

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science

The AGM was held on June 13 2010 during the Annual Meeting of the Society at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Colin MacLeod (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 2009 Annual General Meeting

Colin noted that a draft of the minutes of the 2009 AGM is available on the BBCS 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 CSBBCS, Colin acknowledged and thanked the conference organizers, especially Raymond Klein and Leslie Phillmore (co-chairs), as well as the many others who help to make the 2010 meeting a first-class event: Jason Ivanoff, Nicole Conrad, Chelsea Quinlan, Aaron Newman, Nathan Crowder, Shannon Johnson, Cindy Hamon-Hill, Jonathan Fawcett, Heath Matheson, Michael Wong, plus a long list of student helpers. A full listing of all individuals who contributed to the 2010 meeting is available in the [2010 Conference Report](#).

4. 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 always 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. He noted that the organization of annual meetings, including the collection of conference registration fees, differs from year to year and this difference is reflected in the Society's fluctuating annual financial reports.

Peter reminded the assembly that the Society previously purchased two GICs (one for \$50K and the other for \$25K) from HSBC. The Society continues to hold these GICs.

Peter reported that as of June 11 2010 (immediately prior to start of the conference), CSBBCS had 326 members (170 full members, 152 associate

members; 4 emeritus members). He also observed that these membership numbers are substantially higher than they were in 2009, a year in which membership was depressed due to the fact that the annual meeting was held in York, UK.

Click [here](#) for Member Stats Report (as of August 31 2010)

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

B: Multi-year memberships & Member-Information Tracking

The executive has reviewed the membership types described in the CSBBCS charter, and proposes to offer members the option of purchasing a multi-year membership at the rate of \$180 for 3 years (versus \$70 per year). This new option will be offered at the time of membership renewal.

In order to more closely track the research interests of our members, the membership page of the Society's web will be augmented for the collection of information about the research interests/specialization of members.

C: 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. However, the 2010 conference experience revealed considerable room for additional improvements.

The CSBBCS website is scheduled for a major overhaul which should make it easier to update the site. The new site will include more prominent links, including for the following: jobs, graduate student and postdoc placements, national, provincial and local research funding agencies.

The new site will also have clear links to organizations, conferences and events that are supported by CSBBCS, as well as those who support CSBBCS.

Finally, the new site will provide a smoother interface between the CSBBCS site and the site used for the annual conference. Among other things, it will ensure that the same member profile is available for both sites.

The [2010 conference report](#) provides more information web related issues that will need to be addressed in the web overhaul.

D: Stipend for Past-President Symposium

The executive reviewed the cost associated with mounting a first-rate past president symposium at the annual meeting. As result of this review, the stipend for this symposium is increased from \$2500 to \$3000.

E: History of CSBBCS

SCBBCS has come of age and is now in its 20s. In view of this circumstance, and as long as many of the founding members of CSBBCS are available, the executive has made a commitment to document the history of the Society. Colin

MacLeod has volunteered to create a first draft of this history. When completed, a history of CSBBCS will be made available on the Society's web, and possibly published in CJEP.

F: Relationship between CSBBCS & the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)

In recognition of the existing relationship between CSBBCS and CPA (e.g., agreement on publishing in CJEP all CSBBCS abstracts and major invited addresses; agreement on the appointment of the CJEP editor), the executive is committed to creating a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between CSBBCS and CPA. The purpose of such a MOU is to recognize the existing relationships between CSBBCS and CPA, and to collaborate further in areas such as lobbying, publishing, tracking of the supply and demand of the work-force, etc.

5. CJEP Update

Doug Mewhort, editor of CJEP, was unable to attend the AGM.

Colin reminded the meeting that the publication agreement between CSBBCS and APA is in its final year. He noted that this agreement has served to increase the visibility of CJEP, and therefore, that we will immediately begin negotiations to renew/extend this agreement.

6. Future Meetings

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

June 24-26, 2011, Manitoba/Winnipeg, Tammy Ivanco

June 7-9, 2012, Queens/Kingston, Hans Dringenberg

June 7-9, 2013, Calgary/Calgary, Glen Bodner

June 12-14, 2014, Ryerson/Toronto, Ben Dyson (joint with EPS)

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.

Colin also explained that the CSBBCS executive will explore joint meetings with other organizations in the future, including with the Canadian Association for Neuroscience. In view of the dates/locations we have already selected, the earliest date at which a joint meeting would be feasible is 2015.

7. NSERC Report

At a well-attended noon-hour banquet, two officers of NSERC -- Marie Claude Caron, Team Leader, Life Sciences & Guillaume Sabourin, Program Officer, Biological Systems and Functions -- made a presentation and answered questions concerning the following: the 2010 federal budget and its impact on NSERC funding, the conference model now used by NSERC for making decisions about discovery grants, and the results from the most recent discovery grant competition. The presentation of the NSERC officers was augmented by commentaries of individuals who have served on the grant review panel. For a pdf of the NSERC presentation, [click here](#).

CIHR was unable to attend the meeting.

8. Report on the Conference

Ray Klein & Leslie Phillmore prepared the following report on the 2010 conference. For a pdf of the report, [click here](#).

9. Awards

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

On behalf of Murray Singer, Chair of the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award, Vince Di Lollo gave a video introduction of Colin MacLeod, winner of the Donald O. Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award

B: *Donald O. Hebb Graduate Student Award*

Spoken Presentation Award: **Winner:** Jonathan Fawcett, Dalhousie University.
Honorable mention: Peter Jansen, McMaster University.

Poster Presentation Award -- **Winner:** Judy Ann Prasad, McGill University.
Honorable mention: Jeremy Hogeveen, Wilfrid Laurier University & Edward Wilson, McGill University.

Decisions about the 2010 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.

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: Nathan Crowder, Jason Ivanoff, Debbie Kelly, Bruce Milliken, Aaron Newman, Leslie Phillmore, Jean St. Aubin.

C: *Richard Tees Distinguished Leadership Award*

Colin MacLeod, Chair of the award committee, announced that Michael Masson had been chosen as winner of the 2010 Richard Tees Award.

10. Executive Committee Election Results and New Executive Committee

In an email call for nominations, two candidates were proposed for President-Elect, and four candidates were proposed for two Member-At-Large positions on the executive committee.

In an election, Valerie Thompson was chosen for President-Elect, and Steve Lupker was chosen as Member-At-Large.

2010 - 2011 Executive

President: Peter Dixon, University of Alberta
Past-President: Colin MacLeod, University of Waterloo
President-Elect: Valerie Thompson, University of Saskatchewan
Secretary-Treasurer: Peter Graf, University of British Columbia
Members-at-Large: Debbie Kelly, University of Saskatchewan (2009-2012)
Steve Lupker, University of Western Ontario (2010-2013)

On behalf of CSBBCS, Colin 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.

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

Colin also thanked Bill Hockley (outgoing executive Member-At-Large) and Rob Sutherland (outgoing Past-President) for their years of service and contributions to the Society. He also extended a warm executive-committee welcome to Steve Lupker.

There being no further business, Colin handed the meeting over to Peter Dixon.

11. Other business

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.