Brain and Mind Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 pm Room 3189 WIRB

Present: Mel Goodale (Chair), Marc Joanisse, Ingrid Johnsrude, Jessica Grahn, Avital Sternin, Roy Eagleson, Patrick Callaghan, Rebecca Merkley (Postdoc) and Florence Lourdes

Regrets: Adrian Owen, Paul Gribble and Stefan Everling

1. Motion to accept Minutes from last meeting were seconded and approved.

2. Director Remarks:

BMI Associate membership application: Haojie Mao – reviewed and approved for BMI Associate Membership.

Junior Faculty Recruitment update: Five candidates are being scheduled for interviews this month and all have confirmed availability for presentations. Presently all candidates see Psychology as a home department, but cross appointments are a possibility.

BrainsCAN, Human Core and Sensorimotor Control updates:

- Core members of Steering Committee will meet on February 6th to develop policies and processes for testing space. Paul Minda, who is Chair of the Space Planning Committee, is invited to report. The purpose of this meeting is to address new requests and recognize Western’s commitment to CFREF.

- BrainsCAN’s Human Cognition and Sensorimotor Control Core members will meet on February 14th to receive updates on recruitment of core positions and to discuss the core budget and CFREF policies that may impact Human Core research at WIRB. Derek Quinlan and Haitao Yang will also be invited to attend the testing space and equipment portion of this meeting. The HCSC Core last met November 9th.

Motion: to hold quarterly BMI Core Member meetings, chaired by the BMI Director or Steering Committee member designate. The BMI Director and Chairs of BMI subcommittees would be invited to make brief reports, and there would be a mechanism for members to add items to the agenda. The goal is to keep all BMI Core Members updated on decision making, planning and progress at the institute. Motion seconded and approved.

The committee recommended meeting in the months of January, April, September and November from 2-3 pm on either Tuesdays or Fridays in WIRB 4190.
WIRB Updates:

- WIRB Open House is scheduled for April 13th from 11 am – 1 pm. This event is being organized by Central and will encompass the entire building. An itinerary will be available closer April and should include the MPP, as well as others. BMI may want to provide lab tours. Mel Goodale to inquire if possible in the afternoon.

- A BMI Newsletter would be a great way to communicate the Open House to the members. Let Mel Goodale know if interested in doing the Newsletter.

- Will inquire if BrainsCAN can support the installation of cameras in WIRB at the 3 exit points on the ground level. The cost is approximately $4,500 for the camera installation and about $25 a month to maintain. The committee approved pursuing BrainsCAN to cover this expense.

- Also discussing the installation of directory phones on each floor with BrainsCAN. In the meantime, direct visitors to the BMI reception area on the 3rd floor. A directory phone is presently installed in the hallway outside the BMI reception area.

- Accessibility buttons on each floor is presently being explored. BMI has been informed that the buttons were not included in the building budget and are not standard requirement.

Western Cognitive Neuroscience Postdoc Fund:

Competition deadline is January 31, 2018 and 11 applications have been submitted so far and only 5 maximum can be awarded.

Motion: To have the January 31, 2018 declared the last postdoc competition funded by the Cluster Funds. The rationale for this motion is BrainsCAN presently runs a similar program that would compete for postdocs. Motion seconded and approved.

International Graduate Student Scholarship:

The competition deadline is February 28, 2018 for 1st round.

Motion: To approve the Terms of Reference for adjudicating IGSS submissions, as recommended by the IGSS Review Committee. Motion seconded and approved. The terms of reference will be posted on the IGSS website.

ASSC 23 Updates:

A Local Organizing Committee has been created. The following have agreed to participate on this committee: Mel Goodale, Adrian Owen, Andrea Soddu, Michael Anderson, Erin Heerey, Laura Batterick, and Florence Lourdes.

CIFAR support is available for outreach events. The committee will explore possible speakers to invite and will welcome suggestions.
High school student mentoring program at BMI:
BMI has received requests to participate in a mentoring program for high school students. This would be a co-op program similar to other co-op programs at Western. Ingrid Johnsrude to contact Susanne Schmid to discuss setting up a program for BMI before September 2018. Ingrid will also inquire if Paul Gribble would also like to get involved.

NSERC Science Promotion Competition:
BMI will be preparing for summer submission to the NSERC Science Promotion competition. The award value is $25,000 and it’s unrestricted. Jessica Grahn has volunteered to manage this application. BMI will need letters of support from the community (approximately 10 to narrow to 3). Avital Sternin volunteered to assist. Should use Raider Robotics, Brain Bee and STEM events in application. Julaine Hall from Research Development is available to provide guidance.

Sponsorship requests:
2018 CAPNet symposium – The committee agreed to support this event in the amount of $1000.

BIRC Talk with speaker Richard Carson, co-sponsor with Frank Prado – The committee agreed to support this event in the amount of $500.

April 2018 Brain Bee - The committee agreed to support this event in the amount of $500, since Physiology and Pharmacology withdrew support. Brains CAN is also supporting this event in the amount of $500.

Distinguished Speaker Eleanor Maguire:
Eleanor Maguire has agreed to speak on June 22, 2018. Ingrid Johnsrude with work with Florence Lourdes to organize Eleanor’s talk and visit. Mel Goodale will not be available to participate.

3. CFI Update (Ingrid Johnsrude)

- Budget must be finalized by March 20, 2018. Presently sorting out expenses no longer required such as Faraday cages and furniture. Letter requesting advance has been drafted and is presently being reviewed by the Dean of Social Science.

4. Financial Update

- Memo received for 3 year extension approved to access unspent Cluster funds. Funds will remain with Cognitive Neuroscience and must be spent as originally intended.
- Postdoc Fund competition may be discontinued, if duplicates BrainsCAN postdoc program.

5. Postdoctoral Update

- Request for extension on PCRG award held by Liya Ma was approved due to delay with Ethics. Liya will be notified by email shortly.
6. Graduate Students Update

• No updates at this time.

7. Other Business

Roy Eagleson has been approved for BMI Core membership. However, Roy will continue his Associate membership until an election is held to replace his Associate representative position on the Steering Committee. This will likely take place in May or June.

**Motion:** To start Steering Committee Meetings at 2:30 pm. *Motion seconded and approved.*

Next meeting date for the Steering Committee: February 28, 2018 at 2:30 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 pm**