



**CANADIAN BIOMATERIALS SOCIETY  
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES BIOMATÉRIAUX**



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting<sup>1</sup>**

**May 14, 2021**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM (EST)**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda (Kibret Mequanint)**

- The meeting was called to Order by CBS President Kibret Mequanint at 11:30pm
- The motion to approve the Agenda was put forward by Brian Amsden and seconded by Isabelle Catelas. The motion to approve the Agenda as distributed was unanimously carried.

**2. Approval of the Minutes from the 2020 AGM, May 22, 2020 (Kibret)**

- The Minutes of the 2020 AGM that took place by Zoom was approved by the CBS Board of Directors previously. The Board-approved Minutes were then posted on the CBS website on May 11, 2021 for the general membership. The President received a minor correction (typo) that was corrected.
- The motion to adopt the 2020 AGM Minutes was moved by Thomas Willett and seconded by Malcolm Xing and was unanimously carried.

**3. President's Report (Kibret)**

- The Board of Directors has held 7 (seven) meetings excluding the AGM during the year to conduct the business affairs of CBS.
- The Board revised the role of Treasurer and how to transition to a new model.
- The finance committee has found a new accountant because there were many issues with the previous accountant (e.g., errors in past filings).

**a. Financial Update (Roz and Kibret)**

- CBS had great financial success this year (due to favorable market conditions).

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<sup>1</sup> The PowerPoint slides associated to this AGM are attached to the Minutes for reference purposes.

- Expenses have been lower and were related to advance payment for the CBS2021 meeting; awards for 2020 WBC (for students that actually presented received an award), Student Chapters, and Career awards. It was not possible to spend the planned amount from the WBC Legacy accounts because of revenues received from investment on it.
- CBS had several new members this year (\$7,800 in membership)
- Thomas Willett was successful in attracting sponsorship for CBS2021.
- Roz congratulated Kibret on having created the Terms Of Reference (TOR) for the Finance Committee (she served as Treasurer for 20 years without a Finance Committee)
- Rizhi Wang asked for clarification regarding the need to spend down the WBC Legacy accounts. Roz responded that the WBC accounts have to be spent over a certain period of time. She also indicated that, overall, the administrative expenses of the CBS are <5% of total overhead, which is a necessity to retain the status as a charitable organization.
- Malcolm Xing thanks Roz Labow for her incredible service for CBS over the years. Many thank you notes were posted in the Zoom Meeting Chat.

#### b. Address change, Finance committee TOR

- Kibret provided information that the address of the CBS was changed to the City of Ottawa in the Province of Ontario. It has been in Toronto for the last 30 years.
- The new address is updated with Corporations Canada, and CRA will be informed as part of the annual filing by the end of June 2021.
- Section 1.4 of the CBS bylaw is amended as “The registered office of the Corporation shall be in the City of Ottawa in the Province of Ontario”
- Kibret thanked Paul Santerre for the many years of support as being the contact person and “mailman” for CBS. Many thank you notes were posted in the Zoom Meeting Chat.
- Kibret presented an excerpt from the TOR for the Finance Committee and explained the needs and role of this committee. The full document is available on the CBS website.

#### c. Awards

- WBC Legacy PDF Experience award was given to Megan Cooke (McGill)
- CBS Visiting Scholar Awards were given to Guangyu Bao and Zhenwei Ma (both from McGill)
- Kibret commented that only 3 applications were received this year, which explained why all three awards have gone to McGill. He encouraged more applicants in the future.
- Many congratulations to the awardees who appear in the Zoom Meeting Chat

#### d. Communications Committee

- Kibret presented background information on the need to modernize the CBS website.
- The committee was led by Kyla, who has consulted the Student Chapters and others to get suggestions on how to make the website more dynamic, streamlined, and with additional functionalities (e.g., mobile device compatibility, etc.)
- The Communications Committee is now inviting proposals from vendors to make a shortlist. The timeline for completing the modernization of the website is somewhere between Fall 2021 and before the end of 2022, to be ready before abstract submissions for CBS 2022.

#### **4. CBS Mentorship Program (Gad, Fabio, Houman)**

- Gad presented that the CBS Mentorship Program was born in 2019 and is now training the second cohort of trainees. He stated that the program is going very well.
- Gad estimated that after graduation, ~75% of students go outside of academia. This program is designed to help these trainees.
- The program provides mentorship, career training, professional development, and networking opportunities.
- Feedback from the first cohort revealed a score of 100% for “training satisfaction.” In general, feedback is very positive.
- Many congratulations and statements of encouragement appear in the Zoom Meeting Chat.

#### **5. Report from the IUS-SBE Representatives (Sophie Lerouge and Lauren Flynn)**

- Lauren Flynn made an oral report that a meeting of International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering (IUS-BSE) was held with WBC in December 2020 and that lots of activities will start again soon. She mentioned that the next meeting is the week following this AGM. She explained that some delays were caused by health issues experienced by the President of the IUS-SBE.
- The IUS-SBE will be discussing with the organizers of TERMIS to avoid schedule conflicts with WBC.
- A number of new committees are to be created: Support WBC2024 (Korea; including contingency plan); call for proposals for WBC2028
- One issue mentioned by Lauren Flynn is that WBC is held every 4 years, which is too long to be able to effectively cover the global community. One possibility to address this might be to hold IUS-BSE meetings every 2 years.
- Kibret thanked Lauren Flynn and Sophie Lerouge for their hard work.

- Many thank you notes emerged from the Zoom Meeting Chat, and include comments regarding the importance that CBS remain connected to the world.

## **6. Reports from the Student Chapters (Chapter Presidents)**

- Updates from local Chapters (Alberta, British Columbia, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Southwestern Ontario) were provided via 1–2 PPT slides each (see in the PPT).
- Kibret elaborated that since the Kingston Chapter collaborated with Ottawa and Southwestern Ontario Chapters this year, there was no need for a separate presentation.
- Kibret congratulated the Student Chapters for their activity and level of engagement.
- A new Student Chapter in Toronto will be launched in September 2021.
- Many congratulations notes were seen in the Zoom Meeting Chat for the activities of the Student Chapters.

## **7. CBS2022 (Larry Unsworth)**

- Larry Unsworth presented a very brief update on CBS2022, which is expected to take place between the 24–27<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 in Banff
- The overall program was presented as well as possible extracurricular activities.

## **8. Overview of Next Year’s initiatives (Thomas Willett)**

- Kibret Mequanint welcomed Thomas Willett to the presidency of CBS and congratulated him on the organization of CBS2021. Kibret also thanked the support he received from the CBS community over the years. He gave a brief summary of his involvement in the CBS since 2002 and his service to the CBS Board for 8 years (2008-2012; 2017-2019; President-Elect (2019-2020) and then President (2020-2021)). He stated that this year was difficult due to COVID-19 Pandemic, but the Board of Directors “kept the house running” and thanked the entire Board of Directors for their support. He thanked all members for trusting him during his presidency. While he will be at the Board as a past-President for 2021-2022, he was happy to pass the torch to Thomas Willett for the role of the President.
- Many thanks emerge in the Zoom Meeting Chat.
- Thomas Willett thanked Kibret Mequanint for all the work that he has done. He thanked the membership for having elected him, and he hopes that he will do a great job.

- Thomas Willett presented the objectives of his presidency. These include continuing on the present path (i.e., concluding dossiers in progress), support the creation of the Toronto Student Chapter, support the organization of the CBS2022 meeting, update the website, centralize the management of the website, be more present on social media, continue to establish new Finance Committee, and find a new Treasurer and Secretary (call for volunteers).

### **9. CBS2023 (Thomas Willett)**

- Thomas Willett launched a call for proposals for the CBS2023 meeting and received a submission from Mark Filligaggi (Halifax). Halifax will be the venue for CBS2023. Mark looks forward to hosting the meeting.

### **10. Elections (Thomas Willett)**

- Thomas Willett presented to the membership that a Senior Board of Directors position will be opening because Fabio Variola's term is coming to an end. The following members are nominated:
  - Fabio Variola (nominated by Thomas Willett)
  - Mohsen Akbari (nominated by Houman Savoji)
  - Marta Cerrutti (nominated by Diego Mantovani)
  - Amanda Clifford (nominated by Kyla Sask)
  - Lindsay Fitzpatrick (nominated by Isabelle Catelas)
  - Corinne Hoesli (nominated by Isabelle Catelas).
  - All accept to be nominated. Mohsen Akbari seconded all nominations via the Zoom Meeting Chat.
- Thomas Willett informed the membership that a Student Board of Directors position will be vacant because Zhenwei Ma's term is coming to an end. The following members are nominated:
  - Zhenwei Ma (nominated by Kibret Mequanint)
  - Bahram Mirani (nominated by Craig Simmons)
  - Neda Latifi (nominated by Craig Simmons)
  - Arman Jafari (nominated by Houman Savoji).
  - All accept to be nominated. Several members second these nominations via the Zoom Meeting Chat and all nominations are seconded. However, because of the traffic in the Zoom Meeting Chat and the fact that the latter was not recorded, it is not possible to specifically identify who seconded each nomination.
- Thomas Willett will request 250-word biographies from the nominees for the senior and student Board of Director positions to complete the nomination process.
- Thomas Willett stated that although three nominations were attempted for the President-Elect position, none of the individuals stood for the nomination.

Therefore nominations were required for the role of President-Elect. During the AGM, Eli Sone was nominated by Isabelle Catelas, and this nomination is seconded by Paul Santerre. With no further nominations received, Eli was acclaimed. Many messages of congratulations appeared in the Zoom Meeting Chat.

- Thomas Willett also stated that Roz Labow has been the Treasurer “forever” and thanked her sincerely for her contributions over the years. He invited members interested in replacing her to speak with him, Kibret Mequanint, or the members of the Board of Directors. He also mentioned that Marc Gauthier has served as Secretary for four years, and that he would like to receive nominations for his replacement.

## **11. Adjournment**

- Thomas Willet provides some closing remarks and thanked everyone for their participation in the AGM.
- The AGM was adjourned at 12:48 PM

**Minutes prepared by Marc A Gauthier (20.05.2021) and corrected by Kibret Mequanint and Thomas Willett. Approved by the board of directors on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.**