

MINUTES
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday August 13, 2008
Guelph, ON

1. Call to order:

The Annual General Meeting of the CSAS was called to order by the CSAS president Priya Mir at 12.44 pm on Wednesday August 13, 2008.

2. Approval of Agenda (Priya Mir).

No modification or additions to the agenda were proposed.

3. Approval of AGM minutes from the 2007 Meeting in Winnipeg, MB

No changes to these minutes were suggested.

M/S/C: Shannon Scott/Chaouki Benchaar/All.

4. Business arising from the minutes.

None.

5. Reports.

a. Canadian Journal of Animal Science (Chantal Farmer, presented by Johanne Chiquette).

The current Editorial Board consists of 20 Associate Editors and the Editor-in-chief. Two Associate Editors were appointed to a second 3-year mandate. Three Associate Editors finished their second mandate and were replaced. Due to the large increase in number of papers submitted to CJAS, the Scientific Journal Committee decided to increase the number of Associate Editors by two persons. The editorial board has met twice this year by conference call.

The number of manuscripts that are submitted has increased substantially. This includes a large increase in submissions from foreign countries. The rejection rate of manuscripts submitted from within Canada is similar to that from previous years. However, the rejection rate of manuscripts submitted from foreign countries is quite high. This year several changes were implemented to the Journal. New sections on “Growth and development” and “Modelling animal systems” were created,

and the section on “Application of technology” no longer exists. Authors now need to suggest three potential reviewers and can list reviewers that they consider unacceptable. The maximum size of short communications has been increased. The editor-in-chief follows up on the reviews of manuscripts that are taking over 6 months. Manuscripts submitted to the Journal can now be related to animals and to animal products. Review articles must be in depth and critical, and must be written by authors that are considered knowledgeable in their field. The memorandum of understanding between the three scientific Journals published by AIC has now been signed. This memorandum is needed in case AIC can no longer provide their services. However, at present there are no signs that this would be the case. A new platform is being developed for a web page for the 3 scientific Journals published by AIC.

M/S/C: Johanne Chiquette/John Basarab/All.

b. Secretary/Treasurer.

The financial report for 2007 shows that during that year total assets increased from \$137,291 to \$157,995, total liabilities and equity increased from \$137,291 to \$157,995, total revenue decreased from \$30,606 to \$29,182, total expenses increased from \$22,245 to \$23,617, and net income decreased from \$8,361 to \$5,565. The decrease in revenue was mainly due to a decrease in membership numbers. This has been a continuing trend during recent years. The increase in expenses was mainly due to the payment of the World Association of Animal Production (WAAP) fee for 2006 and 2007, and slight increases in the expenses for office services and bank charges. The increased bank charges were due to increased credit card activity, the bank wire to pay WAAP fees, and the charge for new CSAS cheques.

The assets include the Toole Sackville Conference Reserve. This reserve, including conference advances, increased from \$75,569 to \$89,670 during 2007. This increase was mainly due to the transfer of the surplus of the 2004 annual conference in Edmonton in the amount of \$12,034. The 2006 and 2007 annual conferences also made surpluses. The CSAS portion of these surpluses will be transferred to the society. Tim McAllister asked if the increase in assets of the society creates a risk for the “non-profit” status of the society. This must be investigated by the new Secretary/Treasurer. A buffer against the risk of deficits created by annual conferences is needed. However, it is not clear how high this buffer needs to be. A maximum of \$40,000 was suggested a few years ago. The CSAS executive will develop a plan for the CSAS assets at next year’s mid-year meeting. It has already been decided (at the 2007 AGM) that the interest from the Toole Sackville Conference Reserve may be used to sponsor CSAS awards, such as the undergraduate award.

M/S/C: Kees Plaizier/Priya Mir/All.

c. Honours and Awards (Martin Nyachoti).

All 8 universities that are entitled to the undergraduate award have identified their winners. Next year the winners will receive a \$100 cheque in addition to a certificate, a one year subscription to CJAS, and a one year CSAS Membership.

This year there will be 10 presentation in the graduate student oral competition and 23 presentations in the graduate student poster competition. Support for the oral presentations will come from Pfizer Animal Health, whereas, as in the past few years, support for the poster competition will come from CSAS.

The number of nominees received for the different awards were as follows: CSAS Fellowship Award, 2; Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Science, 3; Technical Innovation and Production of Safe and Affordable Food, 1; CSAS Animal Industries Award in Extension and Public Service – Ruminants, 1; CSAS Animal Industries Award in Extension and Public Service – Non-Ruminants, 0; and Pfizer Young Scientist Award, 1. Extending the deadline for nomination by two weeks only yielded 2 additional nominations – one each for the CSAS Fellowship Award and the Award for Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Science, respectively. Sponsorship for all the major awards in 2008 is confirmed. The limited number of nominees for some awards is a concern.

Various suggestions have been made regarding the CSAS major awards. These will require discussion within the CSAS and with the sponsors. Two suggestions are:

- Changing the name of the “Technical Innovation and Production of Safe and Affordable Food”, as it is unclear what this title really means!
- Splitting the Award for “Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Science” into two – one for “Nutrition” and the other for “Meat Science”

M/S/C: Martin Nyachoti/Danica Baines/All.

d. Membership (Chaouki Benchaar/Ermias Kebreab).

Membership increased from 345 last year to 382 this year. In October 2007, a renewal notice was sent by the CSAS membership office to 430 members that paid membership dues in 2006 and 2007. This renewal notice was accompanied by a letter from the membership Chair encouraging renewal by outlining the benefits of membership. In March 2008, a second notice was sent to 96 potential members. Also, many potential members and former members were contacted repeatedly.

M/S/C: Chaouki Benchaar, Priya Mir/All

e. Vice-president/Web master (Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, presented by Priya Mir).

Information added to the web site included updates on the 2008 annual meeting, a report on the twinning project in Ghana, nominees for the CSAS executive, recommendations for changes in the handbook, and information on the 2008 World Congress on Animal Production. In addition, 16 job postings were placed on the CSAS website this year. Non-members are now charged \$100 for a half page and \$150 for a full page ad. Limited progress was made in providing French version of web documents. These versions could be prepared by AAFC staff, but there will be substantial costs associated with this.

M/S/C: Priya Mir/Danica Baines/All

f. President Elect/Conference coordinator (Johanne Chiquette).

The president-elect has been in regular contact with the local organizers of the 2008 annual conference. As a result, the AGM was moved from Thursday to Wednesday, and all awards will be presented at the banquet on Wednesday night. The application that the conference organizers made to ACAA program was successful. Based on this, and on the current registration (195 registrants) and additional registrations, the conference is expected to break even financially. An agreement between the University of Guelph and the Canadian Society of Animal Science, indicating each party's responsibilities, was signed. A letter of support was also written to support the bid to hold the International Congress of Animal Reproduction (ICAR) in Vancouver in 2012.

A conference call of the editorial board for the CJAS was also attended, during which replacement of three associate editors was agreed upon.

The preparations for the 2009 conference in Montréal are progressing well. Karen Beauchemin attended the Program Committee Meeting on behalf of the CSAS. Karen has also asked CSAS members to volunteer for various committees related to this conference. CSAS symposia on "The impact of production on welfare of animal farms" and on "The impact of functional food and probiotics on animal microbiota and health" have been proposed.

M/S/C: Johanne Chiquette/Priya Mir/All

g. Ghana/CSAS Project (Shannon Scott and John Baah).

The project is on course and is receiving positive comments from partner organizations in Ghana and in Canada. A new five-year agreement between AIC and CIDA was signed, which enables the second phase of the CSAS partnership project with the Ghana Society of Animal Production (GSAP). The main objective of this partnership is to work with women's groups in the Northern Region of Ghana to improve the livelihood in rural communities. The activities conducted within this project were presented.

The CSAS-GSAP Canadian Coordination Team, comprised of Dr. John Baah and Dr. Shannon Scott, visited Ghana for two weeks in July/August 2007. Next to discussions with members of the project coordinating committee and other members of the GSAP, presentations were held at the annual meeting of the GSAP, discussions were held with the Ghana Institute of Horticulture, and villages in Northern Ghana where project activities are conducted were visited.

Together with two GSAP representatives from the project, Dr. Kwame Oppong-Anane and Mr. Eddie Sottie, Drs. Scott and Baah attended the AIC International Partners' Meeting in Edmonton, AB, from 29 October – 4 November, 2007.

Karen Beauchemin donated her 15 year-collection of the Journal of Animal Science, Journal of Dairy Science and Canadian Journal of Animal Science to GSAP for use by its members and students in Ghana.

M/S/C: Shannon Scott/Danica Baines/All

h. Nominating committee (Priya Mir for Mike Dugan).

Nominations for all vacant positions in the executive were obtained and a ballot was held. A total of 128 ballots were received and all candidates did very well. The new members of the 2008-2009 CSAS Executive are: Vice President, Robert Berthiaume; Treasurer, Marie-France Palin; Eastern Director, Ira Mandell; Western Director, Marina von Keyserlink; and Director at Large, Neil Ferguson. The nominees that were not elected are thanked for their willingness to serve the Society.

The CSAS handbook has been revised and changes to the handbook were discussed and agreed upon.

M/S/C: Priya Mir/Kees Plaizier/All

6. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 13:40 pm

M/S/C: Priya Mir/Danica Baines/All.

Respectfully submitted,

Kees Plaizier, Secretary/Treasurer CSAS 2005-2008.

February 18, 2009, 2009