
Minutes of the 49th Canadian Society of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology Annual General Meeting

**White Oaks Conference Resort, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Saturday June 3, 17:30 – 18:30 h**

Chair: Dr. David Thomas, President CSBMCB

Board Members present: David Thomas, Joseph Casey, John Orlowski, Frances Sharom, Eric Brown and Albert Clark.

Thirteen other CSBMCB members present.

786. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated (motion by Dr. Cass, seconded by Dr. Woodgett).

787. Approval of the Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting, held in Banff, March 18th, 2005 were approved as circulated (motion by Dr. Orlowski, seconded by Dr. Sharom). No changes were requested.

788. Business Arising from Minutes

Any items arising from the minutes will be discussed under later agenda items.

789. President's Report

Dr. Thomas's report centred on the relationships of CSBMCB with CFBS and with lobbying government.

Dr. Bruce Sells is retiring as Executive Director of CFBS and is being replaced by Art Olson, a former Assistant Deputy Minister in Ottawa. CSBMCB is an Associate Member i.e. not a member of CFBS and hence does not have a seat on the CFBS Board. Several other societies have left CFBS i.e. the Genetics Society; societies often leave because of the costs involved. Currently, the CFBS offices take care of CSBMCB office needs. CSBMCB has a contract with CFBS for these duties.

CFBS does a good job at lobbying government. In large part this has been achieved because of Dr. Sell's efforts and skills. CSBMCB's interests have been well-served by the efforts of CFBS in Ottawa. Some of the other societies are not as focused on biomedical research.

CFBS has financial problems, partly because some societies have left the Federation and partly because some of their recent meetings have lost money. CFBS is organizing 2 meetings per year in efforts to raise their profile and funds. CSBMCB, because it is the largest society, is a major contributor to CFBS. CSBMCB has signed a contract for a further year of association with CFBS.

The CSBMCB will continue to review its relationship with CFBS. While the work of CFBS is perceived as being very good to date, a more focused effort at advocacy might be more successful with government. The CSBMCB Board will be reviewing our work in this area - with CFBS and with other potential groups. A more unified approach might be more effective.

The Board has reviewed and approved a Sponsorship Policy with regards to CSBMCB support of meetings. A copy is attached to the minutes.

The 2007 meeting will be held in Montreal from July 5-9. The theme of the meeting will be systems biology. The meeting, which will be the 50th

annual meeting of CSBMCB, overlaps with the Montreal Jazz Festival.

790. CSBMCB and PENCE

PENCE (Protein Engineering Centre of Excellence) is no longer supported by the Canadian Centers of Excellence program. The members of PENCE wish to remain together as an organization in order to promote the discipline of protein science and further the networking among protein scientists in Canada.

PENCE has approached CSBMCB to become a division of our society. This would be called the Protein Division. This Division would have their own executive of which at least one and preferably two would also be members of the CSBMCB executive. Members of the Protein Division would have to be members of CSBMCB. The division would organize their own meetings as well as participating in CSBMCB meetings. The division would maintain their own separate funding, which would be managed by the CSBMCB Treasurer. They have left-over funds from PENCE which can be used to begin their separate activities.

The CSBMCB supports the initiation of this Division with assurances being incorporated into the agreement that protect CSBMCB from any financial liabilities.

791. Membership

Linda Penn, the Board Member responsible for membership was unable to attend the meeting. In the most recent report CSBMCB had 327 paid up members.

792. Communications

Dr. Frances Sharom had completed preparation of the annual CSBMCB Bulletin. She was complimented and thanked for her hard work. It is a major effort getting reports from the Departments across the country, etc. Also making a significant contribution to getting the Bulletin out to the members was Dr. Gene Tustanoff, past Secretary to CSBMCB.

793. Past President's Report

Dr. Joe Casey, Past President of CSBMCB has assumed a major responsibility on the Board to

promote and monitor advocacy. Major issues with regards to promoting the interests of the CSBMCB membership include the new government and what will be their priorities if any in research and developments and changing policies at CIHR concerning grant distribution. Proposed changes in policies on awarding of grants (similar percentage of awards by each panel as opposed to scores) could increase the number of grants for pillars 3 and 4 and fewer grants for basic science disciplines. CIHR is currently under review. Dr. Casey will prepare a presentation for this review on behalf of CSBMCB.

It was noted that advocacy takes time, but we continually need to remind politicians of how research pushes the economy. CSBMCB needs to develop specific targets with regards to advocacy. CIHR must be lobbied with regards to support for the basic sciences.

794. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Dr. Vincent Duronio, was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Duronio has provided a draft report for discussion purposes which indicated that the Society is in an excellent financial state. Unofficial current revenues over expenditures for 2005 were \$41,530 increasing net assets to \$424,063.00.