Minutes for OCNS Board Meetings in Prague in July 2015

July 18th 2015, 14:00-17:00

0a. Introductions

Attending: Astrid Prinz, Gaute Einevoll, Marja-Leena Linné, Nicoladie Tam, Daniel Wojcik, Natalia Toporikova, Volker Steuber, Anthony Burkitt, Antonio Roque, Ben Torben-Nielsen, Padraig Gleeson, Thomas Nowotny, Farzad Nadim, Victoria Booth (over video conference), Petr Marsalek, Martin Zapotocky, Erik De Schutter, Udo Ernst, Jaesun Jeung (CNS2016),

Missing: Sharon Crook, Genady Cembaluk

0b. Approval of Agenda

No additions

1. Legal matters

1a. Election of President and Vice-President

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

Sharon crook voted in as Vice-President (on Monday meeting). Results from vote: Sharon Crook (9 votes), Thomas (8 votes), 1 abstaining

1b. New ex-officio directors

- Petr Marsalek and/or Martin Zapotocky (Local Organizers, CNS2015)
- Jaeseung Jeung (Local Organizer, CNS2016)
- Daniele Marinazzo (Local Organizers, CNS2017)
- Szymon Leski (replacing Udo Ernst as registration and program book assistant)

Continuing ex-officio officers: Erik De Schutter (past president), Tony Burkitt (Program Committee chair)

1c. Executive committee 2016

- President (Astrid)

- Treasurer (Volker)
- Vice-President (Sharon) – voted in on Monday part of meeting
- Ex-President (Erik)
- Program Committee chair (Anthony)
- Ex-Treasurer (Victoria)
- Board representative 1 (Padraig)
- Board representative 2 (Thomas)

1d. Director elections

Sharon, Rob, Farzan, Natalia and Jorge are rotating off the Board in 2015. It was decided to vote in 4 new members.

Gaute is rotating off as "ex officio member". Gennady is possibly also rotating off, he should be asked.

It was further decided that the following should be on this year´s Nomination Committee:
- Erik
- Daniel
- Farzan

2. **Members**

2a. Report on membership and dues (Astrid)

OCNS have now
- 200 faculty members
- 147 postdoc members
- 360 student members
- 792 inactive members

In the following discussion, Erik suggested to target inactive members & ask them if they want to renew. Martin mentioned that 163 participants of CNS2015 are not members. It was discussed ways to increase benefits for members, and Astrid will contact publishers (contract with Springer is going out) and look for sponsorship and benefit possibilities.

2b. Members meeting (Astrid)
The Members meeting was scheduled for (and later held on) Tuesday, July 21th 2015 at 1.30 PM. Astrid outlined the plans for this meeting:
- Report from president
- Report from treasurer
- Report from Program Committee chair
- CNS*2016 presentation
- CNS*2017 announcement
- Presentation of mascot from CNS2015 in Prague

- Encyclopedia presentation and raffle, which should be announced
  to get people to come

2c. Honorary members (Astrid)

OCNS currently has one honorary member (Wilfred Rall), and it was discussed if anything should be done with this. No decision made, but champions can send memo (or names) to Astrid. One option is to have a vote among board members if suggestions come up.

2d. Membership drive (Nicoladie & Astrid)

Several initiatives was discussed and action points decided:
- Promotion of OCNS at other meetings/conferences/workshop. This will be coordinated by Nicoladie (hub) who will provide material
- At the SFN Social Natalia will try to promote OCSD, and Jaeseung will promote CNS*2016 in South-Korea
- Make CNS*2016 flyer/poster (Jaesung) available so that people can print out and advertise (to use at SFN)
- Make of general OCNS flyer (Nicoladie)

Another idea that came up was to make tutorial and website materials available only for members.

2e. Social media
Gaute informed about the activity. Our Facebook page has about 1900 likes and our Twitter account about 200 followers.

3. CNS meetings part 1:
3a. Report on CNS*2015 (Tony, Petr, and Martin)

In this year's program there were examples of two oral presentations from the same lab. Tony informed at that this was unintentional by the Program Committe.

A discussion on rules for oral presentations followed concluding in the following decisions:
- Rule: "Submissions from PC member labs are not eligible for talks." Board voted to keep rule (10 for, 9 against)
- Rule: "Nobody may give talks at two consecutive meetings." Board voted to keep rule (17 for, 1 against)
- Rule: "Talks from the same lab two years in a row are allowed only if these are on clearly different topics." Board voted to keep rule (16 for, 1 against, 1 abstaining)

A suggestion from Ben that PC-members can be co-authors on oral presentations was voted down.

A committee was set up to prepare a document with possible new rules for programme committee selection (Ben, Nicoladie, Tony [chairman], Thomas, Daniel)

Petr reported on the present meeting:
- Banquet ticket to expensive (70 USD) – board agreed
- Things to improve:
    - small booklet
    - local organizers should have nonstop access to the data in Memberclicks
    - discretionary budget for local organiser
    - streamlining of communication (Padraig: 2 mailinglists for next meeting)
    - relationship: OCNS – local organizers
    - suggestion: local participants (informed after abstract submission deadline) for no cost

*** END OF MEETING ON JULY 18th

July 20th, 12.10

3.b Report on CNS*2016 planning (Jaeseung)
There was a discussion to move the dates of the meeting (July 2 to July 7) to a later time to avoid collision with the FENS meeting. Two alternatives times came up: July 30 – August 4, 2016 and August 6 – August 11, 2016. The board voted to keep the original dates (15 for, 2 against, 2 abstaining).

3.c Planning for the Program Committee (Tony)
A report from the Program Committee was presented by Tony, the committee chair. It was decided that new members of this committee should be approved by the Executive Committee of OCNS.

3.d Planning for Tutorials (Marja-Leena)
A report was presented by Marja-Leena (OCSN2015_Tutorials_Summary.pdf).
Marja-Leena raised the question whether we should renew the topics and maybe give stricter guidelines and instructions to make them different from the workshop? Also, should we tailor the tutorials for CNS2016 particularly for Asians? While the Board made no specific decisions, it stressed that tutorials should "really mainly be educational".

3.f Planning for Workshops (Farzan)
A report was presented by Farzan (Farzan Report on CNS 2015 Workshops.pdf). At CNS2015 we have altogether 17 workshops. Farzan raised the questions of whether the board should be more involved in choosing workshops and maybe allow free registration for workshop (and tutorial) speakers. No specific decisions were made, but the board encouraged organizers of future workshops to raise money.

3.g Travel grant and tutorial/workshop support procedures (Marja-Leena, Farzan)

Daniel presented a report from Sharon (Travel_activities.pdf), and a few
points were brought up:

- the deadline for travel award application and abstract
  submission should be the same
- the website should be fixed so that applicants know that they should get an email
- this part of the website should be the responsibility of the travel award person

3.h CNS*2017 (Astrid)

All were in favor of accepting the bid from Antwerp to host CNS2017.

As a side point, it was decided that a realistic price for the banquet in Korea should be set by the end of 2015.

3.i Call for CNS*2018 (Astrid)

Astrid will probe for interest in North-America (inclusively defined) and then based on interest, a call will be put out North-America or non-European sites.

4) Task division within the Board (Astrid)

4.a Reassignment of tasks within the board for 2016

The board will need: person in charge of social media, a sponsorship person, and maybe a publications chair. The board briefly discussed if there are any tasks that aren't currently being handed over, for example, web-master.

The board decided to skip further discussions on this point, and decided that Astrid shall look into it.

5) Financial matters

5.a Financial report on FY2014 and estimate of FY2015 expenses and CNS*2016 budget (Victoria & Volker)

Volker presented the financial report, a new version as of July 19th.

5.b Sponsoring: update

The following update was given (based on email Rob Butera):

- Two sponsors this year: Spinger, eLife
- Two to four exhibitors each year

- Three reliable sponsors from previous years not here this year:
  INCF, Bernstein, BrainCorp

The action points that came up:
- Astrid will contact Rob.
- Springer contract will need to be renewed.

5.c Financial planning for 2016 (Volker)

The financial plan for 2016 was discussed with the following conclusions:
- Agreed on budget for Tutorial (USD 8000) and Workshop (USD 12000) for CNS2016
- Travel Awards (USD30000) [+ expected USD 20000 from local organizers].
- The travel people on the board will come up with specific rules on how to split up into different types of travel.

5.d Budget approval (Astrid)

The budget was approved by the board.

6) Meeting structure (Astrid)

Astrid raised a few questions for discussion:
- Are we running two meetings (main meeting + workshops)?
- Should we get rid of workshops-only registration?
- Should we intersperse workshops in main meeting?

After some discussion it was decided to leave it as it is for now, but do more analysis on the numbers of attendants at the differents parts of the meeting.

7) Registration, submission, payment, and review procedures (Astrid, Natalia, Tony, Volker, Padraig)

It was decided that Astrid, Natalia, Tony, Volker, Padraig, Udo will discuss this over email. Udo will inform about other possible systems (used in other conferences).

8) Other matters

8.a OCNS sponsored meetings and courses (Astrid)

It was decided to keep sponsoring like before, that is, keep traveling awards for Woods Hole Course.

8.b Full BMC publication

It was discussed whether to make a system so that conference contributions to the CNS meetings could become full BMC publiciations. Erik though this was a bad idea as it would require a lot of work to properly review the papers.

8.c Local OCNS chapters? (Astrid)

The establisment of local chapters of OCNS was discussed. The conclusion was that local chapters as such may noe be a viable idea, one should rather connect with appropriate national scientific societies

8.d Full-day Saturday Board meeting

It was decided to aim for a full-day Saturday board meeting at next year's CNS meeting in Korea to allow for more time for discussion on the board.

Gaute T. Einevoll

(Vice President, OCNS)