



CANADIAN BIOMATERIALS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES BIOMATÉRIAUX

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Meeting place: Hybrid meeting (EXCO Convention Center, Room 504, Daegu, Korea; and online)

Date and time: May 29, 2024, 8:30 AM KST or May 28, 2024, 7:30 PM EST

Estimated Attendance in Room: 19

Estimated Attendance by Zoom: 21

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda (Marta Cerruti)

- The meeting was called to Order by Marta Cerruti at 8:31 AM KST.
- The motion to approve the agenda was put forward by Brian Amsden and seconded by Lauren Flynn. The motion to approve the agenda as distributed was unanimously carried out in-person, with no dissent voiced from those attending on Zoom.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

- The Minutes of the 2023 AGM that took place as a hybrid meeting in Halifax & on Zoom was previously approved by the CBS Board of Directors (BoD). A minor modification to include the nominators and seconders for elected positions was proposed by Isabelle Catelas. The correction will be implemented.
- Brian Amsden moves the approval, Hassan Uludag seconds. The minutes are approved with the minor correction that was proposed.

3. President's Report (Marta Cerruti)

- Marta thanks the board members who are leaving: Eli Sone, Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Mohsen Akbari, Emilio Alarcón, Ahmed Saad (Student Board Member), Thomas Willett (Treasurer) and Davide Brambilla (Secretary).
- CBS BoD has implemented a 3-year running budget, which will be reported on at this meeting.
- Two major projects this year:
 - **Website improvement:** led by Jean-Philippe St-Pierre, this work involved evaluating needs, contacting providers, and evaluating options. This work is scheduled for completion next year.

- **Framework for conference organizers:** responding to the need for knowledge transfer between conference organizers, the BoD is developing resources to clarify the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the conference organizers, and including a database of sponsors, attendees, and contacts from previous meetings. Information was collected from previous meeting organizers. Discussions with professional conference organizers (PCO) were initiated to help with the organization of annual meetings. A PCO was already involved once in the past (Quebec City annual meeting in 2019). Some work is still needed but the Board agreed that this would be a good approach to help organize the annual meetings. A list of potential sponsors based on previous annual meetings was also created.
- The Student Engagement and Industrial / Clinician Engagement committees were renewed and very active this year. The Student Engagement Committee will closely work with the student chapters.
- Strong Canadian presence at the WBC meeting in Korea:
 - 90 representatives from Canada;
 - Thanks to Emilio Alarcón, who successfully fundraised to support additional travel awards for student attendees.
- Two new IUS-BSE representatives: congratulations to Todd Hoare and Mark Filiaggi who will represent CBS as the IUS-BSE representatives.
- Three new CBS FBSE: congratulations to Milica Radisic, Stephanie Willert, and Kibret Mequanint, who were all inducted as Fellows this year.
- A brief question and comment session focused on the need to potentially review and revise the by-laws to align with the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the changing situation.

4. Financial Report (Thomas Willett)

- Total income (gross profit) was ~\$23k this past year, largely due to higher-than-expected returns on investments made.
- A budget was established and adopted in late 2023, which included estimates of expenses and revenues via memberships, with a goal of breaking even this year. The small deficit of \$1,600 was covered by cash in hand.
- WBC2016 Legacy fund spending: while travel awards were spent as projected, funds allocated to the Legacy Postdoctoral Awards were not spent.
- Looking forward, the 3-year budget and plan that has been developed will continue to be tested and modified as responsibility passes to the new treasurer.
- A brief question and comment session focused on the money spent on the “mentorship” line item in the budget (which was clarified to be paid to the 2nd Lab, a Canadian company who organizes mentorship); whether certain legacy funds can be included in the operating budget; future planning for a Canadian-led WBC bid in the future;

whether we should continue to assume that conferences will be revenue-generating mechanisms; and a request to consider if Postdoctoral Fellows looking to apply for a postdoctoral award need to invite their host lab Principal Investigator (PI) to join the CBS, to be eligible for CBS funding (this condition was however set to encourage PI to become CBS members for only a small membership fee).

5. Vote on Requirement for a Review Engagement (Thomas Willett)

- As a not-for-profit organization, we are required to do a review of the budget by a very expensive second accountant. To avoid this cost, we have previously asked for a vote by the membership to waive this requirement.
- Tom notes that the budget is not sufficiently complex to justify an expensive second review. Marta clarifies that this is a legal requirement and cannot be removed from our by-laws, but that a motion to waive this requirement can be repeated every year.
- The motion to waive the requirement for a review engagement was moved by Marta Cerruti and seconded by Paul Santerre. The motion was unanimously carried in-person and online with no abstention.

6. Awards Update (Marta Cerruti, on behalf of Mohsen Akbari)

- Eighteen (18) CBS Merit & Travel Awards were given out, with a value of \$700 based on distance and travel costs.
- Nine (9) WBC2016 Legacy Travel Awards were given out, with a value of \$1,250.
- Yuxi Zhang (Queen's University) was awarded the CBS Visiting Scholar Award.

7. Student Engagement Committee (Simon Matoori)

- A series of lunch-time online webinar seminars was developed this year, at which Diego Mantovani and Kyla Sask presented well-received talks.
- So far, we have had 3 webinars and a fourth one is coming.

8. Report from IUS-BSE Representatives (Lauren Flynn)

- Lauren Flynn and Sophie Lerouge have been the IUS-BSE representatives. Todd Hoare and Mark Filiaggi are the new representatives.
- Joachim Kohn was elected as President and Mark Boner as Secretary for next 4 years.
- WBC-related topics:
 - 4,000 delegates at the WBC 2024 including 96 Canadians. 1900 posters.
 - The process for WBC site selection has been formalized, guidelines are more transparent and clearer for the submission and evaluation of proposals. Two proposals were submitted and considered for 2028 (USA and India). The next meeting will be in Washington DC, USA. The plan is to have an AGM in 2025 when location for 2032 will be selected.

- A MOU was developed to have a subcommittee focused on oversights of the conference organizers to avoid previous challenges (requires a close collaboration with IUS-BSE).
- IUS-BSE proposed using a small \$5 fee per participant from WBC registrations to defray the costs of individual IUS-BSE member visits to sites and other travel expenses.
- Joachim Kohn proposed a book on biomaterials: *Research Opportunities in Support of Global Health*, which has been reviewed and tentatively accepted. An open invitation will be sent to the society through IUS-BSE representatives.

9. CBS Mentorship Programs (Simon Matoori and Gad Sabbatier)

- An undergraduate mentorship program is currently being run to pair undergraduate and graduate students, which includes industry-based speakers. More student chapters are encouraged to participate. The objectives are to promote exchange among chapters, allocate graduate students to undergraduates, and have regular meetings between mentors and mentees. Future plan is to encourage more student chapter participation.
- Questions focused on whether future directions might include commercialization accelerator communities, given the value that they can bring.
- Gad Sabbatier (2nd Lab) was not present, but he provided a video recording to share at the AGM, including an overview of the program development. New directions in 2024 included a self-paced learning platform for various courses to make it easier for cohorts to participate in this aspect of the program.
- Questions focused on the financial relationship between CBS and the 2nd Lab as a company, requesting additional transparency on this for next year; whether this can synergize with other mentorship activities; whether the success of this program should be evaluated by a third-party; and if Indigenous perspectives might be included and consulted in other mentorship activities in a sensitive and understanding manner.

10. Reports from Student Chapters (Chapter Presidents)

- Student chapters provide a 1-minute update on their activities.
- Alberta (Saba Abbasi Dezfouli, CBS-ASC). Held an image competition and multiple scientific talks by external speakers. Focus on marketing and knowledge dissemination activities. Future plans include developing a new partnership with the University of Alberta Faculty of Engineering Graduate Research Symposium.
- Kingston (Isaac Thevathasan, CBS-KSC) - focused on engagement and outreach. Ran career seminars and recruited new members to the executive. Future plans include academic and additional career seminars, social gatherings, image showcase, and undergraduate lab tours.
- Montreal (Baptiste Marin, CBS-MTL) – Biomaterials Research Day including speakers and 3-minute project contests.

- Ottawa (Mahdieh Heydarigoojani, CBS-OSC) – Developed multiple lab tour events and biomaterials-oriented trivia night. An alumni night event is being planned.
- Quebec City (Mahdokht Akbari, CBS-QCSC): organized multiple events, most notably around Women Scientists’ day. Future events include invitations for international speakers.
- Southwestern Ontario (Alessandra Merlo; CBS-SWOSC) – held multiple events including trivia nights, planning monthly events in the future.
- Toronto (Rida Hasan, CBS-TSC) – Ran a biomaterials image contest and an informal research-networking session amongst students. Future focus will be on including students from TMU and York; an Elevator Pitch seminar, and a panel discussion on the prospects of biomaterials.

11. Update on CBS2025 (Brian Amsden)

- A reminder that CBS 2025 will take place in Kingston, May 21-23.

12. Transition to new President (Marta Cerruti and Isabelle Catelas)

- Marta introduces Isabelle Catelas as the new President.
- Marta thanks everyone for their support, particularly Board members.
- Isabelle acknowledges Marta for her excellent work as President during the last year and the other outgoing Board members for all their work. She is grateful to take over the leadership of the Society for the second time (last time was in 2014-2015).

13. Overview of Next Year’s Initiatives (Isabelle Catelas)

- Main objectives for 2024-2025:
 - Continue to develop support for future annual meeting organizers, including the completion of a database of past meeting sponsorship and the MOU, follow up on the potential involvement of a PCO, as well as potential coordination with annual meetings of other societies;
 - Continue working on the improvements of CBS website;
 - Continue working with student chapters to support trainees, via mentorship programs;
 - Work on clinical and industry engagement, including: revisiting Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation for our annual meeting to improve clinician involvement in the long-term, and industry sponsorship to improve fiscal sustainability of the CBS.
- Recognizes all the work carried out by the various committees (made of Board members) that run in the background.

14. CBS 2026 (Isabelle Catelas)

- A few members showed interest in organizing CBS 2026 and a consensus was reached prior to the AGM.
- CBS 2026 will be held in Vancouver and led by Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu (UBC).

15. Nominations and Elections (Isabelle Catelas)

- 3 Senior Board members:
 - Nominations were received and seconded prior to the AGM for: Marc-André Fortin from Université Laval (nominated by Simon Matoori; seconded by Ze Zhang), Vahid Adibnia from Dalhousie University (nominated by Brendan Leung; seconded by Mark Filiaggi), and Corinne Hoesli from McGill University (nominated by Isabelle Catelas; seconded by Lindsay Fitzpatrick). All nominees accepted their nomination.
 - A call for more nominations was made in person and virtually.
 - i. Laura Wells from Queen's University was nominated by Kyla Sask and seconded by Brian Amsden. Isabelle will contact Laura to know if she accepts the nomination.
 - ii. No additional nomination was made.
 - Acceptance of all nominations will be checked again and if more nominations than the number of available positions remain, an online voting process will be followed. Otherwise, the nominees will be elected by acclamation.
- 1 Student Board member:
 - One nomination was received and seconded prior to the AGM for Mahdiah Heydarigoojani from the University of Ottawa (nominated by Eric Lehoux; seconded by Isabelle Catelas).
 - A call for more nominations was made in person and virtually. No additional nomination was made.
 - Mahdiah was elected by acclamation as the new Student Board Member.
- President-Elect:
 - One nomination was received and seconded prior to the AGM for Lindsay Fitzpatrick from Queen's University (nominated by Isabelle Catelas; seconded by Marta Cerruti).
 - A call for more nominations was made in person and virtually. No additional nomination was made.
 - Lindsay was elected by acclamation as President-Elect.
- Secretary:
 - No nominations for Secretary were received. Isabelle encourages members to consider serving as Secretary.
 - Isabelle nominated Leila Mostaco-Guidolin from Carleton University and will follow-up with Leila to know if she accepts the nomination.

- Junior faculty members are encouraged for this position. Tom suggests contacting Patricia Comeau from Concordia University. Isabelle will follow up.
- Treasurer:
 - The Board had identified Emilio Alarcón prior to the AGM as a potential appointee for the position. Emilio is willing to serve for a 1-year term.
 - A call-for-interest was made in person and virtually, with a preference for a 3-year term. No other member expressed interest. Emilio is therefore appointed as the new Treasurer.

16. Adjournment (Isabelle Catelas)

- Thomas Willett makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21pm. Sophie Lerouge seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Christopher Moraes (acting as Secretary during the AGM), reviewed by Davide Brambilla (Secretary) and Isabelle Catelas (new President).