

Minutes of the Canadian Society of Biochemistry,
Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry
50th Annual General Meeting
Montreal
Monday, July 9, 2007

Chair: Dr Eric Brown, President CSBMCB

Board Members Present: David Thomas, John Orłowski, Eric Drown, Vincent Duronio, Linda Penn, Guy Poirier, Reinhardt Reithmeier, Albert Clark
Seven members present

808. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated (motion by Dr Reithmeier, seconded by Dr Orłowski)

809. Approval of the Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, June 3, 2006 were approved as circulated (motion by Dr Reithmeier, seconded by Dr Orłowski)

810. Business Arising from Minutes

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

811. President's Report

The president's report dealt with advocacy issues primarily. There was concern with the low success rate at CIHR. The letter writing on the WEB site and the post card campaign was followed by a small increase in budget. There was an indication that this was not well received by the politicians and they did not like all the post cards. The criticism that the campaign was not focused on the health of Canadians. The budget increase was 37 million as opposed to an expected 20 million. Thirty thousand people liked the post card campaign approach. Drs Casey and Brown wrote a position paper on advocacy.

Progress had been made with the new web-site which should help with advocacy. A contribution of \$1000 was made to Research Canada which is considered a good conduit for advocacy. The slide show prepared by Art Carty was not considered a good reflection of the problems facing science. CSBMCB could become a supporter of Science Convergence with the university presidents. This will require further investigation.

Dr Brown closed his report by thanking Drs Thomas and Reithmeier for their efforts in the advocacy arena. The contributions of Dr Casey to the Society have been significant.

812. Past-President's Report

Dr Thomas reported on the review of Genome Canada which was part of a larger review of all R and D funding by the federal government. Drs Thomas and Shrier lobbied in Ottawa for science support with members of parliament.

813. Treasurer's Report

Dr Duronio presented the Treasurer's Report. The audit had been completed one week earlier. The Society Special Fund had \$440,000 at the end of 2006 and was increasing at the rate of approximately 10% per year. The \$150,000 in the bank includes revenue for the meeting. The statement also includes the \$76,000 plus \$10,000 originally transferred from PENCE. There is now \$70,000 remaining in the PENCE line item. Of the 100 PENCE members, 25 belong to CSBMCB.

There has been a problem with members not being reminded regularly about renewing membership.

814. Membership Report

Dr Penn reported that there are currently 446 regular members in CSBMCB. There was a brief discussion on ways of increasing the membership and retaining stability ie encouraging longer term memberships.

815. Communications Report

Dr Sharom was thanked for her tremendous efforts in preparing the Bulletin and having it put on the website. All available past Bulletins are being put on a CD for the meeting attendees. It is proving difficult to get articles for the LINK. It was suggested that an electronic LINK might be the better way to proceed. A possibility of using news from CIHR as a component of the LINK was suggested.

816. CSBMCB and CFBS

Our relationship with CFBS has been a topic of discussion at meetings for a number of years. CSBMCB is an associate member as opposed to being a full member of CFBS. Our society runs their own conferences and does not actively participate in the Northern Lite Conferences run by CFBS. Dr Thomas has attended the CFBS Board meetings. With the resignation of Dr Olson the future of the office of CFBS is uncertain. The CFBS office looks after our web-site in collaboration with S Lau. It has been frustrating working with the CFBS office because of their many competing activities. CSBMCB has a contract with CFBS for office services.

It was agreed that the relationship with CFBS should cease (motion by Dr Thomas, seconded by Dr Reithmeier). Carried unanimously. The contract will not be renewed when it expires at the end of 2007. CFBS will be notified within 30 days. Dr Reithmeier will communicate with Dr Ratcliffe, president of CFBS.

817. Advocacy Activities

There was a brief discussion of and reporting on advocacy activities. Media articles and letters had been written on behalf of charities supporting research. CSBMCB has joined Research Canada. CSBMCB contributes to the Henry Friesen Prize. A significant role was played in organizing the Council of Biomedical Chairs. There was support for being active in supporting the new CIHR president. Advocacy is seen as a significant task for the Society Vice-President.

It was agreed that CSBMCB should financially support the development of the Canadian Council of Biological Chairs to a maximum of \$10,000 (Motion by Dr Reithmeier, seconded by Dr Brown)

818. Administrative Changes for CFBS

It was agreed that Mr Rob Redjick will be hired to run the office functions of CSBMCB at the University of Toronto. He will work one day per week for the Society and the transition will occur over the fall period. He will take over administration of the website.

819. CSBMCB Funding of "2007 Biochemistry Roadshow"

Dr Reithmeier spoke to an idea of visiting several universities each year to promote Biochemistry as a career and increase the pool of qualified graduate students. The visits would include Graduate Coordinators. This could be done in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Biomedical Chairs. Dr Reithmeier will develop a proposal.

820. Engaging Trainees in CSBMCB Activities

There was a brief discussion on expansion of support for student sponsored activities. There was agreement to supporting the attendance of two graduate students at the next conference.

821. Report on Nominations

The nominations presented by Dr Thomas (Chair of Nomination Committee) to the meeting were Dr Laura Frost for Vice-President and Drs David Williams and John-Pierre Perreault for Councilors. There were no further nominations and the one presented were accepted (motion by Drs Brown, seconded by Dr Reithmeier).

822. Awards

There was a discussion on developing a 50th Anniversary Medal in memory of the first President of the Society, Dr A M Winn.

823. Name Change for Society

There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of changing the name of the society. There were perceived problems with the suggestions of a shorter name not reflecting the scope of the interests of the membership. No consensus was reached.

824. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 15:40 hours (motion by Dr Reithmeier, seconded by Dr Brown).