OCNS 2017 Member Meeting Notes

1. Approval of the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Update on OCNS Membership from President Astrid Prinz.

188 Faculty Members (2016 was 172)
120 Postdoc Members (2016 was 118)
196 Student Members (2016 was 304)
504 active Members (2016 was 594)
1420 inactive members (2016 was 1104)

Astrid also mentioned the current OCNS member benefits:
- vote for OCNS Directors
- sponsor 2 abstracts
- reduced meeting registration
- eligibility for Travel Awards
- funding for Computational Neuroscience schools
- free access to Encyclopedia of Computational Neuroscience
- reduced journal subscription fees
- book discounts

Astrid also encouraged Members to become more involved in the organization if they are interested.

3. Update on OCNS Budget from Treasurer Volker Steuber.

Volker presented and explained the updated 2017 meeting budget and showed how this compared to the past two years, explaining each item in the budget.

A member asked if OCNS could send out reminders about course travel grants and Astrid mentioned that this could go into the newsletter to members.

Dieter mentioned that there are about 20 courses related in some way to computational neuroscience. It was suggested that we should list courses with extra info such as times and deadlines. When student participation is supported, we could require reports from students who receive funding. We can send out a communication to ask people to contact us if they want their course listed.

4. Update on the Program Committee from Incoming Chair Thomas Nowotny.

Thomas mentioned the wonderful job done by current Chair Tony Burkitt over the past three years and expressed condolences that Tony had to leave the meeting.

Thomas presented the report prepared by Tony, covering a table containing submission details over the past few years and the submission breakdown by country/region. The largest representation is from USA and Germany, we have a large fraction of student and postdoc presenters, submission numbers are consistent with previous meetings located in Europe. Thomas also presented the Program Committee composition and outgoing members, asking members to consider serving on the Program Committee. He covered the responsibilities of Committee members. Program Committee nominees are nominated to the Board of Directors, who make the final decisions regarding new members. There was some discussion of the responsibility to attend three meetings in a row, including financial implications. It was noted that four people indicated that the rule of no students or postdocs speaking from labs of Program Committee members would make them reluctant to join the program committee.

Dieter Jaeger encouraged the Board to establish a hardship fund for use by the Board and Program Committee members if they need help with travel funds so that this is not a deterrent to their attendance.

5. Update on CNS 2018 presented by Costas Anastassiou
Costas presented an overview of the meeting. The main meeting will be held at the University of Washington and the workshops will be held at the Allen Institute's new headquarters. Costas showed a video showing something about what the Allen Institute does and the culture there.

6. Update on the CNS 2019 meeting
2019 will be held in a European location. The call for proposals will go out very soon. The Board has planned a slight change in the structure of the CNS meeting. The meeting in 2019 will be one day shorter although the final structure is not quite determined.

7. OCNS Mascots presented by Astrid Prinz
Michele Giugliano presented a little white dog named Bobby, one of the major characters of the Adventures of TinTin, which is authored by a Belgian cartoonist.