



Organization for Computational Neurosciences, Inc. (OCNS)
2885 Sanford Ave SW #15359, Grandville, MI 49418, USA
Email: cns@cnsorg.org
Web: www.cnsorg.org

Minutes for OCNS Board Meetings in Quebec City in July 2014

July 26th 2014, 14:00-17:00

0a. Introductions

Attending: Astrid Prinz, Bruce Graham, Anthony Burkitt, Natalia Toporikova, Padraig Gleeson, Sharon Crook, Volker Steuber, Farzan Nadim, Victoria Booth, Erik De Schutter, Jorge Meijas, Marja-Leena Linne, Maurice Chacron, Genady Cymbaluk, Robert Butera, Alla Borisyuk (video conference, but often poor quality)

Missing: Thomas Nowotny, Boris Gutkin, Antonio Roque, Ranu Jung, Petr Lansky, Udo Ernst

0b. Approval of Agenda

No additions

1. Legal matters

1a. Election of President

Astrid Prinz was enthusiastically and unanimously voted in as a new President for a period of two years.

1b. New ex-officio directors

- Anthony Burkitt as leader of the Program Committee.
- Victoria Booth as ex-treasurer
- Genady Cymbaluk as publication chair
- One local organizer of next year's CNS meeting in Korea
- Udo Ernst will be asked whether he wants to continue

1c. Executive committee 2015

- President (Astrid)
- Treasurer (Volker)
- Vice-President (Gaute)
- Ex-President (Erik)
- Program Committee chair (Anthony)
- Ex-Treasurer (Victoria)

- Board representative 1 (Maurice)
- Board representative 2 (Robert)

1d. Director elections

The general feeling was that last year's director election went smoothly.

Alla & Bruce are rotating off the Board in 2014. Erik proposed to elect 3 or 4 new members, also to compensate for Avrama already having left, and Victoria leaving soon. After some deliberations, the Board decided that 3 new directors should be voted in by the members. It was further decided that there should be no quota for postdocs in the next election, but postdocs should be encouraged to run. The goal should be to have 2 or more postdocs on the Board at all times.

It was further decided that the following should be on this year's Nomination Committee:

- Sharon
- Erik
- Maurice

2. Members

2a. Report on membership and dues

Erik informed that there are now more inactive than active members in OCSN as many people are only members in the years they go to the meeting. The subsequent discussion focused on how to get more active members, and the following suggestions came up:

- Make visible on home page the number of people who have received travel grants
- Provide travel grants for students presenting computational work on other conferences
- Tie membership fee to conference fee to allow people to get their expenses refunded by grants
- Add more to being a member: Make a regular newsletter.
- Check whether people who have not paid for years still are notified/sent reminders (like other membership-based organizations do)

Two specific action points were decided:

- Rob volunteered (and were approved) to pursue options for creating local chapters of OCNS (cf. point 6b)
- The "outreach" position, presently held by Alla, should be redefined to become a new "communication" position. The writing of a regular newsletter could be one of the tasks associated with this new position.

2b. Members meeting

The Members meeting was scheduled for (and later held on) Tuesday, July 29th 2014.

2c. Honorary members

OCNS currently has one honorary member (Wilfred Rall), and it was discussed if anything should be done with this. It was suggested to revive the student poster awards and put the procedures on a solid footing rather than give out new awards/prizes/honorary memberships. The idea of a "Wilfred Rall Honorary Lecture" also came up.

2d. Membership drive

A revival of previous membership drives at the SFN Computational Neuroscience Social was discussed and agreed upon. Erik suggested to make a poster and hand out fliers at the door at this years meeting in Washington in November, and it was agreed that Alla will coordinate the work on this. It was also suggested to create a 2D bar code to add to the material. The possibilities of having booths at the SFN and FENS meetings were also discussed.

2e. Social media

Gaute informed about the activity. While OCNS now have a presence both on Facebook and on Twitter, we can become more active. A limitation is that OCNS as an organisation must both be and be perceived as neutral and not advocate particular views on science, science policy or other matters. It was nevertheless agreed that we should explore new ways to use social media to stimulate activity and discussions in the community. One possibility would be to have a separate OCNS Twitter-account dedicated solely to stimulate discussions (so as not to confuse it with the present more fact and message-oriented OCNS Twitter account).

3. CNS meetings part 1:

3a. Report on CNS*2014

Astrid and Maurice reported on the ongoing meeting.

This was followed by a discussion on the abstract submission policy where the following decisions were made:

- It should be made clear that abstracts cannot be published in BMC if material has been published before (following BMC rules).
- Presentation of the same material at two CNS meetings should be discouraged.

Erik further recommended that the instructions for abstract reviewers should be made more specific.

It was further suggested that it should be mentioned on the web page that discounts (waving of fees) can be given for people in need.

3b. Monitoring of procedures to check registration of abstract presenting authors

(this point was discussed at the Monday-part (28.7) of meeting)

Erik and Astrid reported that there still is a challenge with having to use two different systems, i.e., Confmaster and Memberclicks.

3c. Report on CNS*2015 planning

Erik informed about the progress on planning CNS*2015 in Prague. To strengthen the organizing committee it was decided to invite additional local organizers, with support/overseeing from an OCNS committee lead by Maurice with Victoria, Marja-Leena, and Genady as members.

The overall economical situation related to past, present and future CNS meetings was discussed. It was informed that if 800 people show up in Prague, the meeting will break even. It was also informed that last year's Paris meeting (CNS*2013) will not make a lot of money (even if it was held in Europe), while the economical prospects for the CNS*2016 meeting in South Korea is difficult to predict.

Different means to strengthen the conference budgets were discussed. It was decided that instead of increasing the conference fee explicitly, the banquet should no longer be included. Instead, a separate banquet fee should be paid by those choosing to attend the banquet.

Note: On the Monday part of the meeting, Maurice suggested to add an extra fee for on-site registration. The Board agreed and it was decided to set the fee to \$50, the same for all categories.

*** END OF MEETING ON JULY 26th

July 28nd, 12.10

Attending: Astrid Prinz, Bruce Graham, Anthony Burkitt, Natalia Toporikova, Pdraig Gleeson (until 1.30PM), Sharon Crook (leaving 1.55PM, after point 3g), Volker Steuber (leaving 1.55PM), Farzan Nadim, Victoria Booth, Erik De Schutter, Marja-Leena Linne, Maurice Chacron, Genady Cymbaluk, Robert Butera, Thomas Nowotny, Jorge Meijas

Missing: Boris Gutkin, Antonio Roque, Ranu Jung, Peter Lansky, Udo Ernst, Alla Borisyuk

3d. Planning for the Program Committee

Astrid had already emailed a report from the Program Committee (PC) to the Board on July 24th.

At the meeting she presented the status regarding members of the PC. At present, 5 PC members are leaving, there are 14 applications for becoming new PC members, of which 3 already has been invited and accepted. 2-3 more PC members may be added.

Following this update, there was a more general discussion on the procedures for selecting PC members. Since the Board now is elected by the members, it was decided a new procedure involving the Board more directly: In the future, the PC will send the entire list of applicants, including the people that the PC wants to select, to the Board for approval.

A possible routine could be that the PC Chair present plans for updating the PC to the Board on the Saturday part of the Board meeting. Then, based on the response, the PC will come up with a specific list of suggested names for new PC members at the Monday part of the Board meeting.

Maurice suggested that there should be a representative from the CNS-meeting organizers on the PC. This was approved, and it was decided that, starting with CNS*2016 in Korea, the OCSN President should invite the local organizer to appoint a person on the PC for a one-year term.

3e. Planning for Tutorials

Bruce reported on the tutorials: Some tutorials had small number of attendants, in particular tutorials on specific simulator topics.

Bruce also suggested that people should register for primary and secondary preference for tutorial, and Pdraig will modify the registration form on this point.

Regarding money, \$8000 was budgeted and a little more will be used (mainly because of travel expenses for three Europeans). It was decided to make explicit limits of travel reimbursements. In particular, it was decided that for people "volunteering" to give a tutorial,

one night of accommodation + flight (with fixed amount) should be the limit.
If a tutorial teacher is explicitly recruited, then we can add more to this.

It was further agreed to look more into the results from the 2013 Memberclicks survey and redo the survey for 2014. Also, it was deemed important to have the real attendance numbers for each of the tutorials.

3f. Planning for Workshops

Farzan reported about the work with the workshops: For CNS*2014 all 12 workshop proposals were accepted. His view was that half-day workshops was a particularly good format.

In case of many workshop applications for next year's meeting, the Program Committee may be asked for help in making a decision about which workshops to choose. Next year, we should aim to have workshop programs ready on the website prior to the meeting, preferably also in the program book.

3g. Travel grant and tutorial/workshop support procedures (*discussed before point 3f since Sharon had to leave meeting early*)

Sharon reported that 54 had applied for travel grants, 51 travel grants had been offered, while 48 will be used.

After some discussion it was decided that an extra pool of money for travel-award students should be allocated to those who have been selected to give an oral presentation.

3h. CNS*2016 and call for CNS*2017

Erik informed. For CNS*2016, he had had little contact so far with the organizers in Korea. Advertising was foreseen as a particular challenge for this meeting, in particular to reach the community in China.

The call for CNS*2017, to be held in Europe, will be made this Fall. Maurice will add specifications to the call, and Victoria suggested to make contact with the applicants to see if they are "on the ball". Following Erik's suggestion, an organizing committee, not a single person, should be behind each application.

4. Task division within the Board

4a. Reassignment of tasks within the board for 2015 (*discussed on Saturday*)

It was decided to wait with this reassignment until the new directors are known.

5. Financial matters

5a. Financial report on FY2013 and estimate of FY2014 expenses and CNS*2014 budget

Victoria had already emailed a report to the Board on July 24th.

In the meeting she mentioned a few points:

- About GBP 5000 is left from 2012. This could be used for covering future expenses in UK.
- The last prognosis for the CNS*2014 meeting is that it may (most optimistically) break even.

Erik suggested that we should try to do budget assessment of meeting about one month before start of the meeting (semi-final budget). The long-term goal should be to get OCNS more involved in the financial running of the meeting.

5b. Sponsoring: update

Robert informed that work had been done to standardize the sponsorship (presently from Brain Corporation and CRC Press).

5c. Financial planning for 2015

For the Prague meeting it was decided to have the same budget for workshops, and travel grants as in Paris, but change the budget for tutorial to \$8000.

5d. Budget approval

The proposed budget for 2015 was approved.

6. Other matters

6a. OCNS sponsored meetings and course

It was decided to continue as now.

6b. New initiatives

The start of local chapters of OCNS was discussed, and it was decided that Robert will look into it.

Gaute T. Einevoll
(Vice President, OCNS)