K to EPS in support of the 2009 joint EPS-CSBBCS meeting to be held in York, UK.

Peter reminded the assembly that the Society has purchased two GICs (one for \$50K and the other for \$25K) from HSBC.

Peter reported that as of June 30 2009 (immediately prior to start of the conference), CSBBCS had 208 paid up members (147 full and 61 associate members). He also observed that these membership numbers are very low and unusual, substantially due to the fact that the annual meeting was held in York, UK and due to the fact that only a small number of conference submissions could be accommodated.

Click [here](#) for Member Stats Report (as of August 31 2009)

Click [here](#) for Financial Report (as of August 31 2009)

B: *Web*

Peter noted that a small number of members are still concerned about the Paypal option, and underscored once again the fact that Paypal payments do not require having a Paypal account, that payments may be made by means of any of the major credit cards.

In time for the 2009 convention, the membership system was more closely integrated with the registration system, making it easier to ensure that conference registrants are paid up members of the society.

6. CJEP Update

Doug Mewhort provided an update on CJEP, highlighting the appointment of Michael Masson as associate editor, and the new manuscript submission process. He explained that in addition to publishing the CSBBCS abstracts and the Hebb Award Address, CJEP will also likely publish the CSBBCS past president's symposium.

Doug also explained that CJEP is now included in Psych Abstracts, and that APA is in the process of producing electronic archives of CJEP and its precursor.

7. Future Meetings

Rob reminded the assembly about the location and of (actual & potential) future meetings:

June 11-13, 2010, Dalhousie/Halifax, Ray Klein

June ??-??, 2011, Manitoba/Winnipeg, Tammy Ivanco (Dates to be confirmed)

June ??-??, 2012, Queens/Kingston, Hans Dringenberg (Dates to be confirmed)

June ??-??, 2013, Calgary/Calgary, Glen Bodner (Dates to be confirmed)

June 12-14, 2014, Reyerson/Toronto, Ben Dyson (Dates to be confirmed)

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.

Rob also underscored that future meetings with EPS must include sufficient/more space for CSBBCS member submissions.

He also explained that the CSBBCS executive to explore joint meetings with other organizations, including with TENNET (Theoretical & Experimental Neuropsychology)

8. CIHR and NSERC Reports

Because of the location of the 2009 annual convention, the major research funders – CIHR and NSERC – were not able to attend the meeting in person.

Michael Masson provided a brief overview of changes that have recently been introduced at NSERC. Michael focused on the discovery grant competition, the new evaluation criteria that have been used for the first time in early 2009 (the enhanced 2-step review process), how the application of these new criteria has affected grant amounts, and he compared funding levels achieved in 2008 versus 2009.

Michael made his presentation with the support of a pdf provided by NSERC, [click here](#). Please note: The presentation is password protected, BUT the password is not required for reading the document.

9. Report on the Conference

Aimee Surprenant has prepared the following report on the 2009 conference. For a pdf of the report, [click here](#).

10. Awards

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

On behalf of Frances Wilkinson, Chair of the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award, Rob Sutherland reported that Pierre Jolicœur was chosen to receive the Donald O. Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award

B: *Donald O. Hebb Graduate Student Award*

Poster Award -- **Winner:** Gillian Dale, Brock University, "Individual differences in diffusion of attention predict the attentional blink". **Honorable mention:** Adam K. Dubé, University of Regina, "The relationship between adults' conceptual understanding of inversion and associativity".

Spoken Presentation Award -- **Winner:** Greg Louis West, University of Toronto, "Electrophysiological evidence for biased competition in V1 favoring motivationally significant stimuli". **Honorable mention:** Jason David Ozubko, University of Waterloo, "When you don't have a clue about the cue: Costs associated with item-specific cued recall in a forced-response paradigm".

Decisions about the 2009 Hebb Graduate Student Awards were based on the assessment of a panel of judges. Students who were interested in having their presentation considered for an award submitted an extended abstract (maximum of 400 words). Each committee member independently ranked all of the abstracts. Based on these rankings, the three papers and three posters receiving the highest rankings were selected as finalists. Finalists were evaluated at the conference by the panel on the basis of 50% weight for scientific impact and 50% for presentation quality. Just after the Friday morning session the committee met to select the most outstanding submission and an honorable mention in each category.

This year's prize for best paper or poster is \$500.00, an engraved plaque and a 1-year membership in BBCS. The prize for honorable mention is a 1-year membership in BBCS.

The Hebb Graduate Student Award Committee consisted of the following: Aimée Surprenant (chair), Daniel Bub, Ben Dyson, Myra Fernandes, Bill Hockley and Elizabet Service.

C: *Richard Tees Distinguished Leadership Award*

Rob Sutherland, Chair of the award committee, explained that no nominations were received for this award.

11. Executive Committee Election Results and New Executive Committee

In an email call for nominations, Peter Dixon was nominated for President-Elect, and there being no other nominations he was acclaimed to the position.

In a separate email call for nominations, two CSBBCS members were nominated for one member-at-large position and in a follow-up election, Debbie Kelly was elected.

2009 - 2010 Executive

President: Colin MacLeod, University of Waterloo
Past President: Robert Sutherland, University of Lethbridge
President-Elect: Peter Dixon, University of Alberta
Secretary-Treasurer: Peter Graf, University of British Columbia
Members-at-Large: Debbie Kelly, University of Saskatchewan (2009 --2012)
William Hockley, Wilfrid Laurier University (2007 -- 2010)

On behalf of CSBBCS, Rob thanked all those who made nominations for the executive positions of CSBBCS, those who agreed to the nominations, and those who participated in the vote.

Rob thanked Peter Graf for his continued service as secretary/treasurer.

Rob also thanked Lisa Kalynchuck (outgoing executive member at large) and Doug Mewhort (outgoing past-president) for their years of service and contributions to the Society. He also extended a warm executive-committee welcome to Debbie Kelly.

There being no further business, Rob handed the meeting over to Colin MacLeod.

12. Other business

Colin MacLeod thanked the conference organizers. On behalf of CSBBCS Colin also thanked Rob as outgoing President for all his efforts and contributions to CSBBCS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.