

Minutes of the Canadian Society of Biochemistry,

Molecular and Cellular Biology

52nd Annual General Meeting

Niagara-on-the Lake

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Present: Hue Sun Chan, Albert Clark, Vince Duronio, Kalle Gehring, John Glover, Paul Hamel, George Harauz, Theo Hofmann, Olivier Julien, Kevin Keogh, Zarren Minuchehr, John Orłowski, Linda Penn, Jan Rainey, Reinhart Reithmeier, Steve Smith, David Thomas, Gene Tustanoff, David Williams(Chair)

864. Greetings from Society President, Laura Frost.

Dr Frost was unable to attend the meeting and her greetings and thanks to members for their attendance at the meeting were given by Dr Williams, Vice-President of CSBMCB.

865. Approval of the Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 51st Annual general meeting were approved as circulated (motion by Dr Orłowski, seconded by Dr Hofmann)

866. Business Arising From the Minutes

Items of business arising from the minutes are discussed under later agenda items.

867. Treasurer's Report

Dr Duronio presented the financial report and commented on the current state of the Society's finances. Starting from reports at earlier meetings the bank balance had decreased from 450K to 300K and then had risen to 396K in recent reports (amounts are approximations). The accounts are managed by BMO Nesbit Burns. Currently there is approximately \$140K in cash and bonds with \$55K in the checking account, the latter primarily from meeting registrations. Nothing has been removed from the Special Fund in over a year. There are currently approximately 100 paid up memberships. The Society website had become dysfunctional. It has cost \$32K to develop a new system which has many potential advantages over the previous one. There is a separate item of approximately \$70K listed in our books for funds transferred to the Society from PENCE two years ago when that Centre of Excellence ended. This money is being used to primarily support activities of the PENCE group many of whom are or became members of our Society.

CSBMCB pays annual dues to two international societies – PABMB (\$350) and IFCB (\$300US). We also annually contribute \$1000 to Research Canada and \$1500 to the Friends of CIHR as a donation to the Henry Friesen Award. This year the Society had to support the Young Scientist Award because of the withdrawal of support by Merck Frost. The Executive had agreed to support Joel Weiner's attendance at the IUBMB meeting – Dr Weiner had been nominated for a position on the IUBMB Council. The Board had also agreed to contribute \$5000 toward the Canadian Science Policy Forum which is to be held in

Toronto Oct 28-30. A total of \$1250 has been spent on student events. The Board meeting in Toronto in November costs the Society approximately \$6000.

It was noted that the CFBS office had previously performed the Society's administrative tasks but their office had closed at the end of 2008. The Society now pays Rob Reedijk in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Toronto 20 per cent of his salary and he looks after the administrative needs of CSBMCB. He will oversee that the audit for 2008 is carried out (CFBS would have previously ensured that audits were done).

A motion (moved by Dr Reithmeier and seconded by Dr Orłowski) to receive the Treasurer's report was passed unanimously.

There were questions for clarification regarding the recommendation to support Dr Weiner's attendance at the IUBMB meeting and the continued support of PABMB. It was noted that there is a Society bylaw that the Special Fund should not be allowed to go below \$300K.

868. Website.

It had become necessary to find a new host for the Society website – the previous site manager had “disappeared “ and was longer no available to the Society. The new site is hosted by NewGen. It is now very functional. With the new site meeting registrations, abstract submissions, etc can now be done online.

869. Advocacy.

CSBMCB supports the efforts of Research Canada with regards to informing politicians and the public about the benefits of research. The Society has written the membership with regards to letter writing campaigns to local politicians. The Society executive reviewed the CIHR strategic plan and Dr Frost wrote a letter on behalf of the Society emphasizing the importance of the funding to basic science research as the plan appeared to favour support for applied research. Dr Hamel from the University of Toronto asked to speak. His comments concerned the Federal Government Science and Technology Commercialization Report which emphasized the commercialization of research. The University of Toronto had concurred with the report and had established a committee which led to creation of an Innovation Office which had lost \$11million during its first year. The suggestion was that its mission was to change the mission of the University. It was stated that the Liberal government had supported these documents in 2007. University research had been put under Industry Canada to promote linkages with the private sector. There is a move to have international peer review and to obtain advice from the private sector on research programs. The University of Toronto strategic plan drives research to commercialization: the Faculty of Medicine office has a commercialization ideology and there is an opinion that the university administrators should be criticized for their stand on the extent to which they are promoting commercialization.

It was noted that the government doesn't listen to advocacy for basic research. It is difficult to achieve such advocacy at the individual institutional level. All members were encouraged to provide input to Dr Beaudet when input on documents is requested.

870. Annual Conferences/Meetings.

The current(2009) meeting is going well and will hopefully break even financially. The 2010 meeting will be held in Banff with membranes being the focus, the 2011 meeting will be held in Mt Orford ,Quebec with RNA being the theme and the 2012 meeting will be held in Whistler, BC with the topic being epigenetics/DNA damage. A question was raised about exploring the possibility of future joint meetings with the Chemistry Institute of Canada. Noted was a complaint that Society meetings are too topic oriented. It was noted that our meetings are being successful in attracting a good attendance and the meetings in general are breaking even financially

871. Change to Society Constitution.

There was a motion to amend the constitution (moved by Dr Hoffman and seconded by Dr Tustanoff) to remove the requirement for an application for membership in the Society be signed by two regular members. Carried unanimously.

872. Membership.

As noted in the financial report there are approximately 100 paid up regular members. It was noted that it is anticipated that the new website will improve the Society's ability to remind members to renew their memberships, etc.

873. Society Communications.

Dr Glover (Editor) informed the members that the Bulletin was being assembled and would be ready for distribution within several months. , Dr Orłowski (Editor) reported that the template for eLINK had been created, the first issue had been distributed to Society members and a second issue was being prepared. Dr Davie raised the issue of Biochemistry and Cell Biology being the official journal of CSBMCB. This latter issue will be pursued.

874. Executive Nominations.

The nomination committee brought forward the following nominations for executive positions: Past-President; Laura Frost, President; David Williams, Vice-President; Jean-Pierre Perreault; Councillor; Marie Josee Lavoie(Laval University). There were no nominations from the floor. A motion (moved by Dr Reithmeier and seconded by Dr Orłowski) was brought forward to accept the nomination committee report. Passed unanimously.

875. Other Business.

In response to a question from a member assurance was given that nominations for the Society awards are carried over from one year to the next.

876. Meeting Adjournment.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned (moved by Dr Orłowski and seconded by Dr Hofmann).Carried.